

NKSOA Board Meeting

December 15, 2009

At Covington Catholic High School

Board Members in Attendance:

Keith Hill, Mark Baker, Tim Prieshoff
Rick Flesch, Marc Litzler, Kevin Ball

Six general NKSOA members also in attendance.

President called meeting to order at 7:00.

Secretary Report:

Motion made by T. Prieshoff to accept minutes of the May 13, 2009, meeting (distributed earlier via email); motion seconded by M. Litzler.

Motion approved.

Treasurer Report:

Current checking balance of \$18.27 and savings balance of \$3,656.22, totaling \$3,674.49. Motion to accept report made by M. Litzler, seconded by M. Baker.

Motion approved.

President's Report:

Thank you expressed to Larry Brown for coordinating the end of year party at Town & Country. General consensus is to continue with this celebration again next year.

Congratulations offered to Joe Barker for his award as Northern Kentucky Referee of the Year as offered by the No. KY Boys High Schools Soccer Coaches Association.

Also recognized and thanked the NKSOA crews for working a KY State Semi-Final match and the East-West All-star game.

President remarked on the posting of the end of season rankings on our website. Asked if such should continue, in present form or abbreviated form (only listing top 30 officials), or should include posting all members and their respective scores. Discussion that occurred suggested some members may not wish to have their scores posted, while other thought offering a posting of "edited" scores, with a more detailed follow up to individual members would be helpful, while still some thoughts that by posting all available information, members with low scores would be both informed as to their training needs and be motivated to improve. The question as to just what purpose the rankings serve, that is, ranking purposes versus peer feedback, was again raised. For brevity purposes, additional discussion on this matter was tabled until the next general meeting, when the whole membership would be in attendance. For this year, the

Webmaster will complete his listings of the comments offered on the reviews and then notify members to distribute, if they are so interested.

Webmaster Report:

Phil Rolf reported that the website will be “rehabbed” in the coming months. Members are asked to be patient.

New Business:

Organizational t-shirts will again be offered to members. Keith will disseminate an email gauging interest.

Topics and presenters for next year’s clinics are being solicited. Kevin Ball offered to chair this clinic committee, while Marc Litzler offered to again chair the clinic for new referees. Discussion occurred with emphasis on making sure the clinics offered instruction material relevant to all referees, with goal of improving NKSOA registered referees game performance.

An election committee will be chaired by Mark Baker, and assisted by Carl Knockleman and Jay Stevens.

USSF recertification clinics are over in Northern Kentucky, but being offered in Lexington and Louisville for increased fee.

John Metz invited the rules interpreter to a national meeting in Indianapolis in June. There will be both introductory and regular clinics (e.g. offsites) and advanced clinics on other material.

Assigning Secretary Report:

Larry offered a brief commentary on what being a member of the NKSOA means, and specifically what having the relationship that he as Assigning Secretary has with NKSOA members. He noted that not all other state associations have the same relationship, and the quality of refereeing reflects that.

For the past year, there were 71 paid members in NKSOA. Over 50 took the part II exam, and 38 referees worked post season games.

There were a total of 1044 games scheduled through the system this past season.

Larry was inundated with emails from coaches, athletic directors, and referees throughout the year. Over 300 of these were from refs that asked questions or raised issues that needed to go to the board rather than the Assigning Secretary. Some emphasis on role responsibility needs to be part of the new ref clinic. Marc Litzler offered to assemble a handbook which would include such material.

In total, 21 red cards were issued this past season. Ja Osterhage registered 5.

A total of 9 assessments and 8 formal mentoring assessments were performed. Many more “informal” assessments were done by Larry. All referees were challenged to make use of half time opportunities to mentor and instruct peers. Real time adjustments could be made and progress monitored.

70% of peer reviews were done. Most had no comments—favorable or otherwise.

Discussion took place suggesting that the standards in the organization are becoming too relaxed. “Good habits” need to be instructed, supported, and expected. Better use of new referee clinic was suggested, as well as offering membership training clinics more than the two times each and over a longer period of time as opposed to the schedule that NKSOA has fallen into the past several years.

Fitness and conditioning have been observed as falling off, and cited as the reason for many refs to miss game assignments and/or receive poor ratings. It was proposed that the organization consider preseason fitness clinics, and offer the fitness test as a pass-fail rather than “participate” clinic.

The need to revisit the NKSOA mission to attract, recruit, and train soccer referees in Northern Kentucky was suggested. Additional items discussed consisted of establishing a committee, consisting minimally of the Assigning Secretary, NKSOA rules interpreter, and other members, to plan and conduct more formal clinics. Establishing the standard to attend at least 2 clinics and take the part II test for newer members, defined as those with less than 3 high school seasons experience, were also considered. This led to larger discussion and review of earlier items discussed. Having a Referee Development Committee as a standing committee for clinics and related matters was suggested. Membership would include Assigning Secretary, Rules Interpreter, and a member each from the categories of less than 3 years experience, 4-9 years experience, and over 10 years experience. Kevin Ball, earlier noted as clinic chair, would serve as the member within 4-9 years experience. Members to fill the other two positions would be solicited from general membership. Some discussion as to whether older members should be “grandfathered” in regard to clinic attendance took place. No consensus was reached. As these discussions became more focused on the “member in good standing” area, the necessity to review the organizational by-laws was noted.

All members in attendance were directed to the NKSOA website to review existing by-laws, with meeting scheduled for January 19, 2010, to review and offer suggestions to amend them, particularly article II: Membership. Criteria for members admission to NKSOA and for status as “in good standing” to be discussed.

There being no additional business before the membership, meeting was adjourned at 9:36.

Minutes recorded and submitted by:

Rick Flesch