

Northwest Board of Officials

General Membership Meeting Highlights

October 22, 2023

1. The members present were welcomed to the meeting by Dave Zylstra, our new NWBOA President. Special appreciation was expressed for outgoing President, Ron Van Soest, for his many years of leadership for the association. The board presented him with a nice gift at our June meeting on behalf of the entire NWBOA.

2. Dave also introduced the Board Members, Treasurer & Assigners, noting that terms for Kelly Heutink, Dave Dodson, and Holly Wibbens are ending at the end of this season. Members are asked to consider possible nominees for our election in January.

3. A number of officials were given the Years of Service Pins from the WOA. Special note to **Ray Bruland**, who was present at the meeting, who is entering his 53rd season as a high school basketball official!!

4. New members were welcomed to the NWBOA by Bernie Upchurch, our lead for recruiting. New members present and welcomed at the meeting were:

- A, Andrew Roozen, returning after several years off
- B. Mike Cox, returning after several years off
- C. Kamal Patel, transferring from Georgia
- D. James Gallegos, transferring from SCBBO by way of California
- E. Sasha Sanguinetti, new, presently officiating football in our sister board

5. Bernie also encouraged participation in our multiple clinics being offered to all hands at Skagit Valley College and Stanwood High School. This training involves refereeing youth games with qualified clinicians (including our Assignor, Damon Bruland and our Interpreter, Kelly Heutink) providing real time training and guidance. All the games are 3-man and we will have 4-5 referees for each game so we can rotate people in and out to provide real time feedback. Anyone interested please contact Bernie (text 360-320-5594) and here are the available dates:

- A. Sunday, Oct 22nd, 10:00, at Skagit Valley College
- B. Sunday, Nov 5th, 1:00, at Skagit Valley College
- C. Friday, Nov 24th, AM and PM sessions, Stanwood High School
- D. Saturday, Nov 25th, AM and PM sessions, Stanwood High School
- E. Sunday, Nove 26th, AM and PM sessions, Stanwood High School

Please also note that the Stanwood dates will be paid out at the same rate as the rest of the Turkey Tourney (\$30 a game) where they are working 2 man, but we will be working 3 man with clinicians and we will even try to do a little bit of film. The board is making up the difference out of our training budget.

6. Jamie Dowling provided a presentation regarding our role as officials with a reading of a letter entitled, "I Am A Referee" by Stuart Townsend. He strongly encouraged communication and participation in our group, attending meetings (as noted in our bylaws), and working to support the ongoing efforts of the NWBOA as we serve our local schools in interscholastic activities.

7. Assigner News: Jeff Dutton provided information regarding the Middle School season (starting Nov 1st), the Turkey Tournament and several other youth tournaments. Signup sheets were passed around and anyone who missed the meeting can contact Jeff directly. Jeff also mentioned the requirement to be a registered official with the WOA and the need to have a current account in Arbiter. If any questions or help needed with Arbiter, please contact Brian Lindgren, who is our NWBOA Arbiter account custodian.

Damon gave a brief talk on his role as the new high school Assignor and his scheduling philosophy and how he plans to approach the season. Obviously, he humbly asks for everyone's patience as he begins this new role.

8, 2023 Rule changes and POE. Kelly and Damon led a discussion on the new Rule changes/Points of Emphasis for this season. They are:

- Throw-in—Proper location
- Team fouls
- Bench Decorum
- Uniforms, Equipment and Apparel
- End of Game Protocols

Please ensure you read and understand these changes prior to the season.

9. 2023 Rulebooks and Casebooks were issued at the meeting. it is imperative for anyone who missed this meeting to attend in person our next meeting on Nov 5th where the remaining books will be handed out. If you need a rulebook before that, please contact Erik Hopkins (Mount Vernon) or Bernie Upchurch (Oak Harbor) who can also issue your books.

10. Damon wrapped up our meeting with a reminder of our NWB Absolutes as well as some basic Expectations of Officials, which we will continue to talk about throughout the season.

12. Check out our brand new website at [nwofficials .com](http://nwofficials.com) ([Home - NW Officials](http://nwofficials.com)). The password for member only portion is: NWREF2023

11. Next meeting is Nov 5th at Mt Vernon High School
5:00 for 1st and 2nd year officials and anyone wanting to train on rules
6:00 for the general membership