

WYOMING HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

WYOMING SPORTS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

August 5, 2013

Dear Official:

I hope each of you is having an outstanding summer. Summer goes way too fast! We had over 30 officials attend each of our mechanics camps in basketball, football, soccer and volleyball. We should have over 20 attend our upcoming diving camp as well making our attendance total of more than 170 officials. Most of the attendees are there because they want to get better and not because they have to be there. That attitude has helped make our officiating better!

Recruitment of officials will always be a topic of conversation. Last year, we registered 1500 officials. It's everyone's responsibility to recruit and retain young men and women. I have tried to communicate this to our coaches as well. We all need to work together. Please continue to encourage people to get involved in officiating. If we all work together, we can continue to increase the number of officials in Wyoming. Thanks for all of your hard work.

Your WSOA Board of Directors for 2013-14 consists of the following members:

Area 1	David Auge'	Jackson
Area 2	Mike Maloney	Rock Springs
Area 3	Tom Nirider	Riverton
Area 4	Myron Heny	Powell
Area 5	Bev Leichtnam	Sheridan
Area 6	Chris Gray	Glenrock
Area 7	Nate Nordin	Rawlins
Area 8	Lane Buchanan	Laramie
Area 9	Scott Bates	Cheyenne
Area 10	Mike Varney	Torrington
Area 11	Mike Jennings	Newcastle
Area 12	Eric Quinney	Lyman
Soccer	Terry Pyer-President	Worland
Wrestling	John Anastos	Green River

This is a great group of people who are passionate about making officiating better in Wyoming. Please feel free to contact them if you have any items that you would like to discuss. The next WSOA meeting is Saturday, March 15, 2014.

Congratulations to Dave Beemer, Gene Hunt, and Brett Reed on being inducted into the Wyoming Sports Officials Hall of Fame. All these men are very deserving of such a tremendous honor!

Congratulations to following for being honored as **Official of the Year** in their respective sport:

FOOTBALL	DAN EDWARDS, DOUGLAS
GIRLS SWIMMING	JIM LEVINE, LYMAN
VOLLEYBALL	KATHY HAMER-SMITH, TORRINGTON
GIRLS BASKETBALL	GREG BARTLETT, ENCAMPMENT
BOYS BASKETBALL	JAKE HAGAR, CASPER
BOYS SWIMMING	SUSIE SCHMITT, CASPER
WRESTLING	JASON WASSERBURGER, CHEYENNE
GIRLS SOCCER	KEVIN SKAGGS, BUFFALO
BOYS SOCCER	MAX TORBERT, BUFFALO
GIRLS TRACK	CHRIS GRAY, GLENROCK
BOYS TRACK	TOM NIRIDER, RIVERTON

We will be continuing our sportsmanship program this year. **Join the RIDE!** We have definitely seen an improvement in sportsmanship in all of our sports. Officials play a very important role in regards to sportsmanship by enforcing the rules in a fair and consistent manner. Keep up the good work. We will also continue to recognize good sports by completing the form which is located on our website (www.whsaa.org) under officials forms. Please fill out the form completely and correctly and fax it to our office (577-0637). We will send a certificate to the person that was nominated and each school will recognize their athlete or coach. We are doing some great things in Wyoming. Please be proactive in promoting positive sportsmanship throughout the year.

Mileage will be 56.5 cents per mile for the upcoming school year.

Rules clinics are listed below. All clinics begin at 7:00 pm.

Volleyball Rules Clinic – Tuesday, August 13, 2013
Swimming Rules Clinic – Wednesday, August 14, 2013
Football Rules Clinic – Thursday, August 15, 2013
Spirit Rules Clinic – Monday, August 19, 2013
Volleyball Rules Clinic – Tuesday, August 20, 2013
Football Rules Clinic – Wednesday, August 21, 2013
Swimming Rules Clinic – Thursday, August 22, 2013
Wrestling Rules Clinic – Thursday, November 7, 2013
Basketball Rules Clinic – Tuesday, November 12, 2013
Wrestling Rules Clinic – Wednesday, November 13, 2013
Basketball Rules Clinic – Tuesday, November 19, 2013
Track Rules Clinic – Tuesday, January 14, 2014
Track Rules Clinic – Wednesday, February 19, 2014
Soccer Rules Clinic – Wednesday, February 26, 2014
Soccer Rules Clinic – Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Please contact your local high school to find out which date(s) they will be hosting the clinics.

Just a reminder from last year that the WHSAA Board of Directors passed a rule regarding social media and negative comments from officials. My advice to you would be to stay away from any negative comments towards officials, players, coaches or schools at all times. The rule is listed below:

4.5.5.5 PUBLIC CRITICISM OF OFFICIALS OR COACHES

Any official who publicly criticizes another official or coach through the media, social media, facebook, twitter, etc. shall be reported to the WHSAA/WSOA and shall be subject to a hearing for suspension of membership from the WHSAA/WSOA.

Registration will once again be online. The website address for registration and testing is www.whsaa.arbitersports.com. We know there will be some issues that we need to work through with this process, but we believe it will be a better process overall for everyone. Fall sports tests have been available since July 1, 2013. **All varsity officials must pass your open book exam prior to officiating your first varsity contest!** We ask head coaches to do the same and we expect nothing less from our officials. We have not done a great job of monitoring this in the past but we intend to do a much better job this year. Please do not put us in a position to take disciplinary action if you officiate a varsity contest before you have passed your test.

We will again be offering an **Official's Pass** for this upcoming school year. This pass is just like the Coaches pass that we currently offer. The pass costs \$25 and is good for all WHSAA sanctioned events, including post season tournaments. This pass is only available online. Please take advantage of this great benefit for officials! If you have any questions please give us a call.

We had a few issues again this past year with schools using non-registered officials. I want each of you to know that if you are officiating with a non-registered official, you are putting yourself at risk! There could be legal/liability issues that may jeopardize your career. Please let me know immediately if you know that a person is officiating contests in grades 9 – 12 as a non-registered official. All correspondence will remain confidential.

Concussions continue to be a hot topic in all of our sports. The NFHS has developed a concussion course that is available free of charge. I want to encourage all of our officials to take this 20 minute course. The course is available at www.nfhslearn.com. You will need to register on that site before you take the course.

The NFHS has also developed a free course regarding heat acclimatization and heat related injuries. Although we are lucky not to have a lot of humidity in Wyoming, it is still critical that we pay close attention to this topic as well.

The date for recertification and closed book exams for football and volleyball is Tuesday, August 27, 2013; basketball and wrestling is Tuesday, December 3, 2013; soccer is Tuesday, March 18, 2014. You will still be required to contact your local school to set up the closed book exams which will be taken online. Recertification will be required to take all 100 questions as well.

Once again, we recognized our 20, 30 and 40 year officials at the respective sport state tournament of their choice. This has been very positive and a great way for our officials to get the recognition they deserve in front of a lot of people. We will continue to honor our officials in this manner.

The WSOA offered \$500 scholarships to two senior students of WSOA officials. This year's recipients are Aaron Nirider from Riverton and Alex Soveroski from Cheyenne. Congratulations to each of these fine young people and best of luck with their continuing education.

We will again be offering three registration dates for our officials. The early registration deadline dates will be August 1 for fall sports, November 1 for winter sports and March 1 for spring sports. All registrations received after those dates will be assessed a \$10 late fee.

Football Officials:

All crew members must be certified officials in order to be considered for post season selection. If we do not have enough certified crews for the first round of the playoffs, then we will fill the remaining games with registered crews. Our 2014 Mechanics Camp will be held in Sheridan next summer with the date to be determined.

In an effort to improve our football officiating, we have purchased a HUDL account for the upcoming season. This will allow us access to view video of games that involve Wyoming schools that also use HUDL. Please take advantage of this opportunity. I have assigned a lead official(s) in each area that will be able to access the game and distribute it to all of their crew members. The only negative is that not all of our schools use HUDL. There will obviously be some growing pains as we learn a new system, but it has great potential for all of us to get better.

Basketball Officials:

We will evaluate all certified officials once if you were evaluated during last year's post season. We will evaluate all other certified officials wishing to be considered for post season two times unless circumstances beyond our control come up. Our number of basketball officials continues to grow. Keep up the good work.

Wrestling Officials:

Recruit, recruit and recruit new officials! This is a nationwide issue and certainly not unique to Wyoming, but we all need to work together to get more people involved in wrestling officiating. If you would like me to contact anyone, please let me know. Our mechanics camp will be on November 23, 2013 at a site to be determined.

Swimming/Diving Officials:

We will be sponsoring our diving mechanics clinic on Saturday, August 17 from 10:00 – 3:00 at **OUR NEW WHSAA OFFICE AT 6571 EAST 2ND STREET IN CASPER (DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM MOUNTAIN VIEW HOSPITAL)**. Scott Mills will be your clinician. Please sign up as soon as possible if you are interested. This clinic is a requirement for state meet officials.

Volleyball Officials:

We continue to see decreases in the number of certified officials in volleyball. Last year was only the second time in the past 20 years that we have registered less than 200 volleyball officials. Please do everything you can to recruit and retain new officials.

We had a great 2012 – 2013 school year and I look forward to an even better 2013 -2014. We have a great group of people that are working hard for our student-athletes. If you need anything or just want to visit, please feel free to contact me anytime. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,

Trevor Wilson
Associate Commissioner