

WYOMING SPORTS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Saturday, July 26th, 2025

President Tyler Spear called the meeting to order at 8:06 am in the Mountain Room, at the Holiday Inn Casper.

The following members were present: Tyler Spear, Laramie; Mike Maloney, Cheyenne; Gary Glenn, Douglas; Mitchell Johnson, Douglas; Chris Edwards, Lovell; Todd Pearson, Laramie; Michael Walter, Cheyenne; Angela Hendrickson, Lander; Heidi Linford, Lyman; Kathy Hamer-Smith, Torrington; Eric Quinney, Lyman. Also present were Chad Whitworth, WHSAA Associate Commissioner and Lana Glanz, WHSAA Officials Liaison.

MOTION: Todd Pearson moved to approve the agenda. Chris Edwards second. PASSED

MOTION: Eric Quinney moved to approve the 2024 meeting minutes. Heidi Linford second. PASSED

NEW BUSINESS

1. Softball Officiating Topics

A. Inconsistency in the interpretation of 90-minute rule for contests.

- a. Discussion: A proposal will be written to change the wording of the rule in the handbook.

B. Mechanics and Rules Clinics

- a. Discussion: WHSAA will continue to try to have the mechanics camp at the first tournament of the year. If weather does not permit, we will plan to have it during the regional tournament.

2. Soccer Officiating Topics

A. Pay Rate Equity Discussion

- a. Discussion: When reviewing officials pay rate change in 2022, length of the game was the biggest consideration in pay. Pay rates from neighboring states were also considered. The WSOA board took no formal action on this item, but concluded to maintain the current pay rate for soccer officials at this time.

B. Uniform and equipment Expenses

- a. When asked to discuss uniform and equipment expenses, the board clarified that officials are not provided uniforms or equipment by the association or schools.
- b. These items are considered the personal responsibility of each official and are purchased at the official's own expense. They may be tax deductible, as allowed by law.
- c. The board acknowledged this ongoing cost as part of the commitment to officiating but reaffirmed that no changes to this policy are planned at this time.

3. General Officiating Development

- A. Renaming Mechanics Camps to Instructional Camps Discussion: The WSOA board approved changing the name(s) of sponsored camps to: WHSAA (Sport) Officials Camp.
- B. Closed Book Exam discussion
 - a. Discussion: The WHSAA confirmed that beginning in the summer of 2025, the closed book exam for officials may be administered at the specific Sports Officials Camp for most sports. In approved sports:
 - i. For the 2025–26 season, a one-year grace period will be granted, allowing officials to still take the closed book test at schools if necessary.
 - ii. After this transition year, starting in 2026–27, all closed book exams must be taken at camp—no school-based testing will be offered beyond the grace period.
 - b. This change is intended to ensure standardized testing conditions and consistency in exam administration statewide.
 - c. The board held discussion on possibly stepping away from the NFHS exam for the closed book test. This would be done in an attempt to make the closed-book exam more relevant and practical to what officials encounter in their respective sport.
 - i. Football and Volleyball will begin exploring this.
- C. Other Sports Evaluation Framework
 - a. Discussion: The WHSAA announced that formal evaluations of officials will begin in Volleyball during the 2025–26 season. This initiative aims to provide constructive feedback, support professional growth, and promote consistency in officiating. The next sport to be considered for formal evaluations is Softball, though no official timeline has been established. Further discussion and planning will take place in upcoming meetings before implementation.
- D. Lines of Communications
 - a. Sports Representatives should communicate directly with Sport Coordinators.
 - b. Sport Coordinators will report and relay updates to the Director of Officials and the Associate Commissioner. All agreed to ensure email messages are inclusive of all relevant individuals (WHSAA, Coordinators, Reps, etc.).
 - c. All parties are encouraged to maintain open lines of communication with officiating groups statewide to ensure consistent messaging, timely updates, and shared expectations.

E. Discussion on Official-School Conflicts

- a. The board held a discussion regarding the potential for conflicts of interest when officials are assigned to contests involving schools with which they may have a personal connection.
- b. WHSAA Stance: The WHSAA encourages transparency and discretion in assigning officials and expects officials to disclose any potential conflicts that may compromise neutrality.
- c. WSOA Thoughts: The board expressed support for maintaining integrity in assignments and agreed that clear guidelines should be in place. While some conflicts may be unavoidable in smaller communities, perception matters and should be considered.
- d. Communication: All officiating groups statewide should be reminded to review and discuss conflict-of-interest situations with their members regularly to ensure assignments remain fair and impartial.

F. Coordinator Camp Report

- a. Each sport coordinator and/or sport representative that hosted a camp within the last year reported on said camp, pros and cons, goals for continued improvement, attendance, etc.
- b. Open discussion from the board on continually making officiating camps of a high quality.

With no other business to come before the board:

MOTION: Eric Quinney moved to adjourn the WSOA Board of Directors meeting. Second by Todd Pearson. Meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.