

# Make the Right Call



WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

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## Oroville Marks Pock's 50-plus Years by Al Camp

Stories abound about Okanogan's Clyde O. Pock and his years of officiating.

To commemorate Pock's more than 50 years upholding rules, Oroville students created and presented a plaque to him during the Homecoming football game.

"That was pretty neat," Pock said of the Oct. 14 presentation. "I don't know why they did it, but I thought it was pretty neat."

Pock, 83, got his start officiating basketball, which he did from 1954 until last season. He started football officiating in 1955 and is still doing games.

He's also been a volleyball official since 1978 and softball official since 1984.

"To me, Clyde is truly about the student-athlete, and their experiences in athletics that will help them for the rest of their lives," Oroville Athletic Director Brett Fancher said. "I couldn't think of a more

appropriate group to honor Clyde than our student body.

"When Clyde walks into a gym, he always receives a warm welcome from coaches and game personnel."

Years of service were gathered from former Omak Athletic Director Jim Brucker, who also assigns officials.

"Clyde Pock is an absolute treasure for Okanogan County," Brucker said. "He has been an official in four sports for over 50 years.

"While most people are winding down their activities when they reach their 80's, Clyde has just continued to serve the youth of our county through officiating."

The plaque will be placed in the school foyer near the gym, Oroville superintendent Steve Quick said.

"When I walked into the first football officials meeting this year, I noticed Clyde there," Quick said of coming up with

the surprise presentation carried out by Fancher.

"I thought that we should find a way to honor and remember him while he's still officiating. He is so widely known and has officiated several sports and several generations of people in Oroville as well as the greater Okanogan County, too."

A sore knee might slow Pock down in the future.

"I told the guys to sign me up for football next year for state dues, and kind of work when necessary," he said. "My right knee is absolutely killing me. I don't know what it is."

Dues are paid in the spring.

Pock also will step down as volleyball assigner after the season. Marty Palmanteer will take over.

"Sometimes we wait until it's too late to do things like this, so I thought we should do it this year so he could appreciate it as well," Quick said. "By

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Clyde O. Pock, Okanogan, is all smiles after receiving a plaque Oct. 14 from Oroville Associated Student Body vice president Angela Nelson, left, and ASB president Heather Galvan.

Photo Courtesy of Roger Harnack/The Chronicle

## Upcoming Dates

**Executive Board Meeting**  
The WOA Executive Board will meet at the WIAA office January 9. The agenda for the board meeting includes a recap of the fall season, up-

to-date financial report, an overview of the winter season and requests for action from the region representatives and staff.

## Scholarship Application Deadline

The scholarship application is located on the WOA web site. Applications must be received by March 15, 2012.

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# Make the Right Call



(l to r) Eric Cheatley, Lower Columbia; Hap Fakkema, Whatcom-Skagit; Rod Mar, Pacific Northwest

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

## Pock's 50-plus Years (continued from pg 1)

putting Clyde's plaque in our foyer, I think many folks for years to come will continue to reflect on the fine work he's done for our community over the years."

When Clyde is questioned about maybe missing a call, his response is often, "Well, it is not the first one I've missed, and it certainly won't be the last," Brucker said.

Fancher remembers when he was coaching, Pock would

bring a bag of candy for the bookkeepers at basketball and volleyball games.

"He is also a master at deflating a tense situation in a game, either by taking the blame for a bad call, or a quick reply with a joke," Fancher said. "Who can stay mad at that?"

Pock's contributions as an official also were recognized in 2007 when he was inducted into the Washington

Officials Association Hall of Fame.

"I'm not sure when he's going to hang it up, but I find it amazing that he's still doing it," Quick said. "I hope that I can continue to be so involved in sports when or if I reach his age."

"He's been a great official over the years. I know we appreciate the many years he has spent officiating sports for the youth of Oroville."

“OFFICIALS ARE TAUGHT NOT TO ANTICIPATE THE CALL. IF YOU DECIDE WHAT YOU’RE GOING TO SEE BEFORE YOU SEE IT HAPPEN, YOU’LL GET BURNED BY THE UNEXPECTED.”

Do you have a question on the intent of a rule or how it should be applied? If so, please keep in mind there is only one rules interpreter for each sport. Although local associations/boards may have someone designated as an interpreter, it is important that they stay within their role. A good rule of thumb is if the answer to the question can be read from the rule book it is not considered an interpretation. If the answer to the question goes beyond the black and white of the

rules book (or case book), then the only person who can provide an enforceable answer is the designated state rules interpreter for the specific sport.

The rule interpreters are:

*Baseball: Cindy Adsit*

*Basketball: Cindy Adsit*

*Football: John Miller*

*Gymnastics: Brian Smith*

*Soccer: Brian Smith*

*Softball: John Miller*

*Spirit: Cindy Adsit*

*Volleyball: Cindy Adsit*

*Wrestling: John Miller*

Initial interpretation requests should be addressed to your assigner or designee. If an interpretation is still needed, the rules question should be sent to the WIAA Rules Interpreter by the assigner or designee (not from an official).

Once the question has been answered, the interpretation will be sent back to the local association/board, as well as the other WOA Contacts for the respective sport.

## Participation in Anticipation

Officials are taught not to anticipate the call. If you decide what you're going to see before you see it happen, you'll get burned by the unexpected.

One of the greatest officiating techniques is to anticipate the play, not the call. If you can "feel" what's coming and adjust your position or your visual focus

to the right area, you'll see the play better and you'll have a much better opportunity to make the right call.

Good baseball and softball umpires know when to expect a bunt or steal. Top basketball referees recognize the times when a team is going to apply full-court pressure or change

defenses. Football officials know when to expect a deep pass or a quarterback sneak. Alert soccer officials know when a team will play kick-and-run or attach the defense. All of that helps officials to anticipate the play, not the call.

(This article can be found in, Referee magazine, November 2011)



Ed Brooks, Whatcom-Skagit

Photo Courtesy of Linda Johnson

## Basketball: Blood and Arm Sleeves

### "Blood Rule"

**Rule 3-3-7:** A player who is bleeding, has an open wound, has any amount of blood on his/her uniform, or has blood on his/her person, shall be directed to leave the game until the bleeding is stopped, the wound is covered, the uniform and/or body is appropriately cleaned, and/or the uniform is changed before returning to competition, unless a time-out is requested by, and granted to, his/her team and the situation can be corrected by the end of the time-out.

**Interpretation:** If a player is determined to have blood on their uniform (jersey, pants/skirt) the official shall stop the game and direct the head coach to:

- Replace the player within the substitution period
- Remove the uniform that has blood on it (jersey, pants/skirt) from the game

The uniform part (jersey, pants/skirt) must be removed and cannot be used again in that game.

Players are not allowed to remove jersey, pants/skirt in the visual confines of the playing area (10-3-6h). If the player leaves the bench area, they must do so under the direct supervision of adult bench personnel.

### Compression Arm Sleeves

**Rule 3-5-3:** Arm compression sleeves shall:

- Be white, black, beige or a single solid school color
- Be the same color for each team member
- Meet the logo requirements in 3-6
- Be worn for medical reasons

**Interpretation of 3-5-3d:** In order for a compression arm sleeve to be legal, the coach must present to the contest officials prior to every game a letter of authorization from the WIAA. The sleeve will be

approved to be worn only if the school makes the request and includes a note/letter from a medical authority that indicates the name of the player, a recommended timeline (during the season or during the school year, for example) and that the sleeve is required to be worn.

The sleeve color does not need to be the same as wristbands/headbands worn by team members.

If a player is not wearing a sleeve but sustains an injury to the arm or elbow during a contest, the officials will allow a sleeve to be worn for the remainder of that contest. The officials should notify the assigner following the game of the situation. A letter from the WIAA will be required for any subsequent games.



David Loessberg, Snohomish County

Photo Courtesy of Kevin Erickson

## Wrestling: Ear Guards, Tournaments, Weigh-Ins

### Ear Guards

**Rule 4-1-4:** Wrestlers shall wear wrestling ear guards, which provide:

- adequate ear protection
- no injury hazard to the opponent; and,
- an adjustable locking device to prevent it from coming off or turning on the wrestler's head

**Rule 4-1-5:** The uniform shall be worn as intended/designed by the manufacturer.

**Interpretation:** Wrestling ear guards are to be worn as intended/designed by the manufacturer and tape on the ear guards is not allowed by

rule (see photo to the right). Please also be aware of any crossing of the straps. Taping of the ear guards or crossing the straps is a technical violation and should be penalized.

### Tournament Competition

**Rule 2-2-2:** During tournament competition, a maximum of two team personnel (coaches and/or non-participating contestants) will be permitted on chairs at the edge of the mat.

**Interpretation:** Although three team personnel are allowed on the edge of the mat for the finals at Regional and

Mat Classic, this exception does not extend to any other tournaments. During tournament competition, a maximum of two team personnel will be permitted on chairs at the edge of the mat.

### Weigh-Ins

**Rule 4-5-4:** The referee, or other authorized person of the same gender, shall supervise the weigh-ins.

**Interpretation:** The referee is the only authorized person to conduct weigh-ins. It is important and efficient to complete the skin check at the same time as the weigh-ins.

"WRESTLING EAR GUARDS ARE TO BE WORN AS INTENDED/ DESIGNED BY THE MANUFACTURER AND TAPE ON THE EAR GUARDS IS NOT ALLOWED BY RULE."



The headgear worn by both wrestlers in this photo should be deemed a technical violation per Rule 4-1-5.

Photo Courtesy of NFHS



# Officiating the Game for the Athletes!

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### Note from the Commissioner:

Thank you to all the officials who worked during the 2011 WIAA Fall State Championships. No ejections, very few complaints from spectators and no complaints from coaches. Great job to all those that made the fall tournaments a success. The internal review and assessment has begun. The coordinators and observers will be submitting their reports and suggestions for improvement. If you worked a fall state tournament and have suggestions for improvement, please make sure you send those comments to the officials' coordinator or WOA staff. Input from the working officials is crucial in making sure the "state experience" is first class.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year!

Todd Stordahl  
WOA Commissioner



(clockwise from back) Steve Jensen, Snohomish County; John Bardin, Evergreen; Rob Spero, Pacific Northwest working the 2011 4A Semifinal.

Photo Courtesy of Max Howard

# www.woa-officials.com

## WOA History Lesson - Chapter I (1940-1948)

Many officials have asked the question as to how, when and who started the WOA. Some of those asking the question were under the impression that the WOA was created a few years ago. In order to answer those questions and provide a little insight into the history of the WOA, staff scoured through the WIAA archives to find out the answers to those initial questions, as well as a handful of other interesting tidbits about the association. Staff will include additional historical information in future

issues, but will start with the creation of WOA:

In March of 1940, a three member committee was formed to investigate the desirability of sponsoring a State Officials Association.

In March of 1946, the WIAA Representative Assembly approved the formation of a State Officials Association for football, basketball and baseball. Committee members pointed out that the advantage to creating an officials association included an effort to standardize fees

and the uniformity of rule interpretations. The Board of Control charged Bob Hall, Fife and Bill Fisher, Lynden with structuring of the State Officials Association.

The 1946-47 school year served as the implementation period. Officials were encouraged to register with the state, but at that point it was not required. Beginning with the 1947-48 school year, all officials working football, basketball and baseball were required to register with the State Officials Association.



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