

Make the Right Call



WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

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Inspired Officials Give Back Like Jack by Todd Korth

Jack Reynolds made quite an impact as a wrestling and softball official while a member of the Pacific Northwest Officials Association (PNWOA) for many years until June 2008, when he died after a long battle with cancer. So impressive was Reynolds that the appreciation and inspiration gained by many other officials for him continues to live on in the form of a scholarship fund that involves wrestling and softball tournaments and other events.

Since December 2008, wrestling and softball officials from the PNWOA have helped raise nearly \$50,000 for the Jack Reynolds Scholarship Fund to assist a student-athlete's post-secondary education. The annual scholarships recognize student-athletes who exemplify qualities modeled and instilled by Reynolds - dedication, integrity, mentorship, academic achievement and fair play - according to the fund's website, www.thejackreynoldsscholarshipfund.com.

"It's something that a lot of people are involved in just

because Jack was the kind of person...if anybody ever needed any help any time, whether he knew you or he didn't, he was there to help you," said Malcolm Boyle, a longtime softball umpire from Bothell, Wash., who also serves as an ASA deputy supervisor. "The greatest integrity, (Reynolds) was a teacher by trade. He was a coach, but also an outstanding softball umpire and wrestling official. He was quite a guy."

Reynolds officiated in the state of Washington for 38 years, including 24 state wrestling tournaments. He was a wrestling clinician and assigner for the Pacific Northwest Wrestling Association, Washington Officials Association (WOA) executive Board member and wrestling evaluator. He receives numerous awards for his involvement in wrestling and softball.

"We try to keep in mind, more than anything, what he would want," said Marc Kaye, one of the five founding members of "The Fund." "He was my mentor and a friend and we all want to honor his memory."

The other founding members, all from the PNWOA, include Chuck Tompkins, Wayne Lugg, Tom Johnson and Frank Dellino.

Each year, scholarship money is raised by wrestling and softball officials who donate their time to officiate in tournaments and other benefits. Since December 2008, top wrestling teams from around Washington travel to Mercer Island for the annual Jack Reynolds Scholarship Fund Holiday Wrestling Invitational. The Seattle Metro Softball Umpires Association affiliated with ASA began an annual umpire evaluation tournament in Reynolds' honor in the spring of 2009. All monies earned in game fees or evaluation fees are donated to the Fund.

In the first year of The Fund, combined total contributions for wrestling and softball were \$4,200, made available in the form of college scholarships to two student-athletes. In 2010, four student-athletes and last year five student-athletes received scholarship awards.

(This article can be found in, Referee magazine, March 2012)

Special points of interest:

- JACK REYNOLDS WAS A MEMBER OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST WRESTLING ASSOCIATION AND SEATTLE METRO SOFTBALL
- SEATTLE METRO SOFTBALL IS A MEMBER OF THE WOA, SERVING WIAA MEMBER SCHOOLS, IN ADDITION TO BEING AFFILIATED WITH ASA
- IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT "THE FUND" OR FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED, PLEASE VISIT THE FUND'S WEBSITE

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Make the Right Call



(l to r) Dean Strong, Snohomish County and Kevin Gawenit, Inland Empire

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

“THE WOA ENCOURAGES ALL MEMBERS TO WORK WITH THEIR ASSIGNERS AND BOARD MEMBERS TO NOMINATE OFFICIALS WHO ARE DESERVING OF A WOA AWARD.”

2012 State Championship Judges: Spirit

Cheerleading Championships
January 28, 2012
Comcast Arena, Everett

Head Judge
Anne Taylor

Judges
Jennifer Crowley
Kelli Grenfell
Charlene Johnson
Caity Kepler
Millie King
Jodelle Mistretta
MacKenzie McIntyre
Dani Yorkston

Dance/Drill Championships
March 23-24, 2012
SunDome, Yakima

Head Judge
Bobbi Buttars

Judges
Marla Boyd
Claire Catt
Brynn Church
Keri Devine
Gina Englund
Mindy Fischer
Julie Holmberg
Amy Howell-Jones

Jane Huh
Trinity Hutchinson
Debora Kiernan-Ottum
Andrea Leach
Jennifer Malloy
Natalie Murdock
Shelley Seeley
Jennifer Stokes
Lynelle Vandenbos
Andie Webb

Officials' Recognition Program

The Officials' Recognition Program is an area the WOA staff and Executive Board believe can become much stronger than it currently is. Over the last few years, the program has improved and many deserving officials have been recognized, but we can do better. The WOA encourages all members to work with their assigners and board members to nominate officials who are deserving of the following awards:

Official of the Year

Local associations/boards nominate an official to be considered for this award. One official is selected from the pool of nominees to be the state official of the year for each sport.

Meritorious Service Award

Officials are eligible to receive this award if they have 15 years of service, state tournament experience and have been active as a

local board member.

Hall of Fame

The most prestigious award for a member of the WOA. Inductees are selected from a pool of qualified nominees.

If you know of an official deserving of any of these awards, please contact your assigner.

WOA and Referee Enterprises Reach Agreement

The WOA has entered into an agreement with Referee Enterprises, Inc (REI) to produce publications.

The agreement covers the creation of WOA Mechanics Illustrated books in football, baseball, basketball and softball. The books will be produced every two years.

Since the announcement of

the board decision to replace the NFHS manuals in January, there has been some confusion as to what this means and how it will impact officials. The important thing to remember is that this change only applies to the mechanics, it does not have an impact on the rules of the game. The rules governing a sport are determined by the WIAA, where as the mechanics

are determined by the WOA.

The product being offered by REI allows for the WOA to produce a publication that encompasses mechanics, interpretations and philosophies. This publication will be a great training tool for officials and will help improve the consistency of officials throughout the state.



David Tise, Seattle Metro

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

Baseball: Illegal Bats and Lineup Cards

Illegal Bats

4-1-3b: Prior to the start of the game, the umpire-in-chief shall receive verification from each head coach that his participants are properly equipped in accordance with NFHS rules. In addition, each coach shall verify that his participants are using only legal equipment, including bats that are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design and production and that meet the provisions in 1-3-2, and helmets that meet

the provisions of 1-5-1 and are free of cracks and damage.

Rationale: This change increases the responsibility of the coach and holds the coach accountable for making sure all equipment being used meets the NFHS provisions. Umpires will still retain the authority to make a final decision on legality of equipment (1-5-10), but the initial responsibility falls on the head coach.

Lineup Cards

A big THANK YOU to Peyton Coffin, Northwest Baseball, for designing a baseball lineup card that should be easier to use for both coaches and umpires. Please feel free to download the lineup card and make copies as needed:

www.woa-officials.com/pdf/lc1.pdf
www.woa-officials.com/pdf/lc3.pdf



(l to r) Scott Johnson, Dave Warner and Chris Broderick, Northwest

Umpires are no longer responsible for conducting pre-game equipment checks.

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

Softball: Illegal Bats and Pitching

Illegal Bats

Rule 7-4-2 Penalty: When the illegal bat is an altered or non-approved bat, the batter and head coach are also ejected.

Rationale: Coaches and players must be held accountable for using this type of illegal bat. Coaches must be responsible for the equipment being used in each game, even when it is not issued by the school, but a player's personal

equipment. Player safety and the integrity of the game must be maintained and this type of illegal equipment has no place in the game.

Pitching Point of Emphasis

24-Inch Width Infractions: Pitchers are starting and/or finishing outside the 24-inch width limitation without an illegal pitch being declared, giving a significant advantage to the pitcher and defensive team.

The home plate umpire must use his or her peripheral vision to detect this violation, since tracking the pitch from the release point to the catcher's glove is a priority. However, this should not be an excuse for ignoring obvious violations. The base umpire may also detect this illegal pitch, depending on the field position, looking for pivot and landing foot marks outside the lane in the dirt as the pitcher finishes her motion.

“COACHES MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EQUIPMENT BEING USED IN EACH GAME, EVEN WHEN IT IS NOT ISSUED BY THE SCHOOL, BUT A PLAYER'S PERSONAL EQUIPMENT.”

Soccer: “Soft Red” and Ejection Reports

“Soft Red” Card Memo

A memo was released by the NFHS in regard to the elimination of the “soft red” card for 2012-13. This change will take effect in the Fall of 2012. There are no rule changes for the Spring season. Team's are still allowed to substitute on a “soft red” during the spring.

Ejection Reports

Please remember to provide a detailed explanation when issuing a red card for violent conduct and abusive language. Since the penalty for these two offenses are more severe than the other red cards, it is important to provide the school administrator with as much

information as possible, relevant to the red card, so they will be able to handle the situation appropriately.

Your professionalism, thoroughness and timeliness of submitting the ejection report is appreciated by staff and the school administrator anxiously awaiting the report.

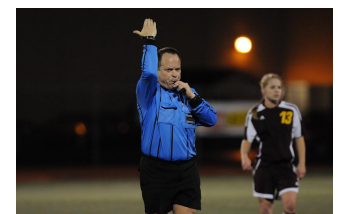


Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

Officiating the Game for the Athletes!

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Note from the Commissioner:

It was great seeing so many officials attending this year's winter state tournaments. For a split second, I thought a few officials from Snohomish County were following me from Spokane to Yakima and then Tacoma.....

I appreciate the fact that those in attendance were able to fly under the radar. Throughout the fall and winter tournaments, we have received zero complaints from fans or school administrators pertaining to inappropriate behavior of officials as spectators. This is truly appreciated by the WOA staff and Executive Board. This is the first step in creating a positive environment for the officials working the tournaments, as well as demonstrating a high level of integrity to the public.

How is your association/board handling officials who post on blogs and forums in an unprofessional manner? This is an issue that has been addressed the last couple years at the NASO Summit. There are so many people - parents, players, coaches and even administrators - that are more than willing to place blame on the officials, I am not sure we need our own rank and file doing the same. The WOA Executive Board will be taking a closer look at this issue as we move forward.

Todd Stordahl
 WOA Commissioner



(l to r) Steve Waldeck, Yakima Valley and Scott Heim, Evergreen

Photo Courtesy of Jim Hausske

www.woa-officials.com

Test Yourself: Baseball, Softball and Soccer

Each of the following includes a situation and at least two possible answers. Decide which answers are correct for NFHS rules.

Baseball

R1 is attempting to steal second. The pitch to B3 is in the dirt, so B3 does not swing as the pitch comes in. However, once the ball is past him, B3 waves the bat at the ball.

- A. Charge B3 with a swinging strike, even though he swung after the pitch was clearly past the plate.
- B. Charge B3 with

interference since he only waved the bat to distract F2.

- C. Charge B3 with interference only if F2's attempt to throw is hindered.
- D. Return R1 to first

Softball

With R1 on first base, B2 hits a slow ground ball to F6. F6's throw to first is wide and goes into dead-ball area. R1 had reached second base at the time of the throw.

- A. Award R1 home
- B. Award R1 third
- C. Award B2 second

D. Award B2 third

Soccer

In a collision with B4, A8 is injured. The referee stops play for the injury and A8 is treated on the field by the trainer.

- A. Team A must remove that player and may play one player short.
- B. Team A must remove that player and may substitute.
- C. Team A must remove that player, even if it is the goalkeeper.
- D. Team A must remove that player, unless it is the goalkeeper.



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Baseball: C Softball: A,C Soccer: A,B,C