

MINUTES OF THE MOA REGIONAL DIRECTORS MEETING

Via Zoom
July 29, 2024

ATTENDANCE

David Reese, Kalispell Region 1
Joel Fuhrmann, Charlo Region 2
Patrick Wirtzberger, Havre Region 4
Lea Potoczny, Great Falls Region 5
Michael Bell, Belgrade Region 6
Jay Lemelin, Billings Region 7
Lon Swigart, Sidney Region 8
Austin Stradley, Miles City Region 9
George Maruska, Lewistown Region 10
Brian Michelotti, Helena
Amy Bartels, Helena
Scott Wilson, Helena
Greta Buehler, Helena
Jenise Cockhill, Helena

The Zoom call meeting began at 12:14pm.

5 SECOND CLOSELY GUARDED RULE

Ms. Buehler summarized the proposal passed by the Executive Board in June and stated it is in the two-week notice period. There were no issues discussed by any of the Regional Directors.

BASKETBALL POSTSEASON SCHEDULING

Ms. Buehler stated that the Basketball Hiring Committee proposed that the Regional Directors would hire officials for tournaments, coaches will still vote for postseason officials, 6 officials per gender or 4 if approved, hired officials' names given to tournament managers to assign games and that the 3-postseason tournament limit would still apply. Mr. Wirtzberger made a motion to approve the district hiring process as written by the committee. Mr. Fuhrmann seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with one dissenting vote from Mr. Maruska, and the motion carried.

BASKETBALL OFFICIALS' CAMP ATTENDANCE

Ms. Buehler explained the additional proposal stating that officials would be required to attend an approved officiating camp every 3 years to be eligible for postseason tournament selection. Mr. Wirtzberger suggested that this proposal is tabled until the next MOA Regional Director Meeting in December, when at that time more information would be available. This would also give the Basketball Committee more time to have a detailed plan for potential camps. It was agreed upon by the Regional Directors to table the vote until the December meeting.

HIRING COMMITTEE FOR WRESTLING

Mr. Wilson explained that some pools are concerned that during the regular season they are being overlooked in the larger tournaments and thereby never getting the chance to work postseason. He proposed to create a wrestling hiring committee for the postseason. The committee would initially be tasked with focusing on the postseason initially and then eventually working to include the regular season. Mr. Fuhrmann made a motion

to give the MHSА authority to create a hiring committee for Wrestling. Mr. Lemelin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

MOA OFFICIALS' UNIFORMS FOR SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL

Ms. Bartels requested a change in uniform rules for Baseball and Softball officials to match and wear the same uniform to make it easier for crossover between these two officials to work either sport. Mr. Maruska made a motion to approve that baseball and softball officials can have the same uniforms if they all match for the contest. Ms. Potoczny seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

CLARIFICATION FOR FOOTBALL LINE JUDGE RULE CHANGE

Mr. Wilson asked for clarification regarding the rule passed for switching of sides for Line Judge and Head Linesman at the half for sub varsity and varsity. Mr. Lemelin made a motion to approve the language change to state mandatory for Varsity and optional for Sub-varsity level. Ms. Potoczny seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

Individual Pool By-laws

Mr. Reese stated that he has noticed discrepancies in pools and the way that by-laws and finances are handled. Mr. Michelotti explained that there is a suggested template for by-laws that has been given to each pool, but each individual pool can create their own. These individual by-laws are supposed to be turned into the MHSА/MOA Coordinator.

Officials Fees

Mr. Swigart stated that North Dakota just raised their fees for officials, and he is worried about pushback from Montana officials.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting ended at 1:48pm.