

President

Cedric Thomas opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. Minutes of 21 February, 7 March, and 4 April were offered for approval. Daphne Brown had clarification concerning handling violation non call as described by Darrell Schmidt in the minutes of 4 April. See below. After the discussion in the Training paragraph, the minutes were approved.

Training

Daphne Brown explained that when a defender goes to ground as a last ditch effort to stop an attack, **any most** hand to ball or ball to hand must be called handling. However, a defender who falls, trips or slides uncontrollably to ground and does not attempt to play the ball is normally exempted from a handling call should the defender's arm/hand have contact with the ball. Daphne suggested members review the USSF video on handling at high level games.

Klaus Staefe explained that sliding in a dangerous manner should be considered dangerous play and penalized with an IFK. There have been instances in the adult league where players have defended by sliding with force and should have been penalized with an IFK.

President

Cedric expressed his personal frustration and reduced open mindedness now that the long season is coming to an end. He has recognized his frustration and encouraged members **how** who may feel the same to step back, smell the roses, and continue with the professionalism and enthusiasm and love of the Game that is expected of soccer referees.

Cedric reported that the AHSAA will recognize the 4th Official as a valid member of the referee team at the Final Four games. The 4th officials will not be paid and at this time it is unclear whether the 4th official can serve as a replacement field official in event of injury to any field official. Klaus recommended that the designated 4th officials should attend the pre Final Four referee meeting along with the other referees and support staff.

Secretary

Mike Moran reported that the outstanding fees owed by the high schools and middle schools has been reduced from almost \$60 K to \$25K. He has asked treasurer Kim Hensley to provide names of schools that have paid this week so he can focus on the schools still not paid.

Vice President

Tim Barron discussed state referee assignments by the AHSAA. He recommended consulting with our Area coordinator, Richard Robinson, to point out that not all

state regions are “equal” in school team performance, referee, competence and game experience. “Some areas have 168 games in a season while NASOA may have over 100 games in a week.” The message was to try to ensure skilled referees are in the center of all Final Four games.

Tim also cited the ongoing problem of preparing high school ejection reports. He explained the process:

First telephone Andy Dye, Cedric or Tim Barron to explain the situation that warranted an ejection immediately.

Next prepare the written ejection report in draft form including:

Time of the incident (i.e., X minutes left in the first half or Y minutes left in the game)

Names and numbers and school of the player(s) involved

Description of the incident(s) resulting in the ejection

Where on the field the incident occurred

How the incident occurred

Other information-names of other game officials, etc.

Finally prepare the final ejection report incorporating input from the Board members above.

A situation occurred at a boy’s varsity match that was delayed due to a longer girls varsity match that preceded it. The field had no lighting. The referee incorrectly told the coaches prior to the kickoff that should the game be tied at end of regulation, the teams would go directly to KFTM. Fortunately the game did not end in a tie at end of regulation. However, the referee was incorrect in that he should have planned to follow normal high school tie breaking procedure (two 5 minute overtime periods then KTM). In event of darkness, he would have suspended the match to be resumed later.

Tim also reported that uniform requirements are still not being followed: keeper jersey numbers, metal clips in hair braids, etc. There must be not variance on uniforms for the playoffs or Final Four.

Our NASOA referees will be working with other referee association for the 2nd round of playoffs but we must enforce high school uniform and other rules in every case.

Some referees have already been notified of selection for 1st round playoff games. Please accept these assignments quickly. For sub state matches, we are to contact

the other referees on the game as well as the home school to verify location, special conditions, etc.

USSF/SDA/HASL

Klaus Staefe reported that referee assignments for the President's Cup and Regionals ~~have been made~~ **will be announced soon. He asks that those referees reply quickly so that we may finalize the selections.**

Klaus reported that the State and USSF is implementing a new "Game Officials" (Blue Star?) software program that will start 1 July 2018. The system will include registration, game assignments, scheduling, etc. The State is going away from the current "Got Soccer" software. High School soccer will continue to use Arbiter.

Klaus also reported that the USSF registration Road Show will be in July. The Southern Regional President's Cup is in Greenville, SC 12-17 June and the National Presidents Cup is in Westfield, IN 11-15 July.

There were many problems with the Open Cup venues (due to weather) the weekend of 13-15 April: No Locker Rooms, No Water, No Food. NASOA will no longer support the Open Cup tournaments. HASL will move to John Hunt 1 & 2 after the high school season ends. He said there have been no assessments this year so far and he encouraged all to up grade. The fee is \$70.

High School Assigner

Any Dye reported that referees have been accepting assignments on time and that there were very few "timed outs" and declines. Most of the declines were for understandable reasons.

Vice President

Tim Barron announced the next meeting will be 2 May and the Final Four coordination meeting will be 9 May. Kim Hensley is coordinating volunteers to support the Final Four.

The Alabama State Games will be held in Madison 8-10 June. Referee assignments will be made by Dean Johnson. The meeting closed at 7:00 PM.

Members Attending:

Mark Potter
Todd Owen
Andy Dye
Darrell Schmidt
Chris Boyer
Magdi Eham
Claudio Muntele
Klaus Staefe

Daphne Brown
Walner Nelson
Cedric Thomas
Tim Holt
Mike Moran