



SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF BASKETBALL OFFICIALS
SERVING NORTHEAST FLORIDA

General Membership Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2008
Schultz Center

Margaret Busbee called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. There were 57 persons in attendance.

Minutes from the January 2, 2007 meeting were waived.

Gary Gier handed out 1099 statements.

Due to conflicts with the FHSAA Girls State Basketball Tournament, the February 20th meeting is rescheduled to Monday February 25th.

The President reminded the membership to please run all cancellations through the Commissioner. Do not switch assignments without approval from the Commissioner.

The President reminded the membership not to discuss player or coach ejections with school personnel. The FHSAA is the sole determinant of sanctions upon players and school personnel. Violation of this procedure may result in sanctions by FHSAA.

A letter to the Editor of the Florida Times Union criticizing High School Basketball officials was read to the membership. Margaret Busbee drafted a response letter and forwarded it to the FHSAA for approval prior to sending it to the Times Union for publication. To date the response was not published. The FHSAA had forwarded the letter and our Association's response to the NFHSAA. The National federation was concerned that information quoted in the letter writer's letter was very inaccurate. The Florida Times Union did publish a response from Ken Pressley, a former member of SABO supporting SABO.

Committee Reports: Margaret Busbee thanked the committees for all their hard work during the season.

Nomination Committee:

Kerry Walter (Chair), Henry King, Monica Claridge, Jeff Watkins and Don Hodges

Kerry Walter read the eligibility requirements for nominations for officers from the Constitution. The list of those nominated for Office was read. Nominations from the floor were opened. There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed.

Nominations for 2008/09 Officers are:

President; Greg Bing (unopposed - elected by acclamation)

Vice President: Jerry Williams; Margaret Busbee

Secretary: Steve Naso (unopposed - elected by acclamation)

Treasurer: Gary Gier (unopposed - elected by acclamation)

Commissioner: Nile Dixon (unopposed - elected by acclamation)

Member at Large: Lawrence Starling; Kerry Walter

Sergeant at Arms: Maurice Wilson (unopposed - elected by acclamation)



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The election meeting is scheduled for Monday February 25, 2008. The Secretary will prepare the ballot and mail to all members. Absentee Ballots are asked to be returned to the Secretary. The President reviewed the Absentee Ballot procedure

All members in good standing (no unexcused absences; unpaid fines; not under suspension or faced with any pending charges of improper conduct) may vote in person, or by absentee ballot, if they will be unable to attend the election meeting.

If you need to vote by absentee, please use the original letter as your absentee ballot. Please return your ballot to the secretary no later than Saturday February 23, 2008 with the absentee ballot sealed in an envelope marked on the outside only with the words **ABSENTEE BALLOT**. This envelope marked **ABSENTEE BALLOT** is then sealed inside a second envelope with your name and return address on the outside.

Recommendation: No Report

Evaluation: No Report.

Training: No Report.

Report of Assistant Commissioner:

Jerry Williams announced the Duval County Boys Middle School end Thursday February 28, 2008

Report of Commissioner:

Team Sportsmanship awards were given out at the Boys and Girls Gateway Conference Tournament at FCCJ. Each official working the respective Tournament games was asked to nominate a team for the Award. The Girls Team Award in memory of Doug Booker was awarded to Raines High School. The Boys Team award in honor of Earl Sappenfield was awarded to Englewood High School. A letter from the Englewood Athletic Director praising the Boys and Girls Sportsmanship awards presented by SABO was read to the membership.

Regional Tournament checks are to be sent to the Commissioner. They are made payable to SABO. Do not cash these checks. The Referee is to contact the Host site AD in order to coordinate arrival times and any special needs as appropriate.

New Business: Margaret Busbee announced that the Board is considering the establishment of a Coaches Sportsmanship award in honor of JC Green to be established for the 2008/09 season. The Board is completing the details, and guidelines for the award.

Beryl Napoleon reminded the membership that the Sportsmanship card is required to be read at all pre-game conferences with Coaches and captains.

Ron Jarrett asked that anyone interested in working AAU games in the off-season meet with him after the membership meeting.

Next Meeting: Monday February 25, 2008

Nothing further, meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Steve Naso, Secretary

Florida Times Union: 1/31/08

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS
Referees need more training

In the face of increasingly high school student athlete injuries, the training and knowledge of new and existing high school referees needs to be advanced.

According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, there are over 4 million U.S. high school students participating in sports, with over 1 million injuries reported each year among these athletes.

High school basketball competitions have gotten out of hand, due to the incompetency and naivete of many of the high school referees employed throughout the state of Florida.

The lack of knowledge of the rules has played out in unnecessary injuries to many high school athletes. These officials need to learn when and when not to call a charge on an offensive player during a basketball competition.

A charging call is made if the offensive player intentionally makes contact with the defender, which means jumping into and creating contact with the defender.

While this rule is being misinterpreted by more and more officials, our athletes are suffering via concussions, bone fractures and other injuries in rising numbers.

If these officials do not see it as part of their job to protect these athletes, then they should not be a part of the Florida High School Athletic Association and its officiating body. Is there such a lack of numbers in the pool of officials that they are accepting less qualified people for these positions?

Injury prevention takes on added importance, because history of an injury is often a risk factor for future injury.

We need to know when we send our kids to a sporting event that they will be in the hands of competent, knowledgeable officials.

The safety of our children should be of the utmost importance. A demand for top-rate officiating should be the first step taken for the protection of our kids.

TERRI JOSEPH

Jacksonville

Florida Times Union: 2/5/08

**HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL
Referees are well-trained**

I am writing in response to the letter writer who is concerned about the officiating at the high school level in Jacksonville.

Her concerns were about one of the most difficult calls in basketball, the "offensive charge."

The complexity, speed and variables involved with the game of basketball create issues for both the players, coaches and referees.

The game is not an easy game to play for the players or the referees to officiate.

If the players are not fast enough defensively, they may get to the defensive position late and incur a defensive blocking foul.

It may look to everyone in the gym (at least on one side) that it might be a charge, but, in essence, the player did not get there in time and was still moving to position when the contact is made.

Both players' movement are (possibly) out of control and injuries are possible.

This is not the referees' fault. This relates to the abilities of the players and the proper instruction of those players in practicing in the proper setting.

As a former official of the Southern Association of Basketball Officials, I know that referees who officiate the high school basketball programs in Jacksonville and the surrounding counties are, by far, the best group I was ever associated with.

They continually strive to train, study and practice their craft through preseason forums, a mentor program, and participation in summer high school and college basketball camps for high school players and programs throughout the city (usually for minimum reimbursements).

These men and women know the difference between an offensive charge and a blocking foul.

KENNETH PRESSLEY

Green Cove Springs

1/31/08

In response to Terri Joseph's letter about Basketball Officials.

Ms. Joseph, I have been an official for 33 years and I pride myself on knowing the rules. I am also the President of the Local Association and I would like to extend a Welcome hand to you to attend our meetings which have been going on since June. We meet every other week, rain or shine cold or hot and our meetings are open to players, coaches, and parents. We welcome all that attend in hopes that we can work together in informing and educating our public and membership.

I know for a fact that our membership has, and is still working hard to improve on calls and we offer training for the whole group. Each official that officiates varsity ball is ask to attend a 3 day training camp at UNF during June and then we start our mandatory 10 training meeting held every other week before the season starts. .This was followed up this year with 32 scrimmages at different school all before the season starts. We also hosted a two day Field Clinic of nothing but rules and scrimmages, in October. Since the season has started we have meeting every month, and twice in February. Each official is required to take and pass a test given by FHSAA to enable them to work varsity games.

We are always open to recruiting more officials, and maybe you should think about joining. Women officials are a minority and you would be welcomed with open arms. It is easy to criticize and accuse officials of not knowing the rules or applying them wrongly. Officials make mistakes just like everyone else. If you were to ask any one of us have you ever blown a call? I don't know any that would say no. But to just out and out accuse them of being the reason that players get hurt is very wrong and resentful of you, without being an official and being in their situation.

Our officials are not from another planet, they are people just like you. They have families and children who play on the same teams as probably yours do. They have a love for the game that goes very deep. They work hard to do the right thing, and officiate to the best of their ability. Just like in real life, there are some officials that excel more than others, but we need all of them working together to make things happen.

I will take your comments and read them to our membership at the next meeting and we will discuss the block/charge situation, but it would mean so much more if you came and joined us and shared your ideas as to how we can get better. Next meeting is February 6th 6:30PM Schultz Center.

Margaret Busbee
President SABO

-----Original Message-----

From: Bacon, Maurice R. [mailto:baconm@duvalschools.org]

Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 8:51 AM

To: Fox, Jon F.

Cc: nmdixon@comcast.net

Subject:

Jon I think the idea of the officials giving a sportsmanship award is a wonderful idea! I'd love to see each team sport do that even if WE had to pay for it. Right now rather we like it or not the Houser award is all about winning. This would be a great way to promote sportsmanship to our coaches. I think the basketball officials did a great thing!