

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

NEVADA STATE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

Approved by NIAA Board of Control, September 22, 2004

PREAMBLE

This Constitution is for the general purpose of organizing High School sports officiating in the State of Nevada. There are three constituent groups: (1) The Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association, managed by the Executive Director under the direction of a Board of Control, which shall be represented by one or more regional Commissioners. (2) The schools that are members of the NIAA and participate in sporting events, athletic competitions and other interscholastic activities under the auspices of the NIAA. (3) One or more regional Officials Associations, the membership of which shall be eligible for certification as game officials by the NIAA.

PURPOSE

1. To unite all qualified Officials Associations.
2. To require study of rules and to encourage discussion of their intent for uniform interpretations.
3. To cooperate with the National Rules Federations for the advancement of athletics.
4. To progressively improve and elevate the officiating standards of approved official associations.
5. To render a more efficient service to the Member Schools.
6. To encourage and assist men and women interested in becoming qualified officials to enter the field.
7. To deal with problems of proper conduct of players, coaches, officials and spectators during any contest involving member schools of the NIAA.

ORGANIZATION

COMMISSIONERS

1. In accordance with the provisions of this section, one or more persons shall be designated Regional Commissioner for the 3 (three) geographic regions of the State of Nevada.
2. Member Schools and/or the Officials Association within the region shall recommend to the Executive Director persons interested in the Commissioner position.
3. The Executive Director will interview the applicants and with approval of the NIAA Board, shall appoint the Regional Commissioners.

The Commissioners shall, within their respective geographical regions:

1. Be selected by the process outlined above.
2. Be generally a liaison and point of contact between the NIAA and Officials Associations and Chapters.
3. Establish, in their respective regions, a local organization composed of the total membership of all game officials in that region, divided into chapters according to the sport being officiated.
4. Make available to each official a copy of the NIAA Handbook and NSOA Constitution.
5. Notify officials of the date and location of examinations at least 15 days prior to the first scheduled contest in the sport as set by the NIAA, with the commissioner or his/her designee administering the examination.
6. Receive from the Officials Association a list of persons who have satisfactorily passed an examination of rules knowledge and demonstrated knowledge of officiating mechanics as determined by the Officials Association.
7. Register all such approved officials with the NIAA (to be known as a "Certified NSOA Official").
8. Provide the Officials Association in a timely manner with a complete schedule of events as provided by the member schools / leagues.
9. Notify the Officials Association immediately of any schedule changes and ensure that officials are duly notified of rescheduled, cancelled and added events.
10. Make necessary reports as determined by the Executive Director of the NIAA.
11. Receive complaints from Officials Associations or Member Schools in writing.
12. Investigate all complaints, have the authority to mediate a resolution at the regional level, submit recommendations to the NIAA if the complaint

cannot be solved at the regional level and ensure that a resolution is had and enforced

13. In conjunction with and based on the recommendation of the governing board of each Chapter, the Commissioner shall approve regular and post-season officiating assignments.

MEMBER SCHOOLS

1. Require coaches to attend the annual rules clinics in their respective sport when called upon to do so by the Regional Commissioners and/or NIAA Executive Director. Failure of any coach to attend these rules clinics will forfeit their schools opportunity to use the deletion process as stated in #9.
2. Only certified NSOA officials registered with the NIAA office and whose names appear on the Officials Roster shall officiate in the interscholastic varsity contests within the state involving a Member School.
3. It is highly recommended by the NIAA that registered officials be used in freshman and junior varsity games.
4. Make every attempt to provide Officials with facilities to change clothes, shower with hot water and conduct pre-and post-game meetings that are appropriate for the number of officials and the sport.
5. Provide Officials with appropriate security at the game site.
6. Designate a Site Administrator for each contest, who shall be responsible to the Officials for the condition of the contest site and the maintenance of proper order and decorum. The Site Administrator shall identify himself or herself to the Officials on their arrival at the game site and shall be readily available to the Officials before, during and after the contest.
7. No school employee may officiate at any varsity football, soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, wrestling or diving contests in which his school is participating – which thereby excludes cross county, golf, tennis, track & field and swimming. At those areas where the approved Officials Associations cannot furnish or supply Officials for a contest, employees of either of the schools involved may officiate a contest by mutual consent of participating schools.
8. No relative of a participating athlete or coach may officiate at any varsity football, soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, wrestling or diving contests in which his school is participating – which thereby excludes cross county, golf, tennis, track & field and swimming. At those areas where the approved Officials Associations cannot furnish or supply Officials for a contest, employees of either of the schools involved may officiate a contest by mutual consent of participating schools.

9. Member Schools may delete a maximum of two Officials in any one sport. A deletion shall apply to the sport and season for which it is submitted and shall expire at the end of that season. All deletions must be submitted in writing by the principal to the Executive Director of the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association. A specific explanation must accompany the request. All deletions must be submitted 7 days prior to the first scheduled contest. This rule does not apply to post-season competition.
10. It shall be the responsibility and duty of principals, coaches, faculty members and all other official representatives of Member Schools in all interscholastic relations to practice the highest principle of sportsmanship and ethics in competition. The NIAA Board of Control shall have authority to penalize any Member School whose representatives may be adjudged upon competent evidence to have violated this obligation.
11. Disqualification Procedures:

In accordance with NIAA Regulation 2080, a contestant disqualified by a game official because of a flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct in connection with any interscholastic contest, shall be ineligible for the next scheduled contest. It is the responsibility of the administration of the school to enforce this provision, and if the unsportsmanlike or inappropriate behavior warrants additional disciplinary action the administration may rule the coach or player ineligible for a longer period of time.
12. Respect for authority:

Authority vested in the contest officials must be respected and upheld. If an act of violence is committed against the person of a game official by a fan, student, player, coach or faculty member of the school during any interscholastic activity, the principal of the school shall make a report within 24 hours to the Executive Director giving complete details of the incident, the names of the parties involved and what corrective action has been taken.
13. Member Schools shall provide to the Regional Commissioner a final schedule of contests no less than 60 days prior to start of season for the sport involved. Changes to the final schedule should be kept to a minimum; however each Member School shall immediately notify the Commissioner of any change, deletion or addition in the schedule. Due regard to local weather conditions may be had in compliance with this provision

OFFICIALS ASSOCIATIONS

Officials Associations shall:

1. Establish, in their respective regions, a local organization composed of the total membership of all officials in that region, divided into Chapters according to sport or activity.
2. Develop and operate under such By-laws as are appropriate for the operation of the organization. Each Chapter according to sport may have its own organization and By-laws.
3. Organize those persons desiring to officiate games, matches and meets from their respective regions.
4. Provide upon request its Officials with rulebooks, officials manuals and casebooks, and other instructional materials (cost of materials to be paid by the approved associations or its individual members).
5. Develop an annual examination of rules knowledge for each particular sport.
6. Conduct annual clinics in the various sports for the advancement of rules knowledge, officiating mechanics and related instruction in officiating techniques.
7. Provide the Regional Commissioner with a list of those individuals who have passed an examination of rules knowledge and demonstrated knowledge of officiating mechanics as determined by the Chapter of the Association for the sport involved as Approved Officials.
8. Be responsible for assigning officials to all interscholastic contests, both league and non-league, in all recognized sports for which officials are needed by the Member Schools in the region.
 - A. When assigning officials, only certified NSOA Officials registered with the NIAA office and whose names appear on the Officials Roster shall officiate interscholastic varsity contests within the state involving a member school.
 - B. Any administrative fees for scheduling or assigning shall be agreed upon by the Member Schools and the appropriate Official's Association.

In conjunction with the Regional Commissioner, the governing board of each Chapter shall provide a list and recommendation of Officials for post-season officiating assignments.

Each Officials Association or its Chapters shall meet not less than five times prior to and during the respective sport season. The time and place of the meetings will be determined by the Association of that region or its Chapters. Attendance at such meetings shall be satisfactory as determined by Association or Chapter, as provided in its' By-laws.

Local Officials Associations may adopt such qualifications for membership, as they deem appropriate, provided that they are no less stringent than those contained herein.

OFFICIALS

MEMBERSHIP

1. Each Official shall be required to take and pass the prescribed examinations with a score of not less than 70% before being registered.
2. Each Official must be covered by a liability insurance policy with a minimum of \$1,000,000 protection.
3. Transfers from other state associations must have completed a current examination prior to being registered
4. Each Officials Association or Chapter may establish such other requirements for membership, as it deems necessary or appropriate.

LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

1. The affiliated Officials Associations' governing board with the Regional Commissioners' approval shall be the authority in determining loss of membership and/or suspension from the state Approved Official Roster.
2. Some of the reasons for loss of membership may include:
 - A. Failure to remain in good standing by nonpayment of dues prior to the start of the sport season.
 - B. Failure to attend the prescribed meetings.
 - C. Unprofessional or unethical conduct on or off the field.
 - D. Open criticism of other officials, coaches, players or administrators except in the prescribed manner at Association, Chapter or NIAA Board of Control meetings.
 - E. Use of intoxicating beverages or illegal substances within twelve (12) hours prior to the officiating assignment.
 - F. Withdrawal from officiating and/or failure to meet scheduled assignments without a valid reason.
 - G. Officiating a contest in which he/she is an employee of a participating school or relative of a participating athlete or coach, which will, at minimum, impose a suspension for the remainder of the year.

Any loss of membership may be appealed to the Executive Director of the NIAA for review.

3. Certification as an NSOA Official and registration with the NIAA as an Official shall be denied or revoked with respect to any person who has been convicted of:
 - A. A felony crime involving the use, possession or sale of a controlled substance;
 - B. A misdemeanor or felony crime of domestic violence as defined in the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997 (Pl. No. 104-2981, 110 Stat. 3009); or a gross misdemeanor or felony crime involving contributing to the delinquency of a minor, sexual misconduct involving a minor or any other such crime involving a minor which includes moral turpitude as one of its elements.
4. Any person whose certification as a NSOA Official is denied or revoked on one or more of the foregoing grounds may appeal such adverse action to the NIAA Board of Control in writing within thirty (30) days of such adverse action. The Board of Control may grant or reinstate the said certification in individual cases where extenuating and/or mitigating circumstances establish that the person is not a current risk to minors by virtue of such certification. The Board of Control may establish such limitations and restrictions as it reasonably deems necessary to safeguard the best interests and welfare of minors. The decision of the Board of Control is final and binding.

DUES

1. Dues may be assessed Official Associations to affiliate with the state associations. The NIAA may assess individual Officials dues and set the dues structure.
2. Regional Officials Associations or Chapters may charge members a dues assessment to conduct the business of that regional Association or Chapter.

FEES

1. Fees and mileage paid officials shall be set annually by mutual agreement / contract between Member Schools and Officials Associations.
2. The NIAA shall set Officials fee schedules for all NIAA post-season events.

UNIFORMS

The official uniform shall be that prescribed by the National Federation governing the sport or, when allowed by the rules of the game as established by the NFHS, as determined by the Chapter of the Officials Association for the sport, provided that any uniform other than that prescribed by the NFHS shall maintain the dignity and professionalism of the official and shall be readily available from common suppliers of officials uniforms and further that the uniform for state tournament or play-offs shall be that prescribed by the NFHS unless all members of the officiating crew consent.

CONDUCT OF MEMBER SCHOOLS AND OFFICIALS

1. Conduct shall be in accordance with the NIAA Handbook, the current agreement between the Member Schools and the Officials Associations and particularly the Constitution of the Nevada State Officials Association.
2. Each Member School and/or Official, when requested by the Executive Director or the Regional Commissioners, shall be required to submit a written report of any incident involving a Member School or Official during a scheduled contest.

Revised:

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