

Officiating & Rules Discussion

In attendance: Daniel Sharadin, Commissioner; Tom Tracey, Director of Officials; Damon Newman, CWPA Staff; Felix Mercado, MIT; Mike Schofield & Mladen Stanicic, U. S. Naval Academy; Carl Salyer, University of Maryland; Joe Tristan, Penn State Behrend; John Zeigler, Bucknell; Erik Farrar, Harvard; Scott Reed, George Washington; Alan Huckins, Hartwick; Barry King, Indiana; Joe McCommons, Queens; Derek Ellingson, Princeton, Keith Bullion, Salem International

Discussion centered on the proposal submitted by Keith Bullion and Scott Reed, along with input from the CWPA staff. The proposal addresses certain officiating problems currently taking place within the varsity divisions, including training, recruitment, and evaluation issues necessary to strengthen the Officiating Bureau in the future.

Women's Varsity Meeting

Monday, December 12, 2005

In attendance: Daniel Sharadin, Commissioner; Tom Tracey, Director of Officials; Damon Newman, CWPA Staff; Felix Mercado, MIT; Mike Schofield & Mladen Stanicic, U. S. Naval Academy; Matt Anderson, Michigan; Carl Salyer, University of Maryland; Joe Tristan, Penn State Behrend; John Zeigler, Bucknell; Erik Farrar, Harvard; Scott Reed, George Washington; Alan Huckins, Hartwick; Barry King, Indiana; Joe McCommons, Queens; Luis Nicolao, Princeton; Kyle Perry, Utica; John Benedick, CWPA President; Dave Fritz, Grove City; Jason Gall, Brown

The first item of discussion pertained to the RPI Index currently used by the NCAA Rules Committee to help determine at-large berths and seeding for the NCAA Championship. The index appears to be flawed in its ability to rank teams according to their relative strength. The consensus from those that have examined it indicates it gives too much weight to the won-loss records and not enough to the strength of schedule. Of the competing teams The Commissioner recommended that schools have their administrators write the committee, requesting that they re-examine the formula more carefully before it is used in the future.

Alan Huckins made a motion to move the ECAC Championship to the first weekend of March instead of its current date, which is the first weekend of April. Erik Farrar seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Commissioner indicated the MAAC must agree to this date change before it becomes final. If they do not, another alternative date would be suggested and a mail ballot would be issued.

By acclamation the Women's Varsity Poll Committee was nominated to be Felix Mercado, John Zeigler, Alan Huckins, and Matt Anderson. Carl Salyer seconded. Motion carried.

Institutions were polled for the purpose of determining the best locations for hotels at each of the varsity locations. A list was established and coaches were encouraged to speak to their travel coordinators with respect to booking these sites in the future in order to provide as much chance as possible to receive comp rooms for the officials.

Men's Varsity Meeting

In attendance: Daniel Sharadin, Commissioner; Tom Tracey, Director of Officials; Damon Newman, CWPA Staff; Felix Mercado, MIT; Joe Tristan, Penn State Behrend; John Zeigler, Bucknell; Erik Farrar, Harvard; Scott Reed, George Washington; Luis Nicolao, Princeton; John Benedick, CWPA President; Jason Gall, Brown

Proposal 1 was made by Jim Yeamans and seconded by Keith Bullion.

The proposal revises the format of the men's southern division schedule to include a complete round robin structure.

Motion failed.

Institutions were polled for the purpose of determining the best locations for hotels at each of the varsity locations. A list was established and coaches were encouraged to speak to their travel coordinators with respect to booking these sites in the future in order to provide as much chance as possible to receive comp rooms for the officials.

General Meeting

In attendance: Daniel Sharadin, Commissioner; Tom Tracey, Director of Officials; Damon Newman, CWPA Staff; Felix Mercado, MIT; Mike Schofield & Mladen Stanicic, U. S. Naval Academy; Matt Anderson, Michigan; Carl Salyer, University of Maryland; Joe Tristan, Penn State Behrend; John Zeigler, Bucknell; Erik Farrar, Harvard; Scott Reed, George Washington; Alan Huckins, Hartwick; Barry King, Indiana; Joe McCommons, Queens; Luis Nicolao, Princeton; Kyle Perry, Utica; John Benedick, CWPA President; Dave Fritz, Grove City; Jason Gall, Brown

Election of Board of Directors

Steve Staples, Associate Athletic Director at Harvard University was elected to fill the administrative opening and John Zeigler was re-elected to another term, filling one of the coaching positions. Dan Sharadin was re-appointed as Commissioner.

Proposals were then discussed. Since these proposals affected the entire membership, mail ballots were included in the total number of votes cast.

Proposal 1 was made by Alan Huckins and seconded by Jim Yeamans.

The proposal moves the annual meeting from its current date in December to the first weekend in June, beginning in 2007.

Motion carried 34-7.

Proposal 2 was made by Mike Jones (Ohio University) and seconded by Mike Melzak (University of Dayton).

The proposal establishes a cut-off date by the middle of the season (both women's and men's) in which every team must submit a final roster. This final roster includes all players on the team at that time and the only players allowed to compete at championships. Any new players on the team are prohibited to attend championships.

Motion defeated 36-10

Proposal 3 was made by Andy Lewandowski (Yale) and seconded by Brian Goodwin (Middlebury).

The proposal switches the dates of the National Collegiate Club Championship and the Eastern Varsity Championship. This proposed switch would start in 2007.

Motion carried 30-10.

Proposal 4 was made by Alan Huckins and seconded by Felix Mercado.

The proposal would mandate that all championships would use the Mikasa ball and varsity teams would have a choice in what ball they use.

The proposal was withdrawn after discussion.

An additional proposal was made by Joe Tristan and seconded by Bob Filander. Proposal moves to revise the five-team format. Motion carried among varsity programs. A copy of the proposal will be issued to all club teams for their vote.

A discussion was held concerning the game management support provided by the various institutions. The Commissioner indicated that it varied too much from site to site and that specific standards should be followed. Teams agreed that the CWPA staff would provide a detailed outline for the requirements needed by each host and ensure the host teams understood their requirements prior to the event. In addition, institutions indicated that no varsity division championship would be held without adequate warm-up time the previous evening. If unable to provide this time, the institution should not accept the opportunity to host.

The Officiating Bureau proposal was discussed and reviewed from the prior day. A motion was made by Keith Bullion and seconded by Scott Reed to adopt the provisions of the proposal as submitted and amended during discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Erik Farrar to maintain the composition of the Board of Review as Barry King, Michael Goldenberg, and Erik Farrar. The motion was seconded by Felix Mercado. Motion passed.

Mike Schofield was nominated to join the Hall of Fame Committee. Nomination was seconded by Erik Farrar and passed. He joins Carl Quigley and John Zeigler as the active coaching representatives on the committee, along with the current inductees.

John Zeigler made a motion to move the men's varsity division championships two weeks prior to the Eastern Championship. Felix Mercado seconded and the motion passed.

The Commissioner gave the annual report, a copy of which can be requested by contacting the office.

Club Proposal Ballot Results

Proposals voted upon by all club divisions

Proposal 1

Proposal Was Defeated 30-12

Division(s) Affected by proposal: All Club Divisions

Author: Rob Kerr, Head Coach, Western Oregon University Water Polo

School #1 Sponsoring: Western Oregon University

School #2 Sponsoring: Western Washington University

Proposal: If a student is currently attending a school that does not offer water polo at their college or university, then they can participate in water polo at another college or university of their choice.

Statement of Intent: To allow students the opportunity to participate in competitive water polo.

Statement of financial impact: There is no expected negative financial impact to be expected on either the league or member institutions.

Current policy that the proposal seeks to change: Current policy reads as such: "Players must be full-time students at the institution they represent in order to be eligible for CWPA competition."

Rationale for proposal: Not all schools have competitive water polo programs available at their institution. Oregon (as well as other states) has a large high school water polo participation level, but a very limited availability on the collegiate level. Students wishing to continue to compete after high school have limited options. By allowing this policy change to take affect it will grant students the availability to continue to play their desired sport.

With increased tuition costs, students are facing financial hardships that prevent them to attend larger universities, thus electing to attend smaller and cheaper community colleges.

A larger university has a larger draw of participants allowing a more competitive team to be established. Smaller schools like Western Oregon have a smaller pool of players to draw from. By opening the door to allow other collegiate level students at other institutions that do not have water polo programs to play, will give teams a way to form more competitive teams.

Commissioner's Note: This proposal requires a change in the Bylaws and as such must be voted upon by all of the membership.

There are two essential problems with this proposal as written. First, it creates a significant liability issue for schools competing with and against member institutions that have athletes not attending their school. If such an athlete were to cause a problem or injure another individual, what recourse would the institution have over the individual's conduct? Second, this proposal seeks to change the only eligibility requirement currently in place for collegiate club athletes. The CWPA does not prevent institutions from involving these individuals in their non-conference play. It does seek to provide an even playing field where schools are responsible for fielding athletes from their own institutions.

Proposals to be voted upon by specific divisions

Only those divisions specified should vote for these proposals.

Midwest Proposal 1

Proposal passed 3-1

Only Midwest Division Teams should vote for this proposal

Division(s) Affected by Proposal: Midwest

Author: University of Notre Dame

School #1 Sponsoring Proposal: University of Notre Dame

School #2 Sponsoring Proposal: Grand Valley State University

Note that the proposal will not be considered without a duplicate submitted by a second institution.

Proposal (write a paragraph exactly as you want it distributed)

No institution, regardless of the number of teams it enters into league play, will receive more than one vote for post season honors or awards. Institutions will continue to follow the league policy of not being able to rank their own players for said awards, but may rank any players from their institution in that institutions own rankings.

Statement of intent (one sentence):

Change to voting procedures for post season honors

Statement of financial impact expected on member teams:

None

Current policy that the proposal seeks to change:

Every team entered receives voting privileges for post season awards/honors regardless of the number of teams from any one institution.

Rationale for proposal (no more than 300 words)

Currently institutions entering more than one team (an "A" Team and "B" Team) are afforded the luxury of voting twice for post season honors and awards. Technically this allows an institution the ability to vote for its own players, something that is not afforded to institutions with only one team. This also sets up the possibility that players from a "B" Team will make All-Conference teams. This should never happen considering the very nature of a "B" Team implies that players on this team are not as skilled as players on the institution's "A" team or they would be members of said "A" Team. This would mean that every player on the institution's "A" Team would need to be on an All-Conference team prior to any "B" Team players being included. Furthermore, providing each team a vote gives multiple votes to a particular institution and awards points to "B" Team players when in fact they are not as qualified as every member of the institution's "A" Team.

CWPA Officiating Bureau Proposal

Current Status for Varsity Programs

The current competitive format entails varsity league contests occurring on both weekends and weeknights. This has proven to be a positive change for institutions, creating multiple home contests on each campus throughout the season. Years prior, some teams would go for consecutive seasons without home games at their pool. This situation created the following problems:

1. Greater budget expense for teams constantly traveling
2. Lack of school support among student body
3. Reduced experience for student-athletes never getting home games in front of their friends
4. Questions by administrators regarding the rationale for future sponsorship
5. Unequal playing field favoring schools hosting the tournaments

The current competitive format now eliminates these issues, giving teams an average of 3-4 home games per season.

While this scheduling format is a positive change for institutions, it has created some officiating challenges as a result. These include:

1. Coverage of weeknight games and smaller weekend venues with less experienced referees
2. Teams getting officials that they have not seen before

The situation has been hampered by the fact that our officiating corps is small to begin with and even a few reductions in the ranks can cause major shortfalls in the number of experienced referees available. Since these reductions are always going to occur due to the normal developments in people's life situations (marriage, kids, change in jobs, etc.), we must create a system where their impact becomes less significant.

The solution for this situation has both short and long-term components that are equally critical.

Short-term Solutions

To try and stretch our current resources in the short-term, we need to make it financially more appealing to our remaining top referees to take on more assignments. Providing additional compensation outlined below will enable our officials to do smaller number of games and still make a reasonable amount of money for their time and travel. These amounts were corroborated from a survey

of our top officials, indicating they would be willing to cover more assignments under this compensation package.

Compensation for weekend events (regardless of the number of games):

\$250 guaranteed for the weekend when officiating less than five games

Air fare covered up to \$250

Car rental when traveling over 100 miles or when flying

Hotel and per diem

Long-term Solutions

In the long-term, we need to increase the number and raise the quality of our officiating pool. This must no longer be given secondary support, but must have funding and commitment by the institutions within the CWPA. This program must also have an accountability component to ensure the officials are performing in the manner expected.

As in any endeavor, the success of recruiting participants will be dependent upon the attractiveness of the activity. To improve the talent pool, coaches will need to assist in two ways:

1. Recruit New Referees

Coaches have the greatest influence on the group of individuals most likely to become successful referees, namely their own players. To this end, they need to actively recruit their athletes to become referees. Furthermore, many opportunities exist for student-athletes to begin officiating immediately at area high school and club events. There is no need to wait until graduation to begin discussing the issue.

2. Change the Perception

Coaches set the tenor for how their student-athletes perceive the officials by their words and actions. We must change the current scenario in which they consistently see their coach disparage the officials both during and after the game. If athletes respect their coaches and their coaches demean the role of the officials, why are we surprised when our athletes fail to involve themselves as referees upon graduation? Coaches need to understand that if they truly want more experienced and quality officiating, they need to change the mindset and perception of the group most prepared to make that happen—their own athletes.

Training and Recruitment Proposal

Recruiting Opportunities

Select group of recruiters from referees, coaches, past athletes, office staff
Meet with teams for recruiting opportunities at various tournaments
Use literature and CD's to promote benefits of involvement

Referee Training Outline

CWPA Referee Level III Core Training

CWPA pays for clinician and all participant expenses.

Offered once during each season -- Weekend training seminar (Friday-Sunday)

For selected number of officials (normally top 20)

Navy in Fall or Bucknell, Maryland or Princeton Invites in Spring

Attendance to clinic is by invitation only

Curriculum:

Role as CWPA Referee and Role Model to Younger Officials

Head Referee Responsibilities

CWPA Policies and Administration

Professionalism

Game Decorum: Working with Your Partner

Interaction with Desk Officials

In-depth Exploration of Current NCAA Rules

Level I & II Clinician Training (optional)

CWPA Referee Level II Core Training

CWPA pays for clinician and all participant expenses.

Offered once during each year -- Weekend training seminar (Friday-Sunday)

For selected number of officials (normally 21-40)

Selected Weekends

Attendance to clinic is by invitation only

Curriculum:

Philosophy of Officiating

Head Referee Responsibilities
CWPA Policies and Administration
Professionalism
Game Decorum: Working with Your Partner
Interaction with Desk Officials
Exploration of Current NCAA Rules
Perimeter Play: “passing, aggressive fouls, good defense”
Driving: “establishing position, hand checking, grab and go”
Two Meter Play: “ordinary fouls, ejections, penalty shots”
Penalty Shot vs. Exclusion
The Advantage Rule

CWPA Referee Level I Core Training

CWPA pays for clinician. Participants pay for their own expenses.
Offer at least 10 per collegiate year in different regions of the country
Maximum four hours
For new officials and prospective referees

Curriculum:
Role as CWPA Referee
CWPA Policies and Administration
Current NCAA Rules
Basic Mechanics
Professionalism
Ensuring the Safety of the Athletes
Philosophy of officiating

Evaluation Process

Evaluations will be handled by a Technical Committee comprised of three members, one of which is a non-officiating referee within the varsity competition of the CWPA and two are non-active coaches. The NCAA Coordinator of Water Polo Officials will be handling the directives for this Committee with respect to all technical aspects of the game.

Nominations for the Technical Committee will be finalized at the annual meeting. The two coaching slots will be voted upon at the annual meeting by the institutions represented, while active referees within the CWPA will be eligible to

vote for the referee representative by mail ballot following the meeting. Terms for the Technical Committee members last one year, with no term limits stated. If a member of the Technical Committee cannot fulfill his or her term, the next individual ranked in order on the nomination list would be contacted and asked to complete the term.

Evaluations made by the Technical Committee will be shared with the officials for the purpose of improving skills and adjusting future assignments. The CWPA coaches are encouraged to submit referee evaluations and may directly contact the Director of Officials or the members of the Technical Committee with their concerns.

The Technical Committee will also be responsible for approval of officiating assignments once made by the CWPA Director of Officials. Referee assignments made to the Eastern Championship will be made by this committee as well.

Host institutions on the varsity level will be required to videotape all league games taking place at that site, providing a copy to the league office within 72 hours. Collegiate club programs are encouraged to do so, but not required. Film will be disseminated to evaluators to ensure officials are meeting requirements. When discrepancies exist, they will receive additional training or be re-assigned.

Members of the Technical Committee will travel to at least three events per season for on-site evaluations. The balance of evaluations will be performed through review of videotape. Conference calls between the committee members will also facilitate the evaluation process.

Budget for Technical Committee

Committee Members receive a stipend of \$2000/season

Air fare reimbursed up to \$300/person/trip

Hotel and car rental compensated 100%

Approximate cost per team is \$900/season