

San Angelo Football Officials' Association  
TASO President's and Secretary's Meeting Minutes  
March 30 – 31, 2007  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Austin, Texas

Members Present: Steven Ellinger (TASO Executive Director), Tony Scazzero (TASO Assistant Director), Annette Stager (TASO Administrative Assistant), Bud Alexander (TASO Assistant to the Executive Director), Michael Fitch (TASO Football Immediate Past President), Bill Fecci (TASO Football President), Lynn Lawhon (TASO Football President-Elect), District Directors, and Presidents and Secretaries from all TASO Football Chapters

**Future of TASO Basketball Division**

Mr. Bill Fecci opened with several comments regarding the status of the TASO Basketball Division. The Basketball Division officers requested a meeting with the TASO Board (two officers from each division comprise the TASO Board – Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball, and Volleyball). All board members have equal voting power used to govern the TASO organization. They discussed the following:

1. **Request:** The Basketball Division requests a venue for discussion of complaints between the divisions and the Executive Director. The Basketball Division was concerned that the Executive Director would not act on issues of concern from the Basketball Division due to personality differences.  
**Ruling:** The TASO Board ruled that all concerns with the Executive Director should be brought to the attention of the President's Council of the TASO Board. The President's Council is comprised of the Presidents from each division.
2. **Request:** The Basketball Division requested a formal evaluation process of the Executive Director. Normally, the TASO Search Committee and TASO Financial Committee evaluated the Executive Director. The Basketball Division was concerned that this process is not a formal means of evaluating the Executive Director.  
**Ruling:** The TASO Board ruled that the Presidents Council (with the incoming Chair presiding as Committee Chair) would conduct the formal evaluation of the Executive Director. Also, all Divisions of TASO were encouraged to provide positive and constructive feedback about the Executive Director to the Presidents Council by April 20, 2007.
3. **Request:** The Basketball Division was concerned that they were not allowed to oversee the operations of the TASO Basketball Division.  
**Ruling:** The TASO Board ruled that each division oversees the business of their own division as long as it complies with the parameters of the bylaws of TASO.

4. **Request:** The Basketball Division was concerned that the TASO By-Laws could not be amended. They requested a by-laws revision by e-mail and were ignored by the TASO Board.  
**Ruling:** The TASO Board voted negatively to approve TASO By-Law changes via e-mail. By-Laws could be amended but the formal request must be made at the TASO Board meeting and not by e-mail request.
  
5. **Request:** The Basketball Division requested that the voting process of the TASO Board be changed so that the voting members of the board reflect the number of members they serve. They concluded that larger divisions should have more voting power on the board than smaller divisions.  
**Ruling:** The smaller divisions of the TASO Board agreed; however, they would like to have a right to review the change. They decided that the vote on the board should be weighted by the members they represent.
  
6. **Request:** The Basketball Division requested the immediate removal of the Executive Director of TASO due to violations of TASO policy.  
**Ruling:** The TASO Board refused this requests due to the following reasons:
  - A. There is no formal due process for the Executive Director.
  - B. The Executive Director received a satisfactory rating on his last performance evaluation.
  - C. There is no appearance of malfeasance.
  - D. This would give the Executive Director grounds for litigation against TASO for unjustified termination.
  - E. There needs to be a timetable established for the formal evaluation.

The Basketball Division was not satisfied with the rulings of the TASO Board. Following a 15 minute deliberation, the Basketball Division decided that they would leave TASO and resigned effective immediately. They have approximately 19 chapters that would remove their memberships and no longer join TASO. The TASO Board concluded that the basketball division would still exist with the TASO organization, but the voting power of the division would reflect the active membership of the division. Also, the TASO Board would extend the deadline 30 days for basketball members to submit forms and dues for the 2007 basketball season if any chapters would like to remain with TASO. The TASO Board would have to fill the two vacancies on the board immediately (See attached TASO letter).

Dr. William Farney (UIL Executive Director) would write a formal letter by Monday, April 2, 2007, indicating UIL intentions regarding this matter. However, according to the TASO Board, the UIL will offer no office for the newly created basketball division and have no intentions of acknowledging another association other than TASO. A Chapter President quoted Dr. William Farney saying, "My recommendation is that we will not accept another association of officials." Since TASO has a basketball division, UIL will only support the TASO division of basketball officials.

Due to these events, the TASO Football Division will be the largest division within our association. The association will be able to absorb the loss of funding with reserves for the 2007 fiscal year; however, the Football Board warned us that state dues might increase because of this substantial loss of income. Also, the Football Division is going to request that the voting representation increase for our division.

### **Football State Meeting**

The 2007 State Meeting will be held on July 13-15, 2007, at College Station.

Mr. Bill Fecci indicated that two chapters presented applications for the 2008 Football State Meeting (Abilene and McAllen). The TASO Football Board voted to accept Abilene's bid to host the 2008 State Meeting.

A concern was announced that attendance at state meetings was low. Effectively immediately, state meeting attendees will receive 30 points each year. Also, regional meetings were considered instead of the state meeting to increase attendance. Some concerns were presented against regional meetings because information disseminated might not be consistent, and it would further segregate parts of the state.

### **2007 Rules Selection**

Mr. Bill Fecci indicated that the UIL decided to utilize the NCAA Rulebook for the 2007 football season. The following changes were adopted:

1. The NCAA Rules Committee has decided to adopt the 2005 timing regulations for the 2007 rulebook.
2. The UIL will not utilize Chapter 11 and 12 of the 2007 NCAA Rulebook.
3. Two UIL rule changes were suggested. There is to be "only one tee made of soft, pliable material that will not elevate the ball more than 1" in height." Also, all timeouts will be 60 seconds in length.
4. Only one mechanics change was suggested. During Free Kicks, the Umpire will take the ball to the kicking team, instruct the kicker, and run to the sideline on the kicking teams' restraining line opposite the press box. The Back Judge will be positioned on the kicking teams' restraining line on press box side. The Head Linesman will be positioned on the receiving teams' restraining line opposite press box. The Referee and the Line Judge will initially be on the 20 yard line while the Umpire takes the ball to the kicking team. During the Umpire's instruction with the kicker, the Referee and Line Judge will clear their sideline, and then move into the normal position for a Free Kick. As soon as the Umpire reaches his position on the sideline opposite press box, the ready-for-play signal will be made by the Referee. This change should eliminate unnecessary delay when having the Umpire clear the sideline following instruction with the kicker.

### **2008 District Director Vacancies**

Mr. Bill Fecci indicated that Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 will have District Director vacancies. The TASO Board will begin accepting applications on September 1, 2007.

On-line voting will be the only means to cast votes in the future. Voting will begin the first Monday in October and conclude the third Monday in October.

### **TASO Field Clinics**

Mr. Bill Fecci announced that TASO will stop conducting field clinics for points beginning 2008.

### **2007 Football Test Options**

Mr. Bill Fecci indicated that testing for the 2007 season will be available by two options: On-line at the TASO website and paper/pencil at the chapter level. However, the TASO Football Board has a concern that chapter representatives are allowing football officials to see the answers to the test before taking the exam when using the paper/pencil method. This opens up both the official and the chapter to potential litigation when this occurs. TASO offers the web test approximately once a month for several months. Officials may take the on-line test each time a new test is offered; however, the score of the last test taken is the one that will be submitted to TASO and will be recorded on the members portal (not necessarily the highest score).

### **2007 Financial Report**

Mr. Michael Fitch (TASO Immediate Past President) reported the following:

1. The Football Division is + \$41,000 for 2006 due to not providing members rulebooks during the season.
2. Currently, the Football Division has approximately \$117,000 in the football account.
3. Based off of the cost of rulebooks (in 2005 books cost \$6.00 to \$7.00 per / in 2007 cost might be \$15.00 per) and the number of basketball officials in that division, football will be asked to compensate for a loss of income.
4. Currently, football provides 27.6% of the total TASO operations cost.

A Chapter Secretary inquired about the video editing equipment that the football division was going to purchase to aid in chapter education. Mr. Michael Fitch stated that the equipment was purchased but no chapters sent game film needed to create the DVD. Mr. Michael Fitch requested chapters send game film to the state office for future education DVDs.

### **2007 Points of Emphasis**

#### **1. Sideline Management**

- This is a mandate to each chapter.
- There is a lawsuit pending from an injury to a coach. The official collided with the coach who was on the field. The coach struck his head on the ground and is permanently disabled. The coach is suing all five officials on the crew for “negligence in enforcing the rules.” The coach claims he was never warned to stay off the field. Also, he claims that, “During the play, the official neglected to look forward while he was running. This constitutes gross negligence.”
- The coach is suing each official and TASO for \$750,000 each.

- This ruling will set precedence.
  - Is the cost of a scratch = the cost of an injury or a lawsuit.
  - A Chapter Secretary asked, “Is UIL helping us?” Mr. Miller Walker stated to the board that he feels that TASO and UIL should write a letter indicating this potential safety issue and post it to the TASO website. The chapters can then write a letter to each school they serve, attach this letter from the UIL and TASO, indicating this will be a point of emphasis this year.
  - Mr. Lynn Lawhon (TASO Football President-Elect) indicated that “this is a cultural aspect of High School Football coaches.” We need to change this at all levels of football.
  - A Chapter Secretary suggested that an incident report be filed each time a penalty is assessed against a team for sideline infractions. This would enable UIL to contact the school directly to ensure prompt enforcement of this rule. Also, he suggested that we eliminate the 5-yard penalty following the two warnings and immediately enforce a 15-yard penalty following the two warnings.
  - The Football Board recommended that officials in the local chapter that do not enforce this rule have limited game assignments.
2. Enforcement of Clear Eye Shields
    - There are five shades of eye shields.
    - The clear shield is easily detectable.
    - Only players with clear eye shields are allowed to play.
    - Suggest officials to say, “Coach, #15 is not allowed to play with that shield.”
  3. Spats vs. Taped Ankles
    - Spats are illegal and are defined as “attached and independent of the shoe”.
    - Taped Ankles are legal.
  4. Jerseys
    - NCAA rules mandate that jerseys be tucked in.
    - UIL exception states that jerseys may be waist length.
    - Jerseys must cover exposed hard plastic pads (i.e. back flaps by the lower back).
  5. Mouth pieces
    - Designed to protect the teeth, jaw, and limit concussions.
    - Must not be modified.
  6. Hip Pads/Tail Pads/Knee Pads
    - Need to be in place.
  7. Photographers in Team Area
    - Not allowed in team areas or on field.

### **Operating Subcommittee**

Mr. Dan McGlasson (District II Director) reported the following:

1. Pay Scale – The schools must produce an operations list indicating the games gate receipts if requested. “Pay maximum” has been eliminated from pay sheet. Schools should submit payment to officials within 45 days of game.

2. Transfers to Chapter – Only the TASO Football Board may designate an officials' division, not the local chapters.
3. Home Chapter Status – An officials' home chapter is determined by which chapter pays their state dues. The home chapter may only assign that officials' varsity schedule.
4. Web Ballots – In the future, voting for district level or above offices will utilize web ballots only.
5. Timers/Chain Crews/Evaluators – The TASO Football Board has approved an associate member status that will include timers/chain crews/evaluators (normally retire officials). There will be \$25.00 yearly membership dues which will provide insurance for these individuals in case of injury or legal liability. The person must be 16 years of age or older. If this option is not utilized, the school should arrange for the chain crew and timers to reduce chapter liability if an injury should occur.
6. Submitting Past Points – Should an official request to claim past points that were not submitted following the sport season on the End of Year Summary Reports, they are recommending that the official pay a \$25.00 administrative fee, per year requested, to recover those points. A decision will be made at the 2007 State Meeting. Associate members do not receive points. It has been recommended that officials be allowed to submit the End of Year Summary on-line with approval of local Secretary/President.
7. All-Star Official Game Assignments – It is recommended that the local chapter board pay all expenses for officials assigned to referee the All-Star Games. They also suggest that a \$100.00 stipend be given to the official for a game fee.
8. Officials will receive from TASO a DVD instead of a CD outlining new rule changes and educational game footage.

### **TASO Data Base**

Mr. Tony Scazzero (TASO Assistant Director) outlined the secretary's availability on the TASO Data Base.

1. Review the data base so it coincides with local chapter records.
2. All information should be updated.
3. If officials have questions, they can e-mail [football@taso.org](mailto:football@taso.org) for assistance.
4. Officials can take exam on website which will automatically be submitted to the members portal (Note: Score will reflect last test taken, not highest score).

### **TASO State Office Announcements**

Mr. Steven Ellinger (TASO Executive Director) reported state office announcements.

1. The website has a new look and is up-to-date.
2. For officials who officiate multiple sports, TASO has created a multi-sport discount. The official will be required to pay the entire amount of dues for the first sport, and then a \$10.00 discount will be used for all following sports. This is a calendar year discount.
3. C.O.P.E. Program has changed. Coaches who are ejected will now have a regional location to present their case instead of going to Austin.

4. If an official is required to complete an incident report for an ejection, all officials on that game must submit a report. Only state the facts of the case and report only what you know about the incident.
5. Mr. Tony Scazzero will be leaving TASO effective April 6, 2007 for a change in career.

### **Open Discussion**

Mr. Bill Fecci opened the floor for questions.

1. Scrimmage Guidelines – The coaches are on the field and in the way.
  - A. Remember, this is a “hands on, teaching aspect for coaches.”
  - B. UIL has written a recommendation outlining scrimmage formats. This is not a requirement.
2. Sideline Warnings – What can we do about coaches on the field and in the way?”
  - A. We need to stop this at all levels.
  - B. This is an urgent request from TASO that all officials should comply.
  - C. “As long as they are not in my way...” is not an option.
  - D. Mr. Lynn Lawhon will work with TASO, UIL, and Coaches Association to outline side line control. Will be available on TASO webpage.
3. Scratches – Why do coaches have so much power with scratches?
  - A. UIL gives this authority not TASO.
  - B. This is the “Sacred Cow.” An issue that we do not want to demand with UIL.
4. Scrimmage Funds – What can we spend our scrimmage money on?
  - A. Education for members
  - B. Scholarships
  - C. Recruitment and Retention
5. Point Totals – For larger chapters, we have officials that have Division I level points but have not officiated the required level varsity games for that division?
  - A. This policy is outlined so officials have some varsity game experience before being designated as a Division I official. It is better for the game that officials should not be placed in a situation where they are overwhelmed.

### **Discussion with District Director**

During the lunch break, Mr. Dan McGlasson (District II Director) informed Mr. Miller Walker and Mr. Bradley Petty that the TASO Football Board was going to “sanction the San Angelo Football Chapter so that they would not be allowed to officiate any play-off games during the 2007 football season because we did not follow the guidelines requested by the Board.” TASO requested that the secretary submit a play-off list at the conclusion of the 2006 Football season outlining all play-off assignments our chapter received. Mr. Michael Fitch (TASO Football Immediate Past President) indicated to Mr. Miller Walker and Mr. Bradley Petty that Mr. Dan McGlasson “stuck up for San Angelo” in the Board Meeting. Mr. Michael Fitch also stated that TASO contacted the Secretary “numerous times” requesting the required paperwork. The secretary did not submit this to TASO. Since the San Angelo Chapter refused to comply with the requests of TASO,

the TASO Board suggested sanctions. Mr. Dan McGlasson told the Board that he would investigate this issue with the San Angelo Chapter Officers because recently the San Angelo Chapter has been prompt with each request he has made. Mr. Miller Walker informed Mr. Dan McGlasson that this has been a continuing problem that our local board has addressed, and that this will not be an issue in the future. Mr. Bradley Petty informed Mr. Dan McGlasson that he would submit this form to TASO if they still request it. Mr. Dan McGlasson replied that it would not be necessary to submit the form late, but just make sure it is taken care of in the future.

Mr. Dan McGlasson also requested a copy of the San Angelo Football Officials Associations' By-Laws and a board members' information list. Mr. Bradley Petty submitted both items to Mr. Dan McGlasson via his request.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Petty  
SAFOA Secretary