

San Angelo Football Officials' Association  
TASO President's and Secretary's Meeting Minutes  
March 18 – 19, 2008  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Austin, Texas

Members Present: Steven Ellinger (TASO Executive Director), Tony Scazzero (TASO Assistant Director), 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), William Farney (Director, UIL), Charles Breithaupt (Director, UIL Athletics), Cliff Odenwald (Associate Director, UIL Athletics), Gary Schumann (Attorney Representing Officials in San Antonio), District Directors, and Presidents and Secretaries from all TASO Football Chapters

**Update on Officials' Lawsuit in San Antonio**

Mr. Gary Schumann, Attorney representing the San Antonio Officials, reviewed the current status of the lawsuit. According to the facts of the case, the officials were performing exactly how they should have. The coach was looking down at this clipboard and wondered into the restricted area. The official and he struck heads and both went to the ground. The official got up a few minutes later. The coach never got up due to severe brain damage. He has never recovered. He pointed out that the lawsuit was filed by the Insurance Company representing the school district, not the coach or his family. In fact, the coach and his family are being extremely cooperative during the process. To date, the insurance company has almost reached the cap of the claim, which is \$1 million. Mr. Schumann is confident they will prevail in the lawsuit. Mr. Schumann will be present at the State Meeting in Abilene, TX in July.

**Football State Meeting**

The 2008 State Meeting will be held on July 10-13, 2008, at Abilene, TX. Registration fees will be \$25 prior to June 11 and \$35 after June 11.

Mr. Bill Fecci indicated that two chapters presented applications for the 2009 Football State Meeting (McAllen and Houston).

**2008 Rules Selection**

Mr. Bill Fecci indicated that the UIL decided to utilize the NCAA Rulebook for the 2008 football season. Mr. Alexander reviewed the following changes:

1. Chop Block Defined – Both blocks must be above the waist “anywhere, anytime.”
2. Sparring Defined – The player must have “targeted” the other player.
3. Sideline Line Interference – No more warnings. First two penalties are 5-yard delay of game penalties enforced as a dead ball penalty following the play. The third and subsequent are 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalties. Point of clarification: The “ball is in play” when the referee blows the ready-for-play whistle. Any contact with any individual in the restricted area will automatically be a 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalty and will count as one of the three sideline penalties. If a delay penalty is enforced following a touchdown, it will be

- enforced from the try. If an unsportsmanlike penalty is enforced following a touchdown, it can be enforced from the try or the kickoff.
4. All pads must be covered.
  5. Any facemask penalty (offense or defense) will be a 15-yard penalty.
  6. A Horse Collar penalty will be called if the player is grabbed from the back or side with an “immediate” pull down in “chase mode.” It is legal while the passer is in the pocket or in the rectangle area.
  7. Spats are legal if they provide protection to the player. They are illegal if only for show.

### **2008 Football Test Options**

Mr. Bill Fecci indicated that testing for the 2008 season will be available only by one option: On-line at the TASO website. 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). The test must be passed in order to officiate. If the test is not passed, the member is “Not in Good Standing” with TASO. The deadline will be before the season begins. The Board is considering waiving the test for first year officials and extending the deadline for second year officials. A decision will be made at the State Meeting. The COPE Video must be viewed by all members.

### **2008 Financial Report**

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

1. The Football Division is + \$31,373 for 2007.
2. Currently, the Football Division has approximately \$145,000 in the football account.
3. The Football Division has 4,858 members which is a 3.8% increase from 2006.
4. Other divisions in TASO for 2007 season:
  - a. Baseball – (-\$8,797)
  - b. Basketball – (-\$27,591)
  - c. Soccer – (+\$4,000)
  - d. Softball – (+\$3,000)
  - e. Volleyball – (+\$6,000)

Mr. Bill Fecci requested that all chapters send a copy of their budget to their District Director. Each chapter is responsible for internal audits, budgets, financial statements to their membership.

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.

## **2008 Points of Emphasis**

1. Spats vs. Taped Ankles
  - Spats are illegal and are defined as “attached and independent of the shoe”.
  - Taped Ankles are legal.
2. 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).
3. Hip Pads/Tail Pads/Knee Pads
  - Need to be in place.

## **Operating Subcommittee**

The UIL staff reported the following overview of Section 1204 of the UIL guidelines:

1. Requests of Officials – If coaches request specific officials, their request should be honored if the officials are available.
2. Scratches – Scratches should be allowed; however, they should follow 1204. Coaches should not scratch an entire chapter. If the scratch is late, the game fee minus travel should be given to the official if they are not reassigned.
3. Travel Policy – Schools will be required to pay travel for one car. The rate will be the state rate on September 1 of each year. A \$10.00 rider’s fee is required to be paid for each member who rides with the driver receiving the travel.
4. Meal Fee – The school may pay the meal fee, but it is not required.
5. Game Fees – All varsity fees were increase by \$5.00, with the minimum fee now \$45.00. Sub-varsity fees are as followed:
  - a. 12-Minute Quarters - \$45.00
  - b. 10-Minute Quarters - \$40.00
  - c. 8-Minute Quarters - \$30.00
  - d. 8-Minute Running/6-Minutes Quarters - \$25.00

## **TASO State Office Announcements**

Mr. Bill Fecci reported state office announcements.

1. If an official ejects a player, only that official must complete the incident report. If an official ejects a coach, all officials must complete an incident report. Only state the facts of the case and report only what you know about the incident.
2. Photos will be included on the IDs provided by TASO. Photographs should be plain clothes with no hats. They will utilize photos from Zebra-Ware.
3. The chapters should ask the ADs to submit copies of the financial game reports to the chapter. These reports should include season tickets, pre-sale tickets, and gate receipts.
4. All schools must pay according to the policies outlined in 1204.
5. All officials must utilize current TASO mechanics.
6. Elections will be held on-line. Officials will be allowed to submit their vote on-line up to five days before the State Business Meeting, or they may vote at the State Business Meeting.

### **Open Discussion**

Mr. Bill Fecci opened the floor for questions.

- A. Pay Structure – Most Presidents and Secretaries were not in favor of the new pay scale. All chapters need to follow the current pay structure. However, officials may choose not to accept assignments.
- B. Criminal Background Checks – Officials will no be required to comply with Senate Bill 9 because the schools do not enter into a contract with the officials. There was much discussion regarding officials who falsify the documents of TASO by signing the felony statement who have convictions or arrests in the past. Mr. Bill Taylor is a member of the TASO ethics committee. He suggested that if evidence comes to light regarding an official, it should be submitted to the Executive Director of TASO and cc to him.