

San Angelo Football Officials' Association  
TASO President's and Secretary's Meeting Minutes  
February 20 – 21, 2009  
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Austin, Texas

Members Present: Steven Ellinger (TASO Executive Director), Bud Alexander (TASO Assistant to the Executive Director), Bill Fecci (TASO Football Immediate Past President), Ray Parker (TASO Football President), Jeff O'Connor (TASO Football Vice President), Charles Breithaupt (Director, UIL), Cliff Odenwald (Director, UIL Athletics), District Directors, and Presidents and Secretaries from all TASO Football Chapters

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

Mr. Ellinger indicated that the court found that TASO and the five officials were held not responsible for the accident; however, the insurance company has filed an appeal indicating the five officials were at fault. The case is still pending.

**Football State Meeting**

The 2009 State Meeting will be held on July 10-12, 2009, at McAllen, TX.

**2009 Rules and Mechanics Selection**

Mr. Odenwald reviewed the NCAA rule proposals for the 2009 football season. Mr. Alexander indicated that these have not been adopted yet. The NCAA is considering using a two year revision process in the future.

1. Periods will not be extended for penalties that include loss of downs.
2. The "chin strap" has been added to the definition of a face mask. The proposed rule reads, "No player shall twist, turn, or pull the face mask, chin strap, or any helmet opening of an opponent."
3. Roughing the Kicker penalties have been eliminated when the kicker carries the ball outside the tackle box before the kick; however, he retains the usual protection from unnecessary roughness fouls.

Several mechanics were updated.

1. U should work between the 9-yard markers when spotting the ball.
2. R needs to be involved more assisting the U when spotting.
3. Keys were redefined.
4. The L should wait until there is a clean exchange during punts, then they should release down field.
5. The R and U will not bring captains to the middle of the field for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half option. That mechanic has been removed.

**2009 Football Test Options**

Mr. Parker indicated that the test on-line will be changed to include a pool of questions instead of the same test per week. Once a member logs in, a unique test will be created for each individual official from a pool of questions. This is to eliminate officials taking group tests. Questions will include true and false, fill-in-the-blank, situational, and extra credit questions.

## **2009 Financial Report**

Mr. Michael Fitch reported the following:

1. The Football Division is + \$655 for 2008.
2. Currently, the Football Division has approximately \$146,000 in the football account.
3. The Football Division has 5,064 members which is a 4.3% increase from 2008.
4. There is \$11,000 in outstanding rebate checks.
5. TASO-Football Breakdown:
  - a. Division I – 25%
  - b. Division II – 13.8%
  - c. Division III – 12.0%
  - d. Division IV – 12.2%
  - e. Division V – 37%

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

## **Operating Subcommittee**

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

1. Travel Policy – This policy is not adequate for every part of the state. The UIL will consider having an “either, or” policy, where schools could choose from one of two options (either a flat rate travel for every official or mileage for one driver).
2. Game Fees – Members of the Basketball and Baseball Divisions have created controversy regarding game fees. The UIL suggests that the TASO be redefined and create stronger penalties for chapters who do not follow 1204. The UIL indicated that TASO has a “serious PR problem with the administrators.” The UIL stated that if chapters do not want to be TASO affiliated in the future, they would be willing to “register” those chapters so they can officiate games.

## **TASO State Office Announcements**

Mr. Parker 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. There were 595 incident reports filed to the UIL in 2008. A secretary indicated that the UIL needs to send the chapter an update of the sanctions imposed on the offenders. TASO indicated that type of information can be found in the Leaguer.
2. Photos will be included on the IDs provided by TASO in the future; however, it might be a problem collecting the photos from each chapter. In the future if criminal background checks are necessary, only those officials who are active and pass the background check will be issued an ID card.

3. The chapters may 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 officials must utilize current TASO mechanics.
5. TASO will investigate individuals who submit an End of Year Summary with more than 90 points. It is the responsibility of the Chapter Secretary to verify each official's points before they are submitted to TASO.
6. TASO will produce training videos which outline rules and mechanics and provide them free for each chapter.
7. Officials should not leave copies of the pay sheet that includes personal information in the dressing room. Pay sheets should be handed to or sent to the appropriate business professional due to identity theft.
8. TASO clarified that the End of the Year Summary is sufficient for the next year's application for renewal members. New members will need to complete the application. This is unique to the TASO-Football Division.
9. Beginning in 2010, TASO will realign the districts so that all districts will include 7.2% to 9.9% of the membership (except for the Dallas and Houston Chapters.) District II will remain the same.
10. TASO satellite chapters will no longer exist.
11. TASO President and Vice President elections will be on-line in the future.
12. TASO has revised the By-Laws to include "Active and Inactive" members instead of "Members in Good Standing and Members not in Good Standing." This was done to be consistent with the TASO database that is currently used.
13. TASO has included solicitation, conflict of interest, ethics process, and due process in the By-Laws.
14. The All-Star assignments were announced. Mr. James Holland was selected to officiate one of the 6-man All-Star games as U on July 17<sup>th</sup> in Lubbock. A five-man crew was assigned.

### **Open Discussion**

Mr. Parker 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 not be required to comply with Senate Bill 9 because the schools do not enter into a contract with the officials.
- C. Disclosure Statement – Mr. Parker suggested that if evidence comes to light regarding an official, it should be submitted to TASO. Any incident from birth to present should be reported to TASO. Once reported, the official need not report the incident again.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Bradley Petty  
Secretary, SAFOA