

## WIAA/WOA RTO Advisory Meeting

9-13-17

Next meeting: January 11, 2018

### **Group Members:**

Tim Thomsen, WIAA Executive Board, Sumner School District AD

Jim Piccolo, District 1 Director

Terry Beckstead, WOA Executive Board, Region 3

Tyler Trimble, WOA Executive Board, Region 4

Nick Reydahl, AWMLP, WIAA Honorary Board, AP & AD

Todd Stordahl, WOA Executive Director

Brian Smith, WIAA Staff

**Present: Tyler Trimble, Tim Thomsen, Terry Beckstead, Todd Stordahl, Jim Piccolo, Nick Reydahl, and Brian Smith**

Group reviewed the following foundational group agreements.

**Belief Statement:** The WIAA/WOA RTO Advisory Committee believes the RTO program is essential to improving the quality of officiating and increasing the number of officials which in turn has a great effect on the games, coaches, schools, communities, and the educational culture.

**Goal:** This group will serve as a steering committee using feedback from both associations to guide improvements of the level of officiating by the increase of accountability for all involved with the program.

**Task:** RTO-AC will help guide the program by monitoring the process and progress of its implementation and performance. The RTO-AC tasks include building relationships between both associations and throughout the WOA, setting measurable goals, creating proper procedures, development of a monitoring plan, and improve communication by continually educating all parties that are involved.

**Sport Updates:** Football continues to grow with added buy in from both individuals and associations (all are involved except 1). Soccer is progressing while volleyball still has some push back. All efforts and growth are dependent upon personalities within local associations and overcoming road blocks encountered by differing philosophy. With local support of the RTO and the sport specific Rubric the program has become the mechanism for growth and consistency. Winter will see a shift to a mentor /trainer model which will be more personalized. WOA sport committees continue to plan and produce quality learning material for growth and retention of officials. Spring sports will follow the lead of the winter seasons model. The ability to target officials that are

interested in becoming lifelong officials should pay off in meeting the goals of the program as well as motivate many to become RTO certified.

**10-15% of the total numbers of officials are first year.** The key is retention and providing avenues for growth and promotion. The mentor program should allow for more one on one and individual guidance. Retaining these new officials each year will provide for a large cadre of qualified individuals at every level.

**POSTSEASON** District Directors will only utilize RTO Certified officials for postseason events. Each association has the ability to provide this list of qualified officials. In 2016 90 football officials were needed for State level events, however over 400 were qualified to officiate by participating in weekly RTO training.

**WOA joins NASO:** Many benefits are gained by this partnership which includes a focused effort to recruit new officials while also providing year-round education opportunities for officials. NASO has videos, pamphlets, magazines, as well as motivational material available for its membership.

**WIAA Website** has been updated to include sport specific rubrics, advisory notes, and goals. We will add links to “Want to be an official”, “Officials Thank You Cards”, and “What is RTO” as well as updated video submission procedures.

**Social awareness training** continues to be a topic of concern.

**Oregon Survey** was utilized to see how schools can change crowd behavior to help retain officials. Another noticeable trend was the disenchantment for the politics within local associations as it relates to professional growth and promotion. The new NASO survey will be reviewed at the December meeting. It will have a much larger number of participants which should be an even better snapshot of rationale for official’s quitting.

**Goals for the 2017-18** include: a focus on improved communication with officials and schools as well as representation at AD and Officials meetings

**District 3** will develop and implement an official’s **survey/rubric** for trial usage. This survey will be used to help assess the work environment from the official’s perspective.