

RTO Advisory Group  
12/9/15  
Agenda

**Group Members:**

Tim Thomsen, WIAA Executive Board, Sumner School District AD  
(ABS) Rob Rainville, Chelan High School Athletic Director  
Jim Piccolo, District 1 Director  
(ABS) Jeff Gates, WOA Official  
(ABS) Tyler Trimble, WOA Executive Board, Region 4  
Will Niccolls, WOA Official  
Todd Stordahl, WOA Executive Director  
Brian Smith, WIAA Staff

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.

Both groups at the table have financially invested in this program and both desire a successful program in which shows how each benefits.

- A. Understanding our partnership (WIAA/WOA) in this, the group reiterated the belief that the underlined words that are the central and most vital components of our group's task.

With this agreement we developed measurable goals that addressed these components:

1. On an annual basis, the District Director and a District School Representative are required to meet with all WOA Associations that serve the WIAA District. (communication, relationships, & procedures)
2. Request the WIAA Executive Board to submit a WIAA amendment in which changes the both 24.8.0 and 24.9.0 from recommend to require. (relationships, goals, procedures, monitoring, communication, & education)

#### 24.8.0 COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LEAGUES AND OFFICIALS ASSOCIATIONS/BOARDS --

The WIAA and WOA ~~recommend~~ that athletic leagues have meetings prior to the opening of their seasons to which they invite representatives of the officials association/board that serves them so that they might discuss mutual areas of concern.

#### 24.9.0 WIAA DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON OFFICIALS --

The WIAA and WOA Executive Boards ~~recommend~~ that each WIAA District have a standing committee consisting of three (3) school personnel and three (3) members from the local officials association/board to work on mutual areas of concern.

- B. Discussion began about concerns regarding the target of the RTO (top 10-20%). Should the swath be wider to encourage growth and promotion?
1. \$ is now generated from the varsity officials – pay\* so they benefit
  2. Post season drives everything – only way to motivate associations to join the program
  3. Observations for football are budgeted \$7000 per year
    - a. 21 associations = \$330 or 90 post season slots = \$7000
  4. Long term goals will show a shift to lower level officials as the associations get full buy-in
  5. Top level officials have begun to embrace the mentorship role while still officiating
  6. Intrinsic accountability (officials paying for RTO) has increased observers and association participation
  7. What does a serious official do to get better
    - a. Look to a mentor (is that available)
    - b. Training/observing
    - c. 3 years either quit or stick with it
  8. Do we have a systematic method to advance good officials?
  9. How are the post season officials chosen?
- C. Develop a criterion driven pool for post season official's selection into the post season.
1. Using soccer as guide: WIAA Post Season Requirements

##### **Grade**

Grade 7 or higher in the fall. Current or former Grade 6 or higher in the spring.

##### **Fitness**

Annually pass USSF Interval Test @ 35/40 level.

##### **Training**

Annually Attend 1 of the following training events: RDA, Pro Clinic, State Upgrade Clinic, any Adult or Youth Regional event, Development Academy, or a State Cup Referee Academy

##### **Experience**

8 varsity games in the current season in the same position (Ref/AR).

Minimum of 3 years as a high school referee.

RTO - Observations

Evaluation history indicates the official performs at a state championship level.

2. Group would like to research possible guides for each sport that would guide officials to a high level proficiency that is qualifies them to be in the selection pool for post season consideration.
  - a. Provides motivation for young serious official
  - b. Gives associations a better overview and indicator of quality officials
  - c. Presents the RTO observers a broader list to observe and train
  
3. The advisory group would like to recommend these guides to the WOA Board for approval and then ask the WIAA Executive Board to submit a WIAA amendment in which adds language to 24.7.1. The addition would then require the a certified official to meet sport specific post season requirements. (relationships, goals, procedures, monitoring, communication, & education)
  
4. The group would like to present the WIAA Fall Sport Criteria to the WOA and WIAA boards this winter followed by winter and spring sports as completed.
  
5. A discussion about the post season official's allotment for each association was described for a better group understanding.
  - a. Should the allotment be for % served or the number of quality officials?
  - b. Can this question be used to motivate association's involvement with RTO?
  - c. Would a change motivate more officials to look for ways to improve?
  - d. Could this change the retention rate of officials and improve that greater majority?

**Group Responsibility:**

Group members are to report out to the Districts/Leagues/Associations of the progression of our group. The report should include the group's beliefs, goals, tasks, and details of the RTO Program to date. We should also request feedback on post season criteria, handbook language details, and questions on post allotment and specific RTO finances.

**Group task at the next meeting:**

1. Discuss feedback from our representative groups
2. Continue to create measurable goals for the RTO program for the 2015-16 school year
3. Develop a criteria driven pool for post season officials selection into the post season
4. Review specific language that has been identified to block RTO and groups goals
5. Compose a Quarterly Report that includes:
  - A. Winter Review
  - B. Long Term Plans
  - C. Success Stories
  - D. What schools can do to support

**Meeting was adjourned with the agreement that the RTO-AC will meet again on January 20 at 10am.**