

Board of Director's Meeting SGVBUA

1/19/2022 – Zoom meeting

Roll Call

Board Members:

Jim De La Torre - President – present
Jeremy Hamlett – Vice President - present
Tim Triplett — Secretary\Treasurer - present
Will Fortner – 2nd term - present
Mike Martinez – 2nd term- present
Kendall McCarthy – Instructional Chair – present
Phil Diprima – Assignor – present
Jason Plourde– 1st term- present
Johnny Villegas -1st term - present
Jack Johnson – 2nd term - present

Jim called the meeting to order at 6:38pm. **Mike made a motion to approve the agenda for 1/19. Will seconded the motion.** Jim asked if anyone wanted to add anything to the agenda. **Everyone voted and the agenda was approved.** Jim asked about the minutes for 1/3. **Mike motioned to approve the minutes. Johnny seconded the motion. Everyone voted and approved the minutes.**

Open Forum:

- Nothing

President's report – Jim De La Torre:

- Jim said Executive Council will be meeting in February and it will be in person. We will be meeting in Cerritos and we are allowed 2 participants. Mike asked who would be going. Jim said he would be going and then whoever else we decide to go. The instructional chair doesn't need to go because they have already met with Scott Tomlinson and Scott will just be covering what he already discussed at the IC meeting. Jim said he thinks the other person should be the secretary\treasurer but it could be the Vice President. Jim said the meeting is on a Sunday, February 6th. Tim said he may be traveling at the time of the meeting and that hopefully Jeremy can fill in if he is not available. Jeremy said he will be out of town for work that weekend as well. Phil and Jeremy are unavailable. If Tim can not go, we will have to have someone else go.

VP's Report - Jeremy Hamlett

- Jeremy said he will get the superbowl stuff out this week.

Secretary\Treasurer report - Tim Triplett:

- Tim said he just paid the arbiter bill. We have about 24 members paid now.

Assignor's report – Phil DiPrima:

- Phil said a few schedules have come in and he has a few more to chase down. He hopes to have some assignments out by the end of next week. Tim asked if the games are traditional dates or

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are the schools moving them around to help us get the assignments covered. Phil said they are the same days of the week normal -Tuesdays and Fridays are the heaviest still. Everyone is still asking for 2 umpires, especially the lower-level games. Rio Hondo Prep did try to back down to 1 but Phil talked to the new AD and talked them into staying with 2 if our manpower will allow it. Everything will remain the same for now.

Instructional Chair report – Kendall McCarthy:

- Kendall said we had 27 people attend the field clinic including himself. He still needs a list from Tim or Phil as to who didn't attend. He really doesn't want to do another clinic on the 5th. He would rather do individual clinics with people who didn't make it. He doesn't want to do all the setup for 2 or 3 people.
- Kendall has a state instructors rule interpretation meeting on the 25th. He will pass down the information from that meeting. If anyone has questions, text Kendall and he will ask them during the meeting.
- Kendall mentioned a new rule that the pitcher must simulate taking the sign from the catcher. His concern is what does that mean, that the pitcher can still take the sign from anywhere else off the rubber. It does say that the pitcher should be on the rubber when he takes this sign, so his interpretation is that is not enforceable, as long as the pitcher simulates taking a sign from the catcher when he's on the rubber. The whole intent to that rule is to prevent a quick pitch, and that is resolved by every pitcher simulating taken a sign from the pitcher.
- He is going to cover the points of emphasis, and will go through the study guide, which is due by the 26th if anybody needs some help on that or, if anyone wants him to go through some questions, he will do that. Jim asked if there is a list of names of those who have already completed the study guide. Kendall said Tim has that. Tim said about 12 people have taken it so far.
- Phil said he might get a rush on a couple of newbies. He said we might want to do something in person for these new people trying to get them certified last minute. Phil said maybe we can change it to a weeknight if that works better. Kendall said he will do that if it is needed. Phil said he can find him a field if needed.

Committee Reports:

Discussion Items:

1. None.

Kendall covered some information from the state instructional chairs meeting.

- He already mentioned early that the pitcher shall take his sign from the catcher or simulate taking the sign from the catcher with the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. That solves our situation. The main focus on that is to prevent a quick pitch. A quick pitch is an illegal pitch. It's an immediate dead ball, just like a balk would be, we would advance runners. Also, the case book stipulates that a quick pitch is dangerous. The definition of a quick pitch is the pitcher delivering a pitch when the batter is not reasonably ready in the box. It's not the motion that the pitcher uses, it's the action of the batter not being ready that defines a quick pitch. Kendall read from the book; many pitchers are getting their pitch signs from the dugout. There's no problem with this, however, it is a problem for the batter when the pitcher, then starts his pitching

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motion since there's no starting point, from where a batter can assume a pitch is about to be delivered. It also signals the defensive team that the action is about to be initiated. He must simulate or take a sign while, the pivot foot is in contact with the pitching plate, from the catcher.

- **Excessive celebration.** The main point from that is we don't want to be the no fun League, but we don't want to have one team show up another team. We want to celebrate the success of a home run or a winning run, but we want to use good judgment. We should not be taunting the other team. It's up to the umpires to use good judgment to stop that. We can take the temperature of the game, we know what's going on and the older more experienced umpires, they can feel it coming to a head and they can stop it before it happens.
- **The proper use of equipment.** This is when a player modifies and misuses equipment in a way that's not intended. They're really speaking about illegal BATs, when someone alters the BAT. Some of these BATs it is impossible to tell. If a coach comes up to you and suspects a batter of using any legal bat, we have to check it out. If we see a batter coming to the batter's box with a bat and it has a bester stamp on it, we know that's not legal. We can remove the BAT, the batter would be automatically out if he steps into the batter's box, with an illegal bat, and we would confine the coach to the dugout. We can see it and address it, and coaches can call it to our attention.
- We don't allow **sitting on the buckets** at all. A lot of these coaches get spoiled doing travel ball because a lot of times we allow them to do it, but they cannot sit on buckets on the field in the dugout in a high school game.
- The **lodged ball procedure** says a baseball that remains on the playing field but has become wedged, stuck, lost or unreachable is defined to be a lodged ball. If the ball impacts something stopped abruptly and does not fall or roll immediately, it is considered a lodged ball. However, if a ball becomes stuck in the webbing of a fielder's glove, it remains in play and the glove ball combination is treated as a live ball. A couple years back it wasn't but now it's a live ball. The defense can actually take the glove with the stuck ball in it and throw the whole thing to a base.
- **Sportsmanship.** Supporting one's team is extremely important and encouraged, however, making disparaging remarks toward opponents is not part of the game, in fact it distracts from the contest. Chance intentional distractions, loud noises as a pitch is delivered or about to be delivered or a fielder is about to make a play, is not acceptable. Bottom line on supporting behaviors should not be tolerated in interscholastic baseball.
- CIF states, one of the most important aspects of umpiring at any level is game management.
- **Religious headwear.** There are some states that don't allow student athletes to compete while wearing religious headwear. Please be advised that the CIF does allow the use of religious headwear. The instructional chairmen were asked to please remind local units, the CIF does not require a letter from the state, or section and that the CIF does not request the athlete to remove the headwear.
- Previously, in 613, provided that the pitchers entire pivot foot be parallel and in contact with the pitchers' plate. The 2020 change eliminates that requirement for the pivot foot to be in contact with the pitchers plate. However, a pitcher still cannot pitch off the end of the pitcher's plate. If the pitchers pitching from a set position his pivot foot must be parallel and directly in front of or in contact with the pitching plate. Jim asked if it's saying that the pitcher cannot have just his toe in contact with the end of the pitcher's rubber. Kendall said that's what it says. Jim said is it the rule where he must have at least half of his foot in contact with the rubber. Kendall said if a

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pitcher's pitching off the edge of the end of the plate his foot isn't parallel with the plate. His foot would be in line with the blade. Parallel with or directly in front of is what it says. If it was on the edge of the plate it wouldn't be directly in front of. Kendall will bring it up at the state interpreters meeting.

- Despite predictions of doom and gloom over the **new dh defensive player rule**, there were very few statewide reports of confusion or miss application of the rule. Everyone in our unit understands. Kendall has not gotten one report of anyone not applying that rule to the new dh rule. He said not many coaches even use it. Mike said he thinks in the next general meeting, he thinks we should bring up one more time the dh new rule, just to refresh everybody on how it's done. Kendall said he will cover it at the meeting on the 24th.
- **Signals.** Kendall didn't notice a problem last season with umpires not using signals. We always use signals. If you have a special signal it should be covered in our pregame. Every game that he observed he didn't see any issues with the umpires not signaling one another. Phil said a lot of the games that he was able to watch, he did see some of our guys not signaling each other. Kendall will address this in the general membership meeting as well. Jason said his first year in the unit he didn't know anything about the signals and stuff until the last game that he worked, it was a varsity game. If we have some newbies out there, we might want to just go over the signals, most people do that in pregame, but if there are two newbies working they might not know the signals. Kendall will cover signals at the meeting on the 24th.
- **Players taking a knee during the national anthem.** In the event of a player or players taking a knee and it's the CIF position that we do absolutely nothing. Jim said in reality in our unit, that happens so rarely. Kendall said CIF wants to make sure we know, regardless of where we stand on that, they don't want us to address it. We do absolutely nothing.
- **Jewelry.** They want us to enforce the jewelry rule.
- **Foul balls.** They want us to put the ball in play quicker. In the state report, they said we've gotten a lot better about it.
- **The lineup cards.** They don't want the coaches to separate the lineup cards. They want the coaches to hand the entire three or four lineups to the plate umpire at the plate meeting and have us separate them.
- **Plate meeting.** It's been noted that a lot of times during our plate meeting teams are outside the dugout and we don't want that. We don't want to be clocked. They need to be in the dugout because the coaches can't supervise them when they're paying attention to what we're doing at the plate. Make sure the players are in their dugout when we have our plate meeting. Jim said that's a big one. Too many of us have let teams get away with swinging the bats out in front while we're having our plate meeting, or the other teams got everybody running down the line and left field. This is something else we should go over in the general meeting and stress that we need to get back to enforcing that and making sure everybody's in the dugout until we complete our plate meeting.
- **Coaching attire.** Umpires are expected to enforce this rule. This is usually an issue in lower-level games, as per rule 321 coaches must be in uniform of the team. As a guideline, the following is acceptable - baseball shoes, baseball pants, a Jersey top similar to what the team is wearing, either a T shirt with the team logo or wind shirt with the team logo, or a jacket and a baseball cap. The following is not accepted at any level, coaches who are wearing shorts or other non-baseball attire such as but not limited to sweatpants, jeans, tennis shoes or sandals. These items

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are not permissible. Jason said he thought it was ok if they don't come out of the dugout. He asked if it was in the rule. Jim said that would be the case, they would be relegated to the dugout. Kendall said yes, we would confine them to the dugout. The penalty for noncompliance is that the coach is restricted to the dugout. They can coach from the dugout with shorts, jeans and sandals. Jack asked if someone's in the dugout they've got to be in baseball attire correct, except for the scorekeeper. Kendall said not if you're the coach not according to rule. Jack said he always defers to Kendall because he knows the rules, but he is pretty sure that if you're in the dugout you've got to be in baseball attire with the exception of the scorekeeper. Jim said no you have to be in baseball attire to be able to be allowed on the field. If you're not in correct baseball attire then you're restricted to the dugout. Jack said if you have an injured player that shows up in street clothes, he hasn't allowed him in the dugout. He asked if that's wrong. Kendall said he thinks it is wrong. It wouldn't be any harm asking the coach who's the guy sitting there and civilian clothes, he still part of the team. Jim said he's not officially in the game so whatever they are doing in the dugout is none of our business until he tries to either enter him. Kendall said he saves all the rule books and in 2014 the rule book specifically stated that umpires need to get a grip and allow coaches to coach in anything. They don't have to be in the uniform of the team, because a lot of schools don't have enough money, and they should be spending money on the team's uniforms and not worrying about the coaches. Johnny said he doesn't have a problem with restricting the coach to the dugout if he's not in uniform but if something happens on the field and he wants to question something should there be somebody else in his place allowed to come out on the field, or do we have to go all the way to the dugout to speak to him. Kendall said to follow the letter of the rule is not allowed on the field, except to attend to an injured player. Kendall said he likes to stay away from the dugouts, the closer you get to the dugout the closer you are to a problem. Kendall said if he called timeout and wanted to speak to him, he would go over and talk to the coach. This is one of those rules where you have to manage. You wouldn't be wrong if you allowed him to come and talk to you, by the letter of the law, you would be wrong. Kendall said personally if the coach needed a ruling on a player, he would go over and talk to him. Jason said he would be allowed the plate meeting right. Kendall said no he couldn't come to the plate meeting. It would have to be someone else. He can send the captain.

Jason asked if we are getting the 2022 rule books and case books. Tim said there is not 2022 books. Jim said no because there's nothing new. We're working off our 20-2021 books. Kendall said there is a 2022 rule book. The only rule change is that pitching change that the pitcher must simulate taking a sign from the catcher. It's highlighted on page 40, it says the position of the hill determines where the pitcher will wind up or steps, he shall take or simulate taking a sign from the catcher. Jim told Jason if he wants one, he can get one, there was a certain allotment that they gave us that should have been sent to Tim. We could always purchase some additional ones for unit members, but we chose not to reorder them just to save money for the unit. Jason said he was ok they can go to the new guys. Tim said we received five new rule books. Those are for any new people that are coming into the unit. Once we figure out what our roster is going to be for the season, if someone wants one, Tim will send it out if there's any left. Tim said that is the reason why our dues are a lot lower, because we did not have to supply a new rule books to everyone within the unit.

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Phil asked if anyone purchases officials' insurance through NFHS website. It is \$35 plus a \$3 convenience fee that covers you for the year with your liability insurance. It also provides you with the ability to download the NFHS rules APP and that gives you access to every rule book and casebook that they print available to you in the APP. Phil uses it. He will send the link to the group. Jack asked if we are covered by the board insurance. Phil asked Tim for verification that the board policy only covers seven of us. Tim said it covers everyone on the board. If you did not have insurance, you have insurance through our unit insurance. Tim, Jeremy and Phil have insurance already. Phil is correct, we have seven spots. Jack said take him off the list and give it to someone else. Tim said its already done. Phil told Jack he should stay on that list, especially if it's done already for this season. Jim said keep in mind the NFHS insurance only covers you for any high school sport that you might officiate. If you do REC ball, it does not cover you for that. It's anything that you are a part of through an association. NASO insurance covers you for everything. Will said Amazon has the 2022 rule book for \$39.

Kendall asked for names of those who didn't attend the field clinic. Tim will get the list to Kendall after he compares the list with Arbiter.

January 31st is the next general meeting.

Kendall asked if we are still in discussion, Jim said yes. Kendall said he was a little concerned that as an instructional chair and even the assignor that they don't get to vote. He started a petition to present to the board to allow them to vote. He pulled back on that because he spoke to quite a few of the umpires and the concession was most of the members believe in the board, and they want to leave it the way it is, and they don't want the IC or the assignor to have a vote. Kendall said he can live with that it's not the direction he wanted to go in. He asked why is that. He participates in all the meetings and the board listens to him, it's not like we're disrespecting him, not listening to him, but he can't vote. Jim said that's a good question he doesn't remember why the instructional chair and assignor do not have a voting right. Tim said throughout other sports, he doesn't know which units allow this, but those are hired positions. They are hired by the Board of Directors so that's one of the reasons why, they are hired. Jason said they're not voted in. Tim said right they're not voted in. Kendall said that was part of his petition, why aren't they voted in by the membership. Kendall said Tim has a paid position and he gets to vote so that as a reason doesn't really sit well with him. Tim said he is voted in just like all the board of directors. He isn't sure why, maybe because of all the work that's being done, they added a stipend on to that position. Kendall said he's only been in the unit three or four years, so he doesn't know the history that's why he's asking why. Jack asked Jeremy about the bylaws and said he is a firm believer in laws we got to deal with. Jeremy said the reason behind them not voting isn't necessarily stated in the bylaws. After talking to Kendall, Jeremy did talk to some other people in a couple other sports same area just different sports, and it was similar to what Tim was saying. For the instructional chairperson, it they're not voted in, but also that since it's a paid position, the checks and balances of I want the instructional chairperson to get \$5,000 instead of 500 and coupling that with they're not voted in. With the assignor, he talked to a couple other assignors from the other units it's kind of the same thing. You lose the checks and balances more with instructional chairperson and the assignor, in any sport. As for Tim's position, he is voted in and there's more checks and balances. There's the budget audit all that stuff that happens to kind of keeps the secretary\treasurer in check. The few people that Jeremy did talk to that's the main thing is with the instructional chairperson and the assignor not being voted in, and then just the checks and balances the optics just would not look good on that. To the point about the bylaws, there's not really a reason in the bylaws for it. Jack said unless were going to change the bylaws

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we keep it the way it is. Tim said in the bylaws it's stated that the board hires the assignor and the instructional chairs. The bylaws are how we conduct our business. That's why we have our bylaws in place, to conduct unit business and to make sure things are happening. The instructional chair and assignor are hired by the board. The constitution on the other hand, is how the unit is run and things of that sort. If something like that was to change, the whole constitution would have to be redone regarding adding those positions and things of that sort. There's a lot more that must be in place if a change like that were to be made. Kendall said he read it upside down inside out and it's very involved it's not something that would be remedied this season. It's quite involved, and he understands that, but he is fine with it now. Most of the members like the way it is so that's the way it is. Jeremy said to piggyback off Tim, the constitution would have to go through the membership. It would have to be a vote from the membership as opposed to bylaws like we did those a few years back. On the bylaws, that was something that the board worked on and then updated the membership so that's the other piece. Anything constitutionally, must be approved by the membership at large.

Action Items:

None.

General meeting is at **6:00pm** on the **24th**, it's a Zoom meeting.

Next board meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 26th** at **6:30pm**.

Jim adjourned the meeting at 7:41pm.