

**NJFOA SHORE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
January 25, 2021**

Location: Online via Zoom

Present: Bill Van Schoick, Sam Riello, Jim Foligno, Andrew Rosenbloom, Bill Surdovel, Anthony Perrelli, Kyle Moberg, Kevin Fleming, Mike Kilmurray, Brian Fyfe, Steve Ramseur

Absent: Dick Amdur

Meeting called to order by President Van Schoick at 7:32 PM.

Appointments made by President Van Schoick, unanimously approved:

Assignor – Sam Riello

Cadet Supervisor – Kevin Fleming

Attorney – Dick Amdur

Van Schoick then went over committee assignments, including the creation of three new committees: Facilities, Fees and Recruitment. Committee Chairs were asked to fill out their committees if necessary.

Committee	Chair	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
Banquet	Surdovel	Foligno	TBD	TBD		
Audit	Piserchia	Rosenbloom				
Conflict Resolution	Fyfe	Ramseur	Moberg			
Info and Technology	Rosenbloom	Foligno	Perrelli	Schalnat		
Constitution and By Laws	Foligno	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Crew Rating and Evaluation	Kilmurray*	Riello *	Galbavy	Kotch	Gilbert	
Wellness-Welfare	Fyfe *	Foligno *				
Cadet	Fleming	TBD	TBD			
Nominating	Galbavy	TBD	TBD			
Awards	Rosenbloom	TBD	TBD			
Mechanics	Perrelli	Surdovel	TBD			
Recruitment	Ramseur*	Fyfe*	Moberg			
Facilities	Moberg	Ramseur				
Fees	Foligno*	Surdovel*	Riello	Salerno		

* Denotes Co-Chair

Discussion shifted to Meeting dates for the upcoming year. Moberg listed this year’s meeting dates as 9/1, 9/8, 9/22, 10/6, 10/13, 10/27 and 11/3. Rosenbloom recommended that several meeting dates be scheduled as virtual meetings via Zoom. Council as a whole agreed the Zoom meetings were successful. Fyfe raised concerns about accurately taking attendance at these meetings. Rosenbloom will confirm we can have members register prior to the meeting to accurately take attendance. After discussion, council unanimously agreed to make the 9/22 and 10/27 meetings virtual via Zoom. Member must attend a minimum of 4 meetings of any type during the year. Surdovel also mentioned that there will be an interpretation meeting, but he is awaiting direction from the NJSIAA due to the upcoming retirement of Jack Dubois at the end of the school year. Moberg to confirm dates with Elks.

Riello delivered Assignor’s Report. Riello discussed changes to the Shore Conference regular season which will now be a 6 game regular season, followed by 2 weeks of “pod” games based on ability resulting in a Shore Conference Champion. This will be prior to the state tournament. Riello generally asks the ADs for their schedules in March. Riello noted that we will likely not be working games in Allentown and New Egypt this year due to our already strained number of officials. Discussion then shifted to the approximately 5-6 school who still use 5 officials for their games. Council members debated whether or not to take a hard line against these schools and force them to take 6 officials. It was noted that there are only

14 or 15 schools in the state who still use 5 officials and the Shore Conference is almost half of those. Several members expressed concern if we have enough officials to cover 6 men, as well as the necessity or timing behind a hard line move if we also are going to ask for a raise. No consensus was reached and the board agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Council discussed game fees and schedule for the year. Van Schoick, Riello and Foligno recently met with the Shore Conference to discuss coverage of games by our Chapter for the year, recommending that some games be moved to Saturday to alleviate potential shortages. The Shore Conference seemed agreeable to the request and will explore options. Council then moved to a discussion on game fees. Van Schoick stressed the importance of the newly formed Fee committee in recommending a proposal to give to the ADs prior to their meeting with the officials later in the year. It was emphasized that despite the raises last year, the Shore Conference is still behind the rest of the state in terms of compensation. The Fee Committee will meet to discuss further.

Kilmurray then spoke on the NJFOA report and recent meeting in December. ZebraWeb was discussed at length at the meeting and ZebraWeb is going to work to improve their product. Kilmurray also discussed the relative lack of issues related to kneeling/solidarity statement and Covid across the state.

Surdovel reported on a recent meeting between members of the NJFOA and NJFCA (Coaches association). Surdovel described the meeting as productive and positive and a questionnaire will be circulated among officials and coaches about the treatment of both.

Perrelli went over the Treasurer's Report: Starting Balance 11/8/2020 - \$18,341.78 and Ending Balance 1/21/2021 - \$19,659.11. Motion to approve by Surdovel, seconded by Kilmurray, unanimously approved. Perrelli also shared the year's expenses, the organization took in \$8,798 and paid out \$6,541, running a net profit of approximately \$2,250. Perrelli explained much of this was due to the lack of banquet, observations and other usual expenses. He stressed that this would not be the case this year due to the reduction in dues for all members. Perrelli also discussed members who have not paid dues for the upcoming year. Rosenbloom will send email reminding them of their lateness and potential penalties.

Rosenbloom then went through requested crew changes for the upcoming season. One member was requested by two referees to join their crew. All crew changes were unanimously approved with the exception of said member. Van Schoick described the situation and member was then unanimously approved to join his crew. Keith Farrell has decided to step down as referee. Council unanimously agreed to offer the position to Joe Maloney, and then subsequently any eligible members who completed the white hat course based on seniority. Council then discussed the request of a former member to be reinstated to the organization who left in good standing. After much discussion, council agreed to allow the member to take a written closed book exam prior to reinstatement. If the member passes he will not have to retake the cadet course. Moberg stressed the importance of being consistent in these situations and recommended developing a policy.

Van Schoick commented on turn backs and the increased frequency with which they occurred. He reiterated the importance of members blocking out dates. Further discussion to go over fees at future meeting.

Van Schoick moved the discussion to cadet recruitment. Fleming stated we currently have over 20 perspective cadets. Council commended Ramseur for his efforts in recruitment, securing roughly half those cadets. Ramseur and Fleming will continue to work on recruitment and Fleming will reach out to the perspective candidates in the upcoming months. Foligno recommended that cadets work clocks this year, Riello agreed this was a good idea and should be possible.

Riello and Van Schoick then raised the issue of assigning chains. Riello spoke of how difficult it has been to cover chains for the last few seasons and having to find guys from other organizations and anywhere else to cover the games. Council weighed whether or not to continue to assign chains for games. Fleming raised the idea of charging an additional fee to the schools to assign chains. Fyfe felt strongly that the organization continue to assign chains, stating that if we stopped we would never get it back and with the large number of perspective cadets it may only be a short term issue if any at all. Council tabled the discussion on chain assignments to a future meeting.

Van Schoick then discussed the issue of members directly contacting the assignor regarding their game schedules and assignments. Council as a whole felt this inappropriate and needed to end. Perrelli recommended a hierarchy system in which only the white hat should contact the assignor or council. Foligno raised the question of members not on crews. Perrelli advised members not on crews should contact one of the trustees with any issues. Fyfe recommended the Van Schoick send a letter to member outlining the issue and protocol going forward. Council agreed that this type of behavior is not appropriate. Foligno to craft a policy to be included as well.

Surdovel will be running a White Hat Class for perspective referees on April 12 and 26. Five members were recommended for the class and Rosenbloom will reach out to them in the near future with more details.

Discussion shifted to the positioning of the umpire to the offensive backfield. Van Schoick discussed the significant injury to one of our umpires this year and his desire to see a change in positioning. Surdovel stated that this is an ongoing discussion at the state level and that at this time the state is allowing crews to try it in scrimmages for the upcoming season. The board as a whole felt strongly the move should occur. Members discussed issues with mechanics and whether or not we could unilaterally decide to make the change. Surdovel to explore mechanics for a potential change and will bring up the idea at the next statewide NJFOA meeting.

Rosenbloom reviewed the list of the members who have not registered with the NJSIAA. Several council members stressed the importance of having all members register and consequences of not doing so. Rosenbloom to send reminder email again.

Motion to adjourn by Riello, seconded by Ramseur. Meeting closed at 10:18 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Rosenbloom
2nd Vice President/Secretary