

**NJFOA SHORE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**July 13, 2020**

**Location:** Bill Surdovel's House

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

**Absent:** Chris Schalnath, Dick Amdur

Meeting called to order by President Van Schoick at 6:30 PM.

Riello delivered Assignor's Report. All varsity games were assigned, however under new guidance from the state there can be no regular season games until the weekend of October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The schedule will likely be revised by the Shore Conference to a more regionalized schedule with less games. Under the current model, there will be a six game regular season, followed by two weekends of playoffs. Schools will likely also have one scrimmage in late September and have the option to play during Thanksgiving. As of now assignments will stay the same but there will be changes when new schedules are established. Riello also stated he was awaiting more information regarding sub-varsity before fully releasing those games. In the event there is a season, Riello stated there will be a need to meet with Shore Conference to further discuss guidelines. We are currently awaiting more details regarding season, schedule, assignments and availability of officials from both the Shore Conference and state.

Discussion shifted to Constitution & By-Laws. There was a lengthy discussion on the meaning of Article VI – Amendments. Specifically, as to the following: "The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present at any regular meeting, providing notice in writing of a proposed amendment shall have been filed with the Secretary/Treasurer and shall have been read to the two previous regular meetings." Council reached a consensus that a "two-thirds vote" meant that in order to change the CBL as currently written, there needs to be a 2/3 majority of votes in the affirmative. Several members initially voiced disagreement stating this has not been past precedence and had varying interpretations. This line is a part of the CBL changes being proposed to change to a simple majority vote electronically. However, under the current interpretation in order to change to a simple majority for subsequent changes to the CBL this particular change must be approved by a 2/3 majority of members. As a result, council determined unanimously to send this change as a part of the CBL changes first for readings and approval and then to send all other changes subsequently. The first reading of this change will be sent out by Foligno in the upcoming weeks. Members will have the opportunity to vote on all other CBL changes individually at a later date electronically if the initial vote is approved.

Council next discussed meetings for the upcoming year. Foligno stated with current restrictions on indoor gatherings and the size of the Elks Lodge that we move to virtual meetings. It was determined that the number of meetings will be reduced and the first two meetings at the very least will be conducted virtually. Surdovel stated that the state will likely have two interpretation meetings virtually in mid-late August. New meeting dates for the chapter are September 23, October 14, October 28 & November 11. The September 23 and October 14 are confirmed as virtual meetings no matter what. Council left open the opportunity (albeit rare) for in-person meetings for October 28 and November 11 to be determined at a later date. No decision on a platform was made, the Info & Technology Committee (Foligno, Schalnath & Rosenbloom) will be exploring the best platform to produce meetings. Council felt that all board members should be shown at meetings, members should be given an opportunity for comment at some point and likely allow for meetings to be watched live or a recorded copy.

Foligno reported on banquet and in all likelihood there will be no banquet this year. In the event things change and we are able to have a banquet, the November 11 date could still be used as a joint banquet/meeting.

Kilmurray discussed crew ratings and evaluations. Members of the committee have been contacted and Kilmurray has contacted several other organizations for their evaluation practices and continues to work on this.

Fyfe informed members of the Wellness/Welfare committee update. Two members received baskets/food since last meeting. Council applauded Fyfe for his efforts, the importance of the committee and the importance of receiving information and knowing about when to send items.

Perrelli stated there has been no new mechanics manual sent from the state to date.

Moberg discussed a donation for the Elks Lodge. Council had previously approved a donation of a TV to the Elks lodge for using the facility last year, however given the current circumstances and strong possibility of not using the Elks this year it was determined to make a monetary donation to the Elks for use last year. Motion made by Surdovel, seconded by Riello for a \$400 donation to Elks Lodge, unanimously approved.

Van Schoick and Surdovel then reviewed the NJFOA state meeting as well as NFHS rule changes. Sidelines were a major topic of discussion and how to keep distancing. There will likely be changes to where players can stand. NJFOA leadership reiterated that everything is subject to change this year. Surdovel reviewed rule changes for the upcoming year which include: QB ability to spike ball from any formation, changes to 25-40 second play clock, penalty change for disconcerting signals by the defense, shortened halftime during inclement weather and other situations, & coach designee for penalty enforcement. Surdovel also mentioned that this is the last year of the regular season replay pilot in New Jersey and discussed a new pilot in Oregon related to intentional grounding and the tackle box which may be used in New Jersey in the future.

Van Schoick brought up 3-man mechanics for sub-varsity games. Van Schoick recommended changes to 3-man mechanics in a pilot program for all games for the upcoming season. The umpire will be moved from the defensive backfield to behind the quarterback and serve as the referee. Van Schoick stated safety concerns, an injury to a member and protecting the quarterback as rationale for the move. This is not a choice and all sub-varsity games are expected to be officiated with new format. Perrelli (Chair of Mechanics of Committee) and Van Schoick will circulate specifics of changes at a later date or meeting.

Rosenbloom shared Covid-19 Survey results with council. 138 members responded to the survey. Rosenbloom recommended that survey summary results be shared with all members as well. Council unanimously agreed, summary results and charts will be sent out to members. In summary, over 15% of members rated their comfort level officiating as a 1 or 2. As a result, Rosenbloom will be sending out an email to White Hats and ECOs to specifically ask about their plans for the upcoming season. White Hats are expected to contact their crews to discuss their individual plans for the season. No definitive answer is needed but members should give their best guess at the time. Council unanimously determined that if a member chooses not to officiate this year their chapter dues (not NJSIAA) will be rolled over to next year. If a member chooses to retire this year and only in that situation, the member will receive a refund. All council members felt the decision to officiate this year was a personal choice and no member will be forced to officiate if they are not comfortable. The state has not provided any information regarding registration or payment of dues to them for the upcoming season.

The area in the survey of most disagreement among members dealt with masks where there was no clear majority opinion and a large portion of members expressed disagreement with wearing masks during the officiating period. The majority of members were either in favor of or open to the idea of an electronic whistle and gloves. Council discussed options for masks, Foligno recommended that council establish mask recommendations (not requirements) to allow for mask uniformity and consistency. Moberg mentioned the idea of purchasing masks for members. Council as a whole decided to not make any recommendations or requirements regarding masks and to continue to await further guidance and protocol from the state. Survey results revealed members as a whole preferred virtual meetings as opposed to in-person. Most frequent concerns mentioned were: sidelines, handling of footballs, liability & exposure, enforcing and consistency of rules, testing of players/staff/officials, opting out of this season, bathroom/locker room use, sanitizing and distancing in booth, masks and transparency of information to members. Rosenbloom & Perrelli to follow up with insurance company & NASO regarding Covid-19 coverage. Many other issues council felt were out of control of the organization or had been addressed previously. Council felt that best practices were to continue to adhere to guidance and protocols from the state and await further information.

Surdovel then moved on to discuss recent call with New Jersey Football Coaches Association. One topic that was brought up was by several minority coaches regarding the treatment of coaches and their teams by officials across the state. Surdovel was not put off or threatened by the conversation and felt the discussion was informative as coaches expressed how they felt. Van Schoick recommended that a recruitment committee be established and among other areas they will work on diversifying our chapter's membership. Fyfe agreed to also be a part of the committee and Van Schoick will be reaching out to several of our chapter's minority members to discuss.

Fleming brought up recent message from NASO President Bob Mano regarding on-duty officials showing personal beliefs. Discussion by council members on whether to establish a policy regarding officials kneeling and activities during the anthem or other times. Members as a whole felt this was a personal choice and officials are free to do what they want. Fyfe expressed concerns with this, specifically if certain members for example kneel while other members do not, the optics of that and potential issues that will arise. Perrelli stated this should be a discussion prior to the game among officials. The majority of council felt again this was a personal choice by officials and that no policy or recommendation should be made by council. Van Schoick reminded council that in the event of any issues there is a Conflict Resolution/Ethics committee that can review any problems.

Perrelli delivered Treasurer's Report: Starting Balance on 4/30/20 - \$19,689.81 and Ending Balance on 7/6/20 - \$18,130.81. Motion to approve by Moberg, seconded by Riello, unanimously approved.

Foligno brought up dues for the following year. NJSIAA is increasing dues by \$2-3 dollars. Given uncertainty of circumstances council tabled further discussion of dues to later date.

Fleming raised issue of cadets for the upcoming season. Rosenbloom asked about not running a cadet class this year, council did not agree with this as there is a need for members and classes have already started. Cadet classes will continue online but Fleming will convey to them the uncertainty of this year and as a result potential delays in them working varsity games if there is no season this year.

Rulebook distribution lists were determined by council members, next meeting to be scheduled for mid-August.

Motion to adjourn by Riello, seconded by Perrelli. Meeting closed at 8:53 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Rosenbloom  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Secretary