

WCUA General Meeting

3/18/15

Dave S. called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm and introduced our guest speaker, Lanness Robinson

Lanness Robinson, Athletic Director for Hillsborough County School District

- Thanked us for what we do; can't have games without us
- Asked us to let Dave S. know if we are not provided a dressing room (discussed schools)
- We should be paid before the game
- We should be escorted from the field after the game
- Mouthpiece must be worn – this means INSIDE the mouth
- Address small problems early and you won't have big problems
 - For example, let profanity go and it may lead to fighting later on
- If coach or player uses profanity – THROW THEM OUT
- Administrator on Call (AOD) should introduce themselves to you before the game
- Ejection reports MUST BE SPECIFIC; not just, "used profanity", write exactly what he said
- Dave S. asked Lanness if there is an avenue to ask teachers if they want to become an official
 - Lanness will investigate and let Dave S. know

Dave

- Meeting attendance is a big problem; average 48 so far this year, out of 110 members
 - We are looking into having some meetings in the East (Armwood)
 - Dave asked for other ideas/suggestions to improve attendance:
 - Change meeting time: One said 6:30 is too early, another said it's just right
 - Need penalty for not attending: Fine, lose game assignments
 - Dave S. said we are considering paying \$5 less if don't attend training
 - Meet on Saturday mornings at 8:00 am: Several voiced opposition to this
 - Consider virtual meetings: Concern over lost comradery/ getting to know others
 - Dave S. pointed out we are required by the state to have at least 10 meetings
 - Dave S. said we will be having more meetings outside on the field
 - Someone suggested 2 meetings each in DEC & JAN rather than 4 in JAN
 - Several members are busy with basketball in JAN
 - We can use a discussion board on face book page and/or our website
 - We can post meeting attendance on our website
 - Dave P. will send updated list to Jeff to post
 - We need to recruit: Lost 8 excellent umpires this year, members down from 130 to 110
 - Dave S. asked why we umpire: Love of the game, stay involved, money?
 - Fewer umpires in WCUA has hurt our on field presence
 - Baseball is the hardest sport to officiate – there is nowhere to hide
 - The WCUA Board members will be going out to see umpires in other associations

- Jeff pointed out that 1/3 of the umpires from last year's top 4 playoff crews are no longer umpiring this year
- Suggestion to have PA announcers use state's script (for recruiting umpires) throughout the year, not just for playoff games
 - And to have applications available at the games
- Learn from your partner(s) every game
- Advertise
- Craig's list
- Posters at exercise places
- Discussion about having a Deputy to escort us from the field at every game

Jeff – Training

- Plate Conference
 - Take lineups – home team first
 - Review lineups
 - Read FHSAA card, include mouthpiece reminder
 - Home coach covers ground rules
 - Ask if there will be an anthem
 - NOTHING ELSE!
 - Base umpire says nothing except to clarify a ground rule
- P/DH
 - Entitled to a courtesy runner
 - Can split into two separate players
 - May NOT play another defensive position
- Double Play Positioning
 - With 1 runner – get to pitcher's mound
 - With multiple runners – Get as far up 3rd base line as the play allows
 - Either umpire can call interference
- Windup Position
 - Non-pivot foot can be off rubber to the side, but not toward the plate

Dave P.

- Updated status of ID Badges
- Offered forms to start fingerprinting process
- Asked new umpires to see him after the meeting for WCUA application

Meeting Adjourned.

Sincerely, Dave Plattner, Secretary