

3<sup>rd</sup> District Officials,

Some, if not all of you have received a letter from Tom Welter, the OSAA Executive Director, which announces a change in registration fees for Idaho officials working in Oregon. We appreciate the efforts of the Oregon staff on our behalf, and in the end, we feel they provided us with the best available solution. The insurance coverage from the National Federation of High Schools is an enhancement to our current benefits, and registering through Oregon will also provide access to their Central Hub, and web materials from the National Federation of High Schools, both of which have a significant amount of information and training materials officials can use to their benefit. All-in-all, it's the opinion of the board that the insurance benefits and the online materials available through OSAA, and NFHS, are commensurate in value to the additional registration fees our officials will pay.

As an officials association, we are cognizant of the contractual agreement that requires we provide officials for the Third District Board of Control, and said contract requires that we do so for both Idaho and Oregon Schools. We know that OSAA has indicated that only officials who wish to work in Oregon are required to register with Oregon, but we have a valid concern that an elective registration will result in too few officials for nearly all of the sports, and therefore, an inordinate burden would accrue to both those that choose to work in Oregon, and the commissioners whose duty it is to assign them.

Therefore, in order to fulfill our contractual obligation to the schools of Oregon, our Board has voted that all members of the association will register in Oregon and pay the Oregon fees. This decision was not made lightly as we know it places an additional financial burden on each official. And while a single sport may not need it's full roster of officials to meet the commensurate game schedules in Oregon, we are using this communication to remind everyone that officials do not "belong" to a single sport, but register as "members" of the association. As an association, we all share equally in the benefits of membership, and we should all share equally in the burdens of that membership. For some it allows them to participate in an avocation they enjoy, and for others it's an important source of extra income. But without membership, they're unable to enjoy these benefits, and by choosing to be a member, they also agree to accept the responsibility that comes with being a part of an association whose first priority it is to provide services to schools in both Idaho and Oregon. We know this means certain officials, due to where they live, may not be assigned to work in Oregon, so we recommend that commissioners consider assigning them an additional contest in Idaho to help offset the cost they will incur. Also keep in mind that contest fees will increase by \$1 in each sport this year so there will be some financial offset to the expense.

Some may wonder why we won't allow exceptions for a specific sport, but as I mentioned above, we register with an association, and thereafter have the opportunity to officiate a sport(s). Plus past history has shown that elective registration doesn't work. When we allowed individual officials or commissioners to make this decision, we found that several sports couldn't field enough registered officials to meet our contractual requirements to Oregon, and shortly thereafter, unforeseen circumstances cropped up, and an emergency situation resulted in an official not properly registered in Oregon accepting and working an assignment. As I am sure you can all understand, that's unacceptable to our board, and OSAA's leadership. So we've crafted a policy that works collectively for the association, and going forward, a condition of good standing in the association will include being registered in Oregon. Sport directors will be instructing officials that they must register in Oregon in order to be assigned in Idaho. As a commissioner, if you happen to see a name registered with IHSAA, and they are not on the association list, either they have not completed registration with the association, or failed to register in Oregon. So commissioners, look to your sports director to receive a list of qualified officials that you can assign.

We also recognize some officials, regardless of the intent, or the equity of the plan, will complain about the boards decision, and make no effort to understand there's a collective burden we all need to share. For those who don't like it, we hope in time that they will see the bigger picture, and put aside their feelings that focuses on themselves. In the true meaning of an association, there is no one individual, we are many with a common bond, and a common purpose.

If any of you would like to speak to me individually about this please feel to contact me.

Kip Bryson  
President, Third District Officials Association