

**NHFOA Council Meeting  
May 26, 2011  
Liberty North Fire Station – Dover, NH**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Murphy at 5:55 PM. In attendance were Councilors Driscoll, Murphy, Trask, Colburn, Dickson, Vogler, & Jousset. Also in attendance were Commissioner Clark and Treasurer Presher. Absent were Councilors Hall, Begley, President Elect Page and Secretary Smith. Treasurer Presher served as recording Secretary for the meeting.

Councilor Dickson moved to accept the minutes of the April 28, 2011 minutes as submitted. Councilor Trask seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Balance as of May 10, 2011 was \$25,578.55. Councilor moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion was seconded by President Driscoll. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

The correspondence report was presented and placed on file. Correspondence included:

- An email from Steve Campbell informing Council that he will be attending Basic Training
- An email from Attorney Brian Snow on immunity from civil liability for sports officials as draft legislation that has been submitted to State Rep. Dick Hinch
- An email from John Manni requesting reinstatement
- An email from Steve Achber (to the commissioner) requesting reinstatement; no follow-up was sent to Secretary as informed by commissioner
- Minutes of a meeting between NHIAA and school officials from Farmington and Nute concerning a cooperative football program
- John Stark request for a night football game at New England College. Request was withdrawn

Commissioner Clark made a motion to accept the Correspondence Report. Motion seconded by President Driscoll. Motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Clark reported that the availability of membership is up to date. There are 725 games on the Arbiter. President Driscoll moved to accept Commissioner's Report. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Council reviewed the proposed NHFOA Constitution and Bylaws as revised by the Constitution Committee. Several comments were made by members of the Council concerning the documents. Commissioner Clark suggested that the Council reserve their comments for a redlined version. Councilor Hall will provide and maintain the redlined version of the two documents. Councilors can review and add their comments or suggested changes then. President Driscoll reminded Councilors that they must do their homework on the proposed

Constitution and Bylaws to assure that this process goes smoothly. Discussion followed as how to present the revised Constitution and Bylaws to the membership. Discussion centered around a possible summer meeting on June 8.

Neal Vogler presented results of the Weekly Meeting Survey as compiled by the Curriculum Committee. This information was gathered from the membership at the end of last season. As a result, the Curriculum Committee is suggesting that the video section of the local meetings go to 25 minutes. The Committee is also suggesting a competitive style of activity to replace the individual rules and mechanics presentations. President Driscoll suggested that some sort of formal rules and mechanics discussion still take place. Councilor Vogler said the Committee is suggesting 25 minutes of the competition as well as the 25 minutes for the videos. One thought is that the videos should be at the begging of the meetings. Several suggestions: do away with the half point, establishing a minimum amount of time a member must be present to receive credit for meeting. Council members did not support the idea of reducing the number of meetings. Councilor Vogler will take these thoughts back to the Curriculum Committee. Commissioner Clark moved to accept the Curriculum Committee Report. (attached) Motion seconded by President Driscoll. Motion adopted unanimously.

Councilor Trask (Mechanics Supervisor) reviewed the mechanics organization plan. The Mechanics Clinic is scheduled for August 13, 2011 from 9:00 to 11:30 AM at Memorial High School. NHFOA will work with the Memorial High School team for the last hour of the clinic. Trask is recommending that the position of Assistant Mechanics Supervisor be established to assist the Supervisor and then succeed the Supervisor on a two year basis. This would assure continuity at the position and allow the incoming President to make the appointment. Trask will provide information to Councilor Hall to see how the position could be added to the NHFOA handbook.

Trask stated that it is time to start thinking about conditioning for the upcoming season. He will be providing membership with events and efforts soon. The Cigna 5K race/walk on August 11 was suggested as one the possible events to get involved in. Trask stated that he had received several suggested mechanics changes.

- Modifying the officials meeting at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> to allow the Linesman to release to the sideline
- Adding a 5 yard hash to the restraining line on the linesman side of field
- Suggestion that the Back Judge time the 25 second count
- Modify the double wind and time out procedure when a first down is reached in bounds.

Trask stated that the Mechanics Test this year will be made up of 100 questions taken from previous tests.

The topic of a possible NFL clinic this year was brought up by President Driscoll. Driscoll made a motion that the NFL Clinic be added to the agenda this year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Discussion included: that the clinics have a lot to offer; do we have the time?; not enough time this year; that we want to do clinic right. A vote was called for by

Chairman Murphy on whether to host the NFLRA this year. 1 vote in the affirmative, 7 votes in the negative. Motion failed.

No report on the Apprentice Selection Procedure (Driscoll)

No report on Dress Code (Page)

Councilor Dickson (Awards) stated that there is one 25 year sweater award to be presented this year to Stan Marro. Dickson also mentioned the John Clark Award and the fact that we have not been successful in presenting this award over the past several years and he wants to make a better effort in bringing names forward this year. He will bring names of potential recipients for the June meeting.

Councilor Jousset (Budget) presented an updated Projected Yearly Budget Report. This report differs from the previous report in that it includes the cost of the Arbiter license.

Commissioner Clark spoke to the Auxiliary Official for Championship Games as prepared by President elect Page. (attached) Clark sent out an email to 100 officials asking if they would consider being a spare official for a championship game as a volunteer (no game fee). He received 63 responses with the majority of them indicating they would accept such an assignment. The Spare official has not been requested by NHIAA at this point but several other sports have adopted a spare official policy. NHFOA may want to have a policy in place for future use. After discussion of the proposal Councilor Colburn made a motion that the Council accept the idea of a spare official at championship games with the understanding that the details of the responsibilities still need to be worked out. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dickson. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Murphy said that he had offered to get information on pricing for a full page ad in the Shrine Bowl Game Program. The cost for a full page black and white ad is \$600. The cost for a full page color ad is \$1,000. Murphy believes that we should be getting the NHFOA name out there for recognition as well as supporting the Shrine Children's Hospital. President Driscoll said that he would check with membership to see who could make up a good camera ready ad for the program. President Driscoll made a motion that the Council approve the expenditure of \$600 for a black and white ad in the Shrine Bowl Game program in the memory of recently departed members and their families. The motion was seconded by Chairman Murphy. The vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Commissioner Clark reviewed the John Manni request for reinstatement. John has just recently returned to New Hampshire and is requesting reinstatement as a member of NHFOA. Clark made a motion to reinstate John Manni subject to all the requirements of the Constitution and Bylaws. The motion was seconded by Councilor Trask. Unanimous vote in favor. Motion passed.

Under New Business Councilor Jousset asked for clarification of how the pink whistles for breast cancer awareness came about and when we should be wearing them. It was explained the

membership was asked to wear at a certain time in October and to make a donation as well at that time. It was recommended that NHFOA come up suggested donation policy and then push that policy. Councilor Dickson will put a policy together for the Council to review.

The date of the next meeting will be June 23, 2011 at 5:30 PM at 34 Gordon Ave, Newmarket Housing Authority, Newmarket, NH.

There being no further business, Councilor Vogler made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Jousset. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

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After the conclusion of the meeting subsequent action took place on the following items:

- 1) An email was sent to the Council by Commissioner Clark requesting a vote on reserving a room at the Puritan Backroom in Manchester NH on June 8 for the purpose of holding an informational session and luncheon with Athletic Directors and an evening session with buffet dinner for the membership. With email responses received from Councilors Murphy, Trask, Dickson, Vogler, Driscoll, Colburn, Begley, & Page a majority was declared and the motion was considered approved and the expense of approximately \$1700 was authorized. (Commissioner Clark did not participate in the vote).
- 2) An email was sent to the Council by Commissioner Clark requesting a vote to authorize \$250 for video-recording of the Athletic Directors informational session on June 8 to send to all athletic directors who were unable to attend in person the seminar presented on their behalf. With email responses in the affirmative received from Hall, Dickson, Driscoll, Colburn, Murphy & Trask, the amount was authorized for video recording purposes by a majority. (Commissioner Clark did not participate in the vote).

\*Commissioner Clark did not vote on any fiscal issues before the Council, has not since assuming the commissioner's post in December and will not moving forward.

I believe that the NHFOA should present a plan to the NHIAA to have in place a sixth official as a spare in all Championship Games. The purpose of this official would be to cover for an injured official and allow the game to continue with five officials working it. If the NHIAA wanted to adopt this at some point we would already have a plan in place to do so and the mechanics for doing it from our end. I would recommend that the plan/proposal be presented as an option for the NHIAA to consider. This is not something that the NHFOA should be trying to sell. We do not under any circumstances want the message to be that we are eventually looking to add to crew sizes, we just want them to know that we are ready if they think it is a good idea. My guess is that if we are ever in the situation that we have to finish a Championship Game with less than five officials and there is an issue with a call or non-call that this will become an NHIAA practice the following season. I propose that we be ready prior to the need and hope that the NHIAA would see the wisdom in this and choose to adopt it.

Why should we propose this? I think we should because of what we know from being on the field. The game is much easier and better to officiate with five people. Can you imagine all those games with spread offenses and good athletes on both sides of the ball without the benefit of the extra coverage down field? Notice how much easier scrimmage kicks are to cover with five officials? Also you could make a case for the fact that the fifth man has allowed some officials to extend their careers and it has created more slots for younger officials to get varsity experience. With this benefit also lies a major problem if you are working in a Championship Game and a member of the crew gets injured. Veteran officials who have experience working in a four-man crew may not cover the ground they once did and many less seasoned officials have probably never worked a four-man varsity game. This creates a challenge for the crew and again, could create a situation where there is an issue with a call and the coverage of the field could be questioned. For days and weeks after the game. So why not be proactive?

What we present to the NHIAA would be pretty simple in my mind. The NHFOA would be prepared to assign a sixth member to each Championship Game crew. The official assigned would be someone who has not already been assigned to work a final that season but is a play-off official. He would be assigned based on the potential needs of the crews. Every crew has some flexibility in it, a guy who could move to Umpire and a guy who could step in as Referee for example. But you may have a crew with limited flexibility so you may want to assign a specialist to that crew. Or you may have a pretty balanced crew that would just need an extra official that could fill in at whatever position. The NHFOA Assignor would be the best judge of the needs of the crews and make the recommendation considering all these factors. The Auxiliary Official would be paid for his services by the NHIAA. It would be great if the official got a full game fee but I would think the fee should be more along the lines of the "off-field" officials like chain crew or clock operator. If the official got in the game then the crew could figure out if they wanted to do something among themselves, I am thinking that for some of the likely candidates the opportunity will be more important than the money.

What would the Auxiliary Officials role be on game day? This can be developed a little further and each crew and site may want to do some things differently. I think that this official would meet up with the crew for breakfast and the pre-game conference and be in full uniform with a jacket on and when the crew takes the field and inspect the playing surface, meet the ball boys, chain crew and timer so he or

she can be ready to work with these people if necessary. Once the game begins the Auxiliary Official would maintain a position on the sideline (probably home) where the game can be observed but where he can avoid contact with coaches and players so as not to be questioned about what is going on or for a rule clarification or anything like that. The official should maintain a game card and record time-outs and try to record penalties on it. He should also keep an eye on the clock and perhaps record the time when the clock stops in case a reference is needed later at some point. And just watch the game and stay ready. At half-time this official would join the crew and discuss things for the second half and again stay ready just in case. If there are issues with ball boys, chain crew or clock the Auxiliary Official could get involved to help if directed to do so by the Referee.

Hopefully we would never need to bring the Auxiliary Official into a game but it would be nice to have a trained professional ready to join a crew in the event that something did happen to one of the crew members. It would ensure that we are providing the best coverage of the field for an entire game in the event of an injury to a member of the crew and eliminate a potential issue.

#### NHFOA Curriculum Committee Report, presented by Councilor Vogler

The members of the curriculum committee are Bob Holmes, Ron Sevigny, Dick Tracy, and Neal Vogler.

The curriculum committee is presenting for your review and acceptance a program for the 2011 season. This program consists of changes to the presentation and schedule of the local meetings.

The presentations for each local meeting will mimic a popular game show such as Jeopardy and Who Wants To Be a Millionaire. Free software will be used to facilitate the competition. Local coordinators will be briefed on the presentations. See the attached copy of a previous presentation. 25 minutes will be allocated for the presentation/competition portion of the meeting.

Videos will be used as in previous years. More videos and increasing the amount of time allotted for video review and discussion. 25 minutes will be allotted for videos.

Case plays will also be used again this season. This season case plays will be generated directly from the case plays specific rules book. The committee will use case plays that target the rules point of emphasis identified by the rules interpreter (Steve has already supplied the POE to the committee). 15 minutes will be allotted for case plays.

Commissioner's Correspondence will be the first ten minutes of the local meeting.

See attached spreadsheet with tab labeled **Weekly Meeting Format**.

The committee recommends the reduction of two local meetings. This would reduce the number of locals from seven to five. The suggested meetings to be removed from the schedule are September 13/14 and October 18/19. The rationale for the meeting reduction is to give members relief from the long time consuming season. Additionally, meetings late in the season historically are lacking attendance. A member would be allowed to miss one local meeting prior to the state meeting in

October. See attached spreadsheet with tabs labeled **Current Meeting Schedule and Proposed Meeting Schedule**

A final recommendation of giving credit for meeting attendance when an official is working an NHFOA scheduled football game on a scheduled local meeting date. A member would be required to work a game on Tuesday/Wednesday or attend a meeting on Tuesday/Wednesday, but not both.

|                                | <b>Very Satisfied</b> | <b>Somewhat Satisfied</b> | <b>Neutral</b> | <b>Somewhat Dissatisfied</b> | <b>Very Dissatisfied</b> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Overall</b>                 | 44                    | 15                        | 3              | 2                            | 0                        |
| <b>Length of Meetings</b>      | 39                    | 18                        | 2              | 5                            | 0                        |
| <b>Rules Presentations</b>     | 17                    | 25                        | 10             | 2                            | 8                        |
| <b>Mechanics Presentations</b> | 18                    | 41                        | 0              | 6                            | 0                        |
| <b>Videos</b>                  | 59                    | 4                         | 0              | 0                            | 0                        |

**Like Best**

- Videos (52)
- Mechanics Presentation with NFL Refs
- On Field Mechanics Class
- Interaction with experienced officials
- Sharing experiences
- Dicussion of weird plays
- Case plays
- Respect for opinons and perspectives

**Like Least**

- Too much talking during meeting
- Ratings Discussions
- Number of weekly meetings should be reduced
- Too many people speaking at once- Good information can be missed
- Too much in classroom not field
- Reviewing paper play discussions as opposed to real life weekly plays
- Folks taking over the meeting/crosstalking
- All the "What If" opinion questions

**Change**

- Additional time on video
- Discussion of weekly calls and interesting situations with expectations of how they should be handled
- All tests would be gone over after the tests are corrected
- More time on rules coverage and case book. Less on mechanics
- Would prefer fewer meetings.
- A mix of newer and seasoned officials to make presentations

Have weekly meetings every other week. Have meeting on field once in a while.

Focus on positions and more mechanics to support rule enforcement (how does an umpire best see a hold; how does a wing best see pass interference)

Presentations should reflect on field experiences