



Web Site: www.nhsua.org

Executive Board Meeting June 23, 2024

X -Bob Thomas
X - Beth Vacek
X - John Simon
Len Lavin

X - Billy Makarawicz
X - Kristen Taylor
X - Adam Reitsma

X - Peter Perich
X - Terry Galley-Quinn
X - Al Douglas

X - Norm Lafrenier
X - Rachel Minz
Jim Charland

Meeting began 9:00am

Annual Meeting Minutes were made available and reviewed. Discussions were as follows:

1. Discussion was started with regards to “not passing” the test. A grade of 85% seems to be a bit high due to the total number of questions on the test. The definition of having an 85% for a passing grade was determined by the Executive Board, not NHIAA. Further discussions were tabled since in order to change the classification for a passing test grade, the constitution would need to be revised. This will be discussed further as new business in the next executive board meeting.

No further changes were made to the minutes and a motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded.

Supervisor of Umpires report presented by Peter Perich

1. 73 umpires were used for the playoffs this year.
2. There were 153 playoff assignments this year compared.
3. I assigned every AA, A, and B rated umpire that went to the 3-person clinic at least one game.
4. Some AA umpires received three assignments this year.
5. There were not as many game changes because of graduations and senior things this year, but umpires still must not forget to check the arbiter the day of the game to make sure they report at the correct time.
6. We had almost 60 umpires attend the 3-person clinic this year at the two locations made available.
7. Problems during the season
 - a. We had one JV player who was ejected for malicious contact.
 - b. There was also one assistant coach asked to leave the field before he was ejected.
 - c. There were many JV or Middle School games with only one umpire. There were a couple of games in the northern section of our state with only one umpire.
8. From NHIAA Softball committee meeting
 - a. The double first base concern that you have the interpretation of now. From Jeff Collins and NFHS—“I heard back from the NFHS regarding the question posed about the safety base. The interpretation that I received is that once a runner advances to and occupies first base, the entirety of the base is legal to stand upon. In plain language, once occupied, if there is a safety base at first, it is considered “one big base.”
 - b. There is a concern of AAU helmets with logos not covered being worn. It was felt that this is a rule that officials need to address, and report to me. In turn I will advise the NHIAA office, and they can reach out to the schools.
 - c. All 4 divisions will return to Plymouth and continue to discuss SNHU for 2025-26.
 - d. Umpires need to enforce players coming out of the dugout during play, even to recognize a run. This happened with Oyster River all game, as we briefly discussed. I think if they would have been reminded early on, it would not have continued.
9. Proposed Rules Changes for 2025 season
 - a. Pitcher’s lane will be marked
 - b. Allowing the coach and catcher to use one-way electronic devices to communicate pitches.
 - c. Player to player conferences will only be allowed once per inning.
 - d. While in contact with the pitcher’s plate, a sign will take a minimum of 2 seconds.

- e. Warm-up pitches taken at the beginning of each inning will take a maximum of 90 seconds.
- f. Redefined legal slide
- g. Other editorial changes

(These are all proposed changes that need to be voted on by the NFHS Softball Committee. There are others that I did not list.)

President's Report – Bob Thomas

Nothing new was presented but discussions were had with regards to emphasizing illegal pitch calling and also having coaches understand various points of emphasis.

* Motion accepted for both Peter and Bob's report

Secretary/Treasurer Report – Beth Vacek

Current Bank Balance	\$8852.03	(Estimated pending deposits)
Current Estimate Expense	\$3883.30	
Includes stipends		
Protest committee		
Current expenses already paid in 2024		
Total count of members		
Active	159	
Inactive	7	
Board	13	
Member dues received	68	includes both active and inactive dues received

Currently missing records for 2 members for the 2024 season. Requested copies of proof of paid dues for 2024 and awaiting receipt of dues for 2025.

What if any "late fee" should be assessed to members who do not pay by 6/30 as outlined in the constitution? Is this something which needs to be included in an email to be sent to those members who have not yet paid by 6/30? Submission necessary for IRS to obtain classification of 501©3 designation. NHSUA based upon documentation received from IRS, we have never been classified as 501©3 organization. Submission will be online at a cost of \$275.

Current bank fees charged by Bank of America is \$16 per month. Upon receipt of classification of non-profit we can then transfer bank account to Citizen's bank which does not charge bank fees to non-profit organizations. This would result in annual savings of \$192.

I would like to see a breakdown of the varying costs for Arbiter and propose that we update the constitution with regards to inactive members. If a member is inactive for 2 years, we should no longer keep an entry within Arbiter to help reduce overhead costs. Arbiter charges by the "bucket" of users. By not keeping inactive users in Arbiter we could potentially reduce overhead costs. Unsure of value since I do not have a breakdown of the "bucket" costs for members. Do we have an approximate cost of manual expenses for next year? I want to try to establish a budget for the upcoming season to help the board understand where our monies are being spent.

We also need to update the constitution to include those monies which are being spent based upon a "budgeted" amount. Currently we budget for evaluations at \$4000 per year. We need to have this documented in the constitution as well as any other "definitive budget" amounts (i.e. facilities, etc.)

Need to know who/where to send the check for the use of the Campbell High School "donation" for the 3-man clinic.

Propose also an understanding that all bills acquired be paid prior to any of the stipends being paid. These bills should include the evaluator costs, as these should be considered vendors as they are providing a service to our members. Upon completion of the payment of vendor invoices we then will pay out the stipends to the parties accordingly.

Finally, after receiving our 501©3 status we will need to start issuing the appropriate tax documents to the members who are earning over \$599 from our organization.

* Motion accepted and approved for report

Rules Interpreter – Al Douglas

- Had 2 zoom meetings for members unable to attend the annual meeting to discuss rules interpretations and new rules for 2024. Attendance list sent to Peter
- Conducted coaches meeting via zoom, reviewed rules and answered questions. Not much participation
- Had 2 three-man clinics
 - Plymouth
 - Starting positions
 - Delayed dead ball
 - Pre-pitch position; dropped third strike; interference
 - Campbell
 - Had several scenarios with regards to different plays
 - Weather issues impacted being able to have additional breakdown
- With the three stations it would be ideal to have 2 instructors at the different stations to have one watching the field and the other providing further instructions on what is happening in the plays
- Did have some rules calls during the season but not many
- 86 responses for the online 3 man test questions

* Motion accepted and approved for report

Assigning Chair – Bill Makarawicz

- 726 V games played; 219 JV games played; 142 MS games played most single umpire
- 22 scrimmages from original 100
- Total 1109 games played and barely had the number of officials to cover them all
- 177 officials listed on Arbiter – had it scheduled for 185
- 7 inactive; 3 not ready to assign
- 24 did not work any games
- 34 had twenty or more games
- 53 AA; 37 A; 35 B; 26 C; 17 ?Newbies; 4 MS games only
- 57 people already registered with NHIAA – game schedules are already starting to arrive

Still an open discussion with regards to the region 2 assignor after Hank's departure. John is willing to assist with further assigning in this region. Bob and Billy will meet separately to discuss further.

* Motion accepted and approved for report

Regional Assignors

Peter – (4)

Norm – (6)

John – (1)

Terry – (3)

Billy – (5)

Region 2 – Lenny – backfilling until vacancy is filled

* Motion accepted and approved for report

Apprentice Chair – Kristen Taylor

- 12 new umpires to board – new and transfers – 1 may not return this year
- Used Granite State Games to evaluate some of the umpires this year – many are showing steady progress
- Try to incorporate those expressing interest in a USA training class prior to next years apprentice training
- 1st meeting in person session first, then others can be virtual
- We do not have enough time to do a good in person mechanics class prior to season start
- Need new umpire manuals as we did not have enough to cover all new umpires; would like to make sure we have enough extras

* Motion accepted and approved for report

Evaluation Chair – Jim Charland

Will review all evaluation results at the next meeting

Website Coordinator – Adam Reitsma

Fox & Sullivan – contact them to send billing to new address

Hosting fee – annual

Set up general email addresses for all executive board members – Gmail

* Motion accepted and approved for report

Old Business

None discussed

New Business

- Send any changes for constitutional changes to Bob, Kristen and Beth
- Set up a Teams meeting for all assignors
- Hank does not want to be recognized for years of service
- Jim Charland has expressed interest in assigning if needed
- Request made to Billy to give Beth the same permissions in Arbiter as other assignors

11:30 Motion to adjourn and approved