Nov 3, 2026

AOS Meeting

Summary

Meeting covered administrative updates with basketball shot clock regulations and flag football growth via expert insights.

Association Updates and Logistics
Attendance was verified with scheduling concerns addressed. Officials must achieve full compliance before working games.

Guest Speaker Insights
Playoff assignments emphasize geographic representation. Mentorship remains crucial for officiating development.

Shot Clock Enforcement
Improperly installed shot clocks prevent games from starting. Recessed mounting is strictly required.

Details

Pre-Meeting Logistics and Attendance Verification: Ken Pink and Dave Lopshire managed pre-meeting preparations and welcomed participants (00:01:59). Participants were instructed to navigate to the chat box on the bottom right of the Google Meet interface to type in their first and last names along with their IHSA numbers for attendance tracking (00:07:50). Dave Lopshire also initiated the meeting recording upon request (00:04:24).

Rule Test Issues and Compliance Deadlines: Vito Spadavecchio and Dave Lopshire raised concerns regarding errors and ambiguous wording in three test questions concerning replacement periods and blood cleanup times (00:12:49) (00:14:45). Dave Lopshire and Ken Pink clarified that while the website deadline lists December 1st, officials must be 100% compliant—including completing hate speech and concussion training, watching the rules

video, and passing the exam with a score of at least 80—**before taking the floor for any game or scrimmage** (00:25:22).

CSL Coaches Fee Structure Discussion: Jeff Schwarz reported on a meeting held at 6:00 with CSL boys varsity coaches to outline dilemmas regarding fee structures, noting that two coaches committed to speaking with their athletic directors to support the fee structure (00:20:50).

Association Announcements and Upcoming Schedule: Ken Pink formally convened the meeting and reviewed positive feedback from the recent coaches panel held on Monday (00:22:32). Ken Pink outlined the agenda for the following week, which includes reviewing all 74 test questions and hearing a presentation from Paul Schoessling (00:24:23) (00:29:11). Dave Lopshire provided updates on clinic credit requirements (requiring one clinic every three years, with missing credits addressable via email to the IHSA) and announced the upcoming IACO basketball clinic focusing on the shot clock at Wheaton North on Saturday (00:27:21).

Introduction of Guest Speaker Chris Schwarz: Ken Pink introduced Chris Schwarz, the IHSA assistant executive director for boys basketball, girls flag football, bass fishing, and esports (00:29:11). Chris Schwarz discussed the foundational importance of relationships and mentorship in officiating, acknowledging the high stakes and deep meaning of state playoff assignments for officials. Ken Pink expressed strong appreciation for Chris Schwarz recognizing the emotional and professional weight of playoff assignments (00:30:59) (00:36:57).

Bass Fishing Officiating and Rule Enforcement: Responding to a question from Ken Pink about bass fishing disputes, Chris Schwarz shared an anecdote about disqualifying a coach and team at a sectional tournament for refusing to wear life vests and removing their shirts in the heat, emphasizing that terms and conditions must be strictly enforced (00:37:54).

Shot Clock Implementation in State Playoffs: Addressing questions regarding the shot clock, Chris Schwarz explained that for regional and sectional rounds of the state series, host schools will be responsible for providing the shot clock operator, functioning similarly to standard table workers (00:40:39). Jeff Schwarz supported this, noting that schools can utilize experienced personnel or retired officials (00:41:42).

Shot Clock Malfunctions and Game Start Protocols: Ken Pink and Jeff Schwarz questioned the policy requiring games to be postponed if a shot clock is not operating at game time (00:42:43) (00:45:39). Chris Schwarz explained that while short troubleshooting delays (such as 10 to 25 minutes) can be utilized if a fix is expected that evening, games must officially start with two functioning shot clocks (00:42:43) (00:46:48). Jeff Schwarz noted challenges when clocks break mid-game, and Chris Schwarz acknowledged the feedback for future committee review (00:45:39).

Evaluation Data Points and Coach Ratings: Chris Schwarz discussed various evaluation metrics, stating that top 15 lists are the data point they utilize the least (00:46:48). Instead, Chris Schwarz looks for consistency and patterns in coach ratings, reliable word-of-mouth feedback, and direct observations (00:47:47).

Remote Evaluation and Officiating Intangibles: Chris Schwarz outlined methods for evaluating officials across the state using NFHS Network streams, YouTube broadcasts, and in-person visits (00:51:46) (00:53:53). Chris Schwarz emphasized the "three Bs" (be a leader, be confident, and be intentional) and noted that confidence and positive body language are vital indicators of an official's capability (00:52:57).

Official Self-Advocacy and State Communication: Chris Schwarz stated that they welcome respectful, tactful emails from officials advocating for their advancement, though responses may be delayed during peak operational seasons (00:54:41) (00:59:48). Dave Lopshire and Ken Pink expressed surprise and appreciation for this transparent communication policy, contrasting it with prior administrative practices (00:58:54).

Email Communication and Girls Flag Football Sideline Access: Ken Pink advised participants to choose their email words carefully to prevent miscommunication (01:00:40). When Ken Pink asked about increasing players on the field for girls flag football from seven, Christopher Schwarz stated that they had not heard of that specific request, but they anticipated that terms and conditions would change to allow any uniformed player on the sidelines like tackle football following pushback from larger schools at the state finals (01:01:32).

Boys Flag Football Status and Girls Flag Football Class Split Growth: Ken Pink inquired about boys flag football becoming a high school sport, and Christopher Schwarz responded that they were unaware of any traction or emerging status (01:02:24). Dave Lopshire asked if girls flag football would split into two classes, and Christopher Schwarz explained that 300 is the required number in bylaws before the board considers it, though tennis split without hitting the threshold, and they anticipated a split happening within three to five years (01:03:18). Christopher Schwarz added that participation started around 230 teams for the state series and projected 245 to 250 teams for the next season, highlighting growth outside Chicago in areas like Bloomington Normal, Normal Community, St. Charles North, Edwardsville, Peoria, and Champaign Central (01:04:24).

Flag Football Playoff Assignments and Crew Structures: Ken Pink asked about flag football playoff position assignments, and Christopher Schwarz explained that sectional assignments utilize ratings and past positions, with the goal for regional assignments to be sent out directly by the office using Arbiter to avoid confusion (01:06:20). Dave Lopshire asked if assignments would move to crews, and Christopher Schwarz replied that while crew assignments work well in tackle football, the flag football state series setup where everyone makes the playoffs presents a challenge, though they planned to bring feedback regarding four-person crews to the advisory committee in December (01:09:15).

Flag Football State Finals Venue and Season Expansion: Ken Pink asked if Willowbrook was hosting the state finals for the last year, and Christopher Schwarz confirmed it is the final year of a three-year stint, with schools and universities currently able to submit bids through a competitive process (01:10:10). Christopher Schwarz noted that the advisory committee will likely recommend expanding the season and moving the state finals back one or two weeks (01:11:11).

Flag Football Field Size Adoption: Dave Lopshire asked about adopting a smaller 80-yard field used in other states and upcoming Olympics, and Christopher Schwarz stated that National Federation of State High School Associations provides approved field options, but any change is up to the flag football advisory committee through terms and conditions adoption (01:12:12).

Official Power Points Calculation and Special Reports Process: Ken Pink inquired about the future of official power points calculation, and Christopher Schwarz noted that data points

remain accessible while the calculation is on hiatus during data transfer to Arbiter (01:12:56). Ken Pink asked about special reports for coach ejections, and Christopher Schwarz outlined that reports are reviewed and forwarded to the school's IHSA representative and athletic director, such as Todd Thompson at Moline High School, prompting the school to report corrective measures and ensure the ejected individual sits out the next contest (01:15:11).

Basketball State Final Tournament Format: Ken Pink discussed the girls and boys basketball state final tournament format change to a single weekend, and Christopher Schwarz noted that while opinions vary compared to past multi-weekend and banquet formats, the single-weekend schedule provides consistency and is here to stay despite long days (01:17:18).

Arbiter Upgrade Glitch and Shot Clock Installation Requirements: dennis marach asked about a turn-back assignment button appearing on Arbiter accounts, and Dave Lopshire explained it was a programming glitch from a weekend Arbiter upgrade that applied default settings, which they quickly turned off and reset (01:21:53). Christopher Schwarz reported an issue where some schools installed shot clocks flush with the backboard or protruding into the field of play, emphasizing that they must be recessed, and requested that officials notify them and Beth if violations are found (01:23:50).

Shot Clock Enforcement, Waivers, and Scrimmage Guidelines: Officials Institute asked if games should be called off if shot clocks are not fixed, and Christopher Schwarz confirmed that improper installation means contests cannot be played, noting that no waivers will be issued for incorrect shot clocks (01:25:35). Vito Spadavecchio asked about mounting guidelines, and Christopher Schwarz reiterated that flush shot clocks mean the gym is improperly installed and contests cannot be played there, except in auxiliary gyms for holiday shootouts (01:27:36).

Basketball Playoff Assignments and Gender Separation in Arbiter: Vito Spadavecchio asked how playoff assignments will differentiate between boys and girls basketball now that prior prompt checkboxes are missing in Arbiter, and Christopher Schwarz acknowledged it is a challenge due to the Arbiter transition, but stated that administrators rely on personal notes, school center ratings, and direct communication between them and Beth to manage assignments (01:28:42).

Basketball State Final Official Geographic Representation and Timeline: Jeff Schwarz asked why state final official assignments do not strictly reflect the percentage of schools and officials located north of Interstate 80, and Christopher Schwarz responded that assignments follow geographic representation principles to mirror participating teams from across the state (01:31:57). John Glaser asked about the timeline for building playoff assignments around Christmas, and Christopher Schwarz clarified that drafting begins around spring and evolves continuously throughout the season (01:34:47).

Shot Clock Rules for Underclass Games and Gymnasium Mounts: Ken Pink asked about underclass junior varsity and sophomore games regarding shot clocks, and Christopher Schwarz stated that lower-level games not requiring shot clocks can be played, provided there is no physical obstruction (01:38:05). Vito Spadavecchio inquired about back wall mounting, and Christopher Schwarz clarified that back wall mounting is only permitted in auxiliary gyms for events like holiday shootouts, whereas primary gyms require recessed brackets (01:39:09).

Meeting Conclusion and Practice Exam Location: Ken Pink thanked Christopher Schwarz on behalf of the AOS organization for attending and sharing updates (01:41:13). Following the general meeting, Robert Smearman asked where to find the practice exam questions, and Dave Lopshire instructed them that practice questions are available on the AOS website under the basketball knowledge base or inside the IHSA official center exam section (01:42:55).