

Lesson's Learned from B@A 2022

2/3/2022

Attendees:

Don, John K – Directors
 Eric, Tyera, Phil, Katrina, Tristan, Chris Debrunner – Tournament Organizers
 Kurt – UWH Committee Rep

What went well:

- Tournament was smoothly run. Colorado's experience in operating tournament shows.
- Referee schedule came out almost 1 week prior to the tournament.
- Fast response on cost reimbursements and payments.
- Pool was setup and ready to go prior to tournament start: volunteer board, sound systems, etc
- Court was marked well (sport court installed).
- Deck staff knew what they were doing.
- Paul Byrne handled contested issue well.

Problem/Solution Log:

	Problem Identified	Potential Solutions
Tournament Discussion		
1	<p>Operations. Improvements on following proper deck procedures are needed. In some cases, proper deck procedures were not known. Other cases, it was not consistent. Some examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blowing whistle at correct time. • Releasing penalized players. • Instructions on using timing system – for all refs too. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UWH should accelerate the Deck Staff training module. Resources are limited as we are trying to work on improving the quality of water refereeing. • John Kulsa to set up a meeting with Chris Debrunner to review details.
2	<p>Game Turnover. Some volunteer & hybrid referees were not fast enough getting ready to referee their next game.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fortunately, the Tournament Organizers left breaks in the schedule to get games caught up.
3	<p>Scheduling. Although smooth operation, there were minor errors that went unchecked.</p> <p>Also requested was a better way to sign up volunteers for refereeing. The board works, but the deck staff have to walk over and check it before assessing penalties.</p> <p>Referee bias can happen if a referee is scheduled to referee a team that he or she typically practices with.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend a review team to review schedule and operations plan. • Eric is interested in incorporating an electronic sign up that will directly feed into the game system.

4	<p>Foreign Teams. Team More Sport played in the tournament and was not accustomed to the way we operate in the US.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a different concept of the obstruction foul than what is determined in the rulebook. • Confrontational with referees and opposing teams. • Did not understand the volunteer referee sign up procedure, which caused them many time penalties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have explanation of referee program
5	<p>USOA Membership. The trouble with being the first tournament in the new year is that not everyone has renewed their USOA dues. The TO's had to check USOA registrations manually against the tournament registrations, and then get people to get registered with USOA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a foreign registration • Kurt has created an API to check USOA registrations.
6	<p>Foreign Team registration. It is not easy for foreign teams to register.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested creating waivers, a one tournament license, or a full registration.
Referee Discussion		
7	<p>The quality of the dedicated referees were not at expected levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referee training is in its infancy in the US. The groundwork has been laid out, and we are just beginning the journey.
8	<p>The volunteer referees were not experienced enough.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We plan to have improvements on this by US Nationals, June 2022, as we roll out as many Player Referee classes as we can.
9	<p>Scheduling a B game before an A game often results in low quality volunteer referees for the A game. It's not a pleasant experience for the players or the referees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TO knew about this and scheduled as few A-B-A-B sequence games as possible. To eliminate it, would have taken more pool time on Sunday. • As we educate the UWH membership with Player Referee training, we also hope this will be less of a problem.
10	<p>Referee drop-out was high:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Dedicated Referee canceled before the tournament. • One Dedicated Referee was confined to deck duty on Saturday because of altitude sickness. • One dedicated referee was absent on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last minute drop-outs are still pretty rare – maybe as high as 1 every two tournaments. The reasons vary, but COVID has had a bigger factor more recently. • Altitude sickness does affect some people who come to Denver. We need to cover that in our “Referee Hazards” part of our training.

	<p>Sunday because of altitude sickness.</p> <p>Kudos to the TO's for being able to accommodate the unexpected events!</p>	
11	<p>Log of known cases of referee disrespect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Hybrid Referee was accused of being biased after a game and the players would not drop the issue. • A Team More Sport player swore at one Dedicated Referee after the game. • A Hybrid Referee was hotly contested for not calling a foul for a goal that was gloved in. This was also after the game. <p>Disrespect for referees during a game was markedly reduced; however, there is no recourse for disrespect for referees after a game.</p>	
The Contested Game		
12	<p>The issue: At the end of a half time, a goal was allegedly scored after the time ran out. The buzzer to end the half was buzzed after the goal was made. The Chief Referee did not allow the point. A protest was filed by the team that made the goal. Following the Standard Competitive Rules, the Tournament Referee followed the process. Since the Competitions Director for UWH, as well as the Tournament Director were interested parties, the Competitions Director selected a neutral jury to make a decision.</p>	
13	<p>Concerns about the process: No direction in the SCR of what to do after a decision has been made or what to do if the Competitions Director is absent from the tournament. Where to file the paperwork? Who gets notified? What guidelines does the Competitions Director have for leading an investigation?</p>	<p>UWH Committee to revise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should have the list of jurors on the form. • Need to specify what happens when it can't work as SCR dictates. Have a catchall too – if this doesn't work as planned, then do this... • Define what constitutes a conflict of interest (and interested party)