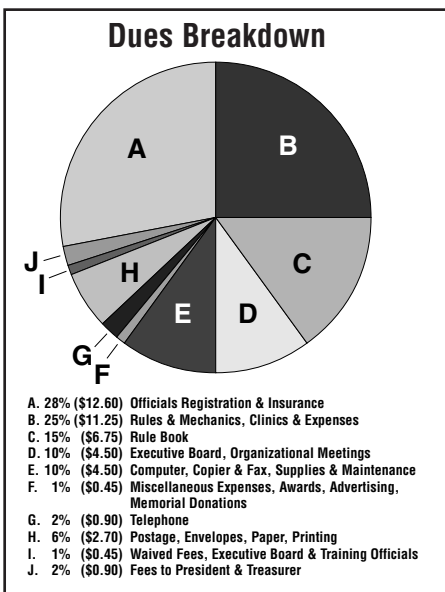


Where Does Your Money Go?

By Jay Miner



The coordinators of *NewsNet* asked me to write this article about association dues. Me, I thought, writing an article on financial matters? I mean a guy who is pretty good at making money but poor at keeping it, writing about association dues and how an average organization disperses its funds?

I guess I've managed my personal funds poorly because, other than the IRS, I'm not accountable to anyone. Well, that's not so regarding an association's funds. The officers of an association, particularly the treasurer, are accountable to their members concerning where their money goes.

We've all heard passionate discussions regarding money at association meetings. Usually those

discussions are on one of two topics: (1) We don't have enough money to cover expenses and how do we resolve this problem? Or (2), We have too much money in our treasury so what should we do about our surplus? And yes, occasionally that awful deliberation on the subject of missing funds occurs.

Of course, my expertise is on rules, mechanics, techniques and game management. But since I have to request funding for my training programs I've become enlightened about the overall expenses of an association.

Considering such factors as location, type of sport officiated, number of members and the economic climate,

(see *Money* page 2)

Auxiliary Functions: Can Officials Cry Foul?

By Donald C. Collins

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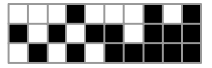
Teams and leagues play a vital auxiliary role in the officiating process by: (1) preparing and marking the playing area and setting up game equipment; (2) providing personnel to do measuring, timing and scoring functions; and (3) providing host and security functions.

Most teams and leagues do an excellent job with those auxiliary functions. Unfortunately, some teams and leagues do a poor job. Often the quality of the job appears to correlate with: the degree of parent, faculty,

community and student support; the amount of resources the school, league or municipality's athletic department has; the management skills of athletic department, league or municipal recreation administrators; and the amount of time those administrators can devote to preparing for auxiliary functions.

Officials associations often are hesitant to advise teams and leagues on those auxiliary functions. After all, it is difficult to advise a team, a league or

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Auxiliary Functions (Continued from page 1)

any third party on how to do its job without some mandate to do so. We've seen such a mandate on sportsmanship and batteries committed against sports officials.

Associations are being rather proactive in working with the teams and leagues they service to ensure proper provision of host and security services. Associations are taking steps to ensure that game administration either provides them with escorts to and from their change areas or takes other reasonable security steps. Associations also have stressed sportsmanship through numerous means, including holding meetings with coaches, athletic department administrators and even parent groups to emphasize the needs and expectations of officials and the requirements of creating a sportsmanlike atmosphere for an athletic contest.

Yet officials associations often do not feel the same mandate to step aggressively into the other two auxiliary functions controlled by teams and leagues. That is understandable. Most of the problems that occur from improper markings, poorly set up playing equipment and measuring, timing or scoring errors are not highly publicized. Often, they're not even publicized within an association.

Improper markings and poor set-ups. Economics, safety, convenience of repair, control of the playing facility and the obviousness of the error tend to be the factors officials balance in resolving a problem arising from an improperly marked playing area or an improperly set up implement. A volleyball net that's an inch too high is not usually going to be noticed. After all, it's not convenient for coaches and officials to carry measuring sticks to their games. However, if the net is four inches too high, the error is glaringly obvious and everyone is going to take the time and trouble to fix it.

The more troubling dilemmas arise when a set up error that is not obvious has the potential to cause a major safety

problem. The Olympic gymnastics competition is an example of that. The women's vault apparatus was set too high, but the problem was visually undetectable. The gymnasts dive into the apparatus and push off, relying heavily upon muscle memory calibrated through repetition. The error in setting up the apparatus caused gymnast after gymnast to take potentially injurious falls; a serious head or neck injury was not out of the question.

Game officials should be careful when altering the field of play. The basketball official who places a piece of tape at center court to compensate for an unmarked division line may regret the action when a player trips over the loose edge of the tape. Lawsuits — and the threat of lawsuits — are never an enjoyable experience.

Officials associations can play a vital role in advising teams and leagues. Associations receive advance notice of

rules changes affecting everything from legal uniform numbers, to legal equipment to lining the floor. Associations should inform the teams and leagues they service of those changes. Intercollegiate and interscholastic teams will get this information from their governing bodies too, but getting a supplemental notice from the officials doesn't hurt. In fact, it may help spur teams and leagues into action when they get the information from multiple sources.

Associations also should provide forms for their officials to report problems teams have in preparing and marking the playing area or setting up equipment. The reports can range from lack of needed lines to setting up equipment improperly. An association must emphasize that these reports be completed where a problem is spotted. Officials should have hard copies of

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LOAN Benefits Corner

LOAN Resource Library in Development

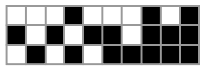
One of the great benefits of LOAN membership is the ability to network and share information with other associations. It's a give-and-take process that helps to strengthen each association. To encourage that sharing of information, LOAN is now compiling a resource library of documents used by LOAN-member associations.

Whether it's evaluation forms, ratings procedures, meeting formats and topics, scheduling, recruiting or mentoring plans, by-laws, codes of conduct, etc., LOAN will catalog your submissions and make them available to any LOAN groups requesting information.

To submit any of your association's forms to be included in the resource library, please mail them to: LOAN Resource Library, 2017 Lathrop Avenue, Racine, WI 53405 or e-mail your documents to jneeb@naso.org. To request sample documents, call 262/632-5448 or e-mail loan@naso.org.

What's On Your Mind?

We're always looking for ways to make *NewsNet* as timely and relevant as possible. One way we accomplish that is to get story ideas directly from you — LOAN-member associations. So, we're asking: What are the topics you'd like *NewsNet* to address? Any story ideas are welcome. Just e-mail your ideas to *NewsNet* editor Keith Zirbel at kzirbel@naso.org.



Auxiliary Functions (Continued from page 3)

those forms, and the forms should also be on the association's website (and if an association doesn't have a website, it should get one — www.pboa.org is a good example of an association website). Obviously, the association should forward information it receives from officials to league administrators and governing body administrators.

Scoring, measuring and timing problems. Officials often have to deal with problems resulting from an absence of personnel to perform functions such as keeping the clock, keeping the scorebook, working the chain crew or serving as ballboys. When teams provide personnel, often officials find the personnel are disinterested or untrained.

There is a tendency to ignore those types of problems. Most scoring, measuring and timing work requires diligence and attentiveness as opposed to expertise in either the game or the rules of play. An official often simply

grabs someone from the stands or gets an assistant coach to perform those functions and moves on from there. The problems are mere inconveniences for the most part, and officials sometimes tend to reduce them to war stories.

It is important for associations to have their officials report measuring, scoring and timing problems. It really isn't in the best interest of sports for us to have discrepancies between the home and visitors scorebooks or for a timer to apply college or NBA rules and stop the clock after a basket in the closing moments of a tight high school game. If an association receives a disproportionate number of error reports regarding a particular site or team, it can report the problem to the league or governing body.

An association can also be proactive and offer training to the people who will be doing these functions prior to the season. Sometimes an association may find that team and even league

personnel need to be trained on the most basic aspects of scorebook keeping and clock operations. Also, alarm bells may go off when a team that really needs its support personnel trained fails to send anyone for training. Further examination may reveal a lack of program support that forces the team to take steps such as having students in detention keeping score or having the coach's 10-year-old son regularly serve as a football ball boy or chain crew member.

Fulfilling a larger role in the sports community. Working with teams and leagues to assist and advise them on their auxiliary functions helps officials associations fulfill a larger role in the sports community. It also helps to ensure safety and reduce game site confusion and errors.

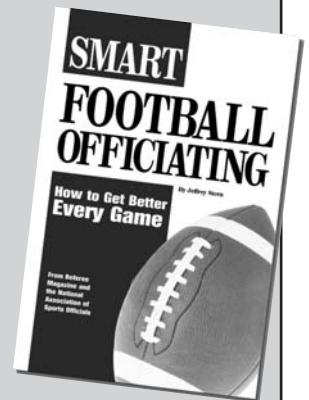
(Donald C. Collins is the executive director of the San Francisco Section of the California Interscholastic Federation. He is a longtime basketball official and lawyer.) ■

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