

situation would be handled with the number of officials your association typically uses. If your state or rule set has a different interpretation of a play shown, be sure to clarify any differences for your members. Finally, consider altering and discussing the play with different outcomes, without delving into the territory of becoming unrealistic with one-in-a-million situations.

Think about asking officials what they have learned. When watching a movie for the third or fourth time, one tends to pick up on details that he or she missed when the movie was first viewed. The same goes for the Summit sessions. Everyone thinks differently so encourage your group to share what it has learned.

Some of the best learning moments in officiating come from other officials.

Don't limit your group to sport-specific sessions. Officiating is an ever-evolving industry. Therefore, it's just as important to be immersed in the current culture of officiating as it is to stay current of rules, mechanics and philosophies. The 2020 virtual Summit covers a variety of topics on a general level. Encourage your members to have discussions on topics that might be difficult to talk about. For example, the session on Social Justice and Officiating can open the door on a conversation that is impacting many lives without diving into the politics of the situation. ■

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COVERAGE OF MEETINGS IN YOUR BYLAWS

By Donald C. Collins

Q What does our board do if we have to deal with something outside of our normal calendar? Right now, our bylaws don't cover that. How do we fix our bylaws to do this? Should we include a provision for ad hoc meetings in the bylaws? Are there notification requirements for the membership? Could there be state laws that mandate notification and within a certain timeframe?

A No matter how well you plan eventually something unexpected is going to happen. It can be a good thing — like getting a new client mid-year. It can also be a bad thing. You have to be ready to deal with it. You need a special meeting.

You may be able to have special board meetings even when you

don't think you can. Associations shouldn't give up on their bylaws or contracts. Many of our bylaws and contracts were written a long time ago. A close read may yield a pleasant surprise; you may be able to call that special meeting.

If your bylaws and contracts don't allow you to call a special board meeting, your structure might. If you're a corporation, take a look at your state's corporation code. It may have provisions

BYLAW BIT

Good bylaws match the organization's mission, goals for governance and operational needs.

THE PULSE

LOCAL ASSOCIATION NEWS NATIONWIDE

Officials Associations Team Up to Donate to Denver Boys & Girls Clubs

Two officials associations joined together to support the Denver community. The Denver Football Officials Association (DFOA) and the Colorado High School Baseball Umpires Association teamed up to donate \$1,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver in late August. The money came from proceeds of the golf tournament held by the groups.

DFOA area directors John Conklin, Jeff Penney and Joel Pogar presented the check to Trish Wales, event director for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver.

COVID-19 Task Force Supports Officials Associations in Louisiana

Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) assistant director Lee Sanders and the Louisiana High School Officials Association (LHSOA) set up a COVID-19 task force that has worked to address the concerns of officials returning to work during the pandemic.

LHSOA President Paul LaRosa and COVID-19 Committee Chair Marlon Harrison, president of the Baton Rouge Area Football Officials Association, began polling officials associations across the state in the summer to gauge concerns. LaRosa took the concerns to the LHSAA's sports medicine advisory to obtain protocols and get officials ready.

While numbers are down in the state, leaders made sure those working games are as prepared as possible.

NJFOA and NJFCA Issue Statement Supporting Peaceful Protests

The New Jersey Football Officials Association and the New Jersey Football Coaches Association released a joint statement supporting and recognizing the rights of high school football players, coaches and team personnel to "enact some form of peaceful protest during the national anthem prior to the start of football contests."

The "statement of solidarity" from the NJFCA and NJFOA is the result of months of dialogue between the organizations following the death of George Floyd, which fueled the Black Lives Matter social justice movement.

SOURCES: CHSAA NOW, THE ADVOCATE, BRIDGEWATER COURIER NEWS

regarding special meetings for corporations that didn't account for special meetings in their bylaws.

In fact, even if you don't think you have a problem, it's good to have an attorney do a check to make sure your bylaws don't conflict with the state's corporation code. Remember, states update their laws from time to time. If your bylaws are old and you haven't been paying attention, your bylaws could be out of date.

You don't have to hang your hat on a state's corporations code though. No matter how you're structured, your association probably does a number of things outside of board and member meetings. It's just a myth that all organizational rules come from the board or from some contract with an assigner. There are times when something comes up, and your committee structure can handle it. The committees aren't bound by your special meeting provisions. They've got a job to do and information to get out, and sometimes they're your association's best friend.

Also, not every special meeting addresses an emergency. Your board might be able to amend its calendar at a regular board meeting to add extra board meetings and extra member meetings. Of course, in this day and age we can always address whether a meeting is even necessary. Information that needed to be raised in a meeting 30 years ago now can get to everybody quickly in a host of electronic formats. The emergency mid-year memo of today might be disseminated by PowerPoint on a website. Thirty years ago, we'd have needed an emergency membership meeting and a bunch of in-person demos.

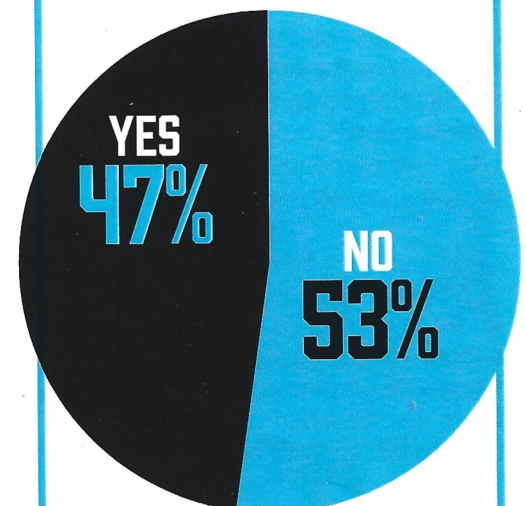
It's always best to get out in front of problems. You really don't want to scramble through

corporation codes or hope you haven't missed something in an old set of bylaws or contracts. So, associations and assigners should amend their bylaws and contracts to account for special board and member meetings. Just remember to be thorough and address who can call meetings, how much notice of the meeting needs to be given, when the agenda of the meeting needs to be set and distributed, whether you can use online forums and what parameters you need to have to use such forums. This is one of those structural problems you can solve before it gets too big.

Donald C. Collins is the commissioner of the San Francisco Section of the California Interscholastic Federation. He is a longtime basketball official and lawyer. This article is for informational purposes and is not legal advice. ■

SURVEY SAYS ...

DOES YOUR ASSOCIATION REVIEW GAME REPORTS FOR MEMBERS?



SOURCE: NASO CLICK POLL WITH 85 RESPONSES.