

**Suffolk Board of Volleyball Officials, Inc.
Ethics Committee 2009-2010**

The Ethics Committee met on December 28, 2009 for
our **END OF YEAR SUMMARY** report.

- **2 Year Review**
- **READ By-Laws and Code of Ethics**
- **Learn and Grow**

2009-2010 HIGHLIGHTS:

The Ethics Committee would like to request that the topics of “**Conflict of Interest [RE:Availability]**” ; “**Rules Interpretation policy(ies)**”; “**Section XI contact guidelines**”; and the “**Rules Interpreter appointment**” be discussed in SBVO executive board session. We felt that the information gathered in our investigations should be shared with the general membership at the appropriate mandatory meetings (March '09 or Fall '10). If these issues, even partially, caused the Ethics Issues listed, clarification and education for our general membership could prevent future violations

The following information summarizes the statements gathered in our investigations.

1. There have been some questions and concerns regarding an official's availability in volleyball assignments due to the **“conflict of interest”** clause.

The current Section XI contract states in Article IV- Assignments; B. Availability
8. *It is recommended that no official be assigned a game in which his/her school or school district is playing or where a **conflict of interest** exists as determined by Section XI **and the president of the official's organization.*****

Our own Code of Ethics also states in Principle IV- Professional Relationships;
Standard 4.1- Conflict of Interest: *Officials recognize that any circumstance leading to a **conflict of interest**, whether real or apparent, must be avoided.... Officials avoid anything that might compromise the perceived impartiality of officiating. And*
Standard 4.6-Dual Relationships: *Officials avoid dual relationships that can impair professional judgment, compromise the integrity of the profession, create the perception of officiating bias, or result in an unfair advantage for one competitor over another.... Officials do not knowingly accept assignments or contracts when they know that one or more participants could potentially evoke biased judgments or the **perception of biased judgments** because of a current or past relationship (for example, a family member....)*

Clarification was recently provided by Jack Sexton: Section XI Assistant Executive Director in a telephone conversation with the Ethics Committee chairperson. He states that “Besides the obvious listing of your home school district and/or the district you currently are employed in, if you have a family member that is in another school district (i.e. a child from a marital separation or divorce), you should consider listing that school district as well. If you have any questions regarding a potential **“conflict of interest”**, you should check with **the president of the official's organization**** and are welcome to call Section XI and ask for an individual clarification. It is the interest of Section XI to avoid situations whereby an individual (parent, coach or fellow official) can claim a biased situation occurred due to a conflict of interest.”

2. **Section XI** reminds its officials, that **“Requests for changes”** in your schedule will only be honored in an emergency situation or if a request by the SBVO

president supplies a valid reason for such a change request. Rejections in assignments are subject to penalty fees. *Officials are not to contact Section XI directly for changes in schedules for other reasons.*

3. Additionally, there have been some questions regarding getting a **RULES INTERPRETATION resolved. The following should be stressed and adhered to for future inquires.**

Clarification was recently provided from Van Swearington; N.Y.S.C.V.O.A. state Rules Interpreter. He states that the accepted protocol and past practice allows an individual official or coach to obtain a **RULES INTREPRETATION** by the following steps:

1. Present the information for the rule in question to the local rules interpreter in writing with a detailed description, if a quick telephone or e-mail answer does not sufficiently satisfy the inquiry. Await a written response.
2. If the response from the local rules interpreter still does not answer the inquiry, ask the local rules interpreter to forward the request to the state NYSCVOA rules interpreter for review. Await a written response.
3. If the response from the NYSCVOA state rules interpreter still does not answer the inquiry, ask the local rules interpreter to forward the request through the state rules interpreter, to the national rules interpreter for review. The national NCAA rules interpreter's response is final.

4. The question concerning the **SBVO Rules Interpreter** should be reviewed for the 2010-2011 season. We found that the position of SBVO Rules Interpreter in our By-laws is listed as an “additional” executive board member appointed by the president. Consideration should be given to “open” the position again in our March meeting.