

This past year has been one that has brought about many changes in our history and we are now face with making many more.

Just twelve months ago it was discovered that the insurance provided by the Boy Scouts, and school districts was exclusive to the student athletes and the coaches of the teams associated with their particular organization. The consequences were that that OISRA did not have insurance that indemnified actions of volunteers (race officials and race planners) at a ski race. By federal law, volunteers are not liable for the consequences of their actions when they are acting within their roles as volunteers, so the liability of their actions falls on the volunteer organization. Between April and September the board researched the insurance issue and only one Specialist Company was found that would provide the cover needed. The implementation of this policy was not without challenges as the board decided on a levy on all student athletes, and a sum to cover administrative expenses was added into it.

During the same period the president was required to follow up on an eligibility issue regarding students receiving cash that made them ineligible to participate in OISRA sanctioned events. This case went to the appeals division of the State Board of Education, and the final judgment was in favor of the actions of the board. This favorable judgment proved the validity of our adaptation for our specific purposes of the OSAA rule 8. A major benefit in using the OSAA criteria as our basis is that there are school principals and athletic directors that accept us because while we are a stand alone organization we have a commonality in addressing academic and amateurism for high school athletes in Oregon. While this was a Nordic issue its implications will possibly affect Alpine athletes who should happen to accept similar funding.

There was also an Alpine league issue that the president was involved in. As chair of the rules committee gave an opinion to a coach – the league representative - on eligibility for students that were facing sanctions for being MIP. This issue was drawn out at the league level involving eligibility protests, and much ill feeling was expressed. There was much confusion regarding the authority of athletic directors, over the interpretation of school district MIP regulations, especially where school AD's in the same district were putting different interpretations on the school district regulations, and this heaped confusion upon confusion for the jury members, and protesting coaches. It was discovered that our by-laws and race rules do not adequately cover how such eligibility should be ascertained. In hind sight it never should have fallen to race juries to have to interpret the question of non academic eligibility and the possible question of coach ethics, and the failing in our rules to allow for eligibility issues to be removed from the race day jury and addressed by non partisan overview from the Board of the OISRA, without it requiring a non unanimous vote on the race day jury.

It is recommended to the Board of Directors that there be a clear rule established that provides a uniform sanction for all non academic eligibility issues, such as MIP, and criminal charges, issues that each school district appear to have different sanctioning criteria on.

Legal advice has suggested that there be a contract between schools and their teams or clubs with the OISRA that will confirm that they will abide by the eligibility requirements for their students and their coaches ethics as established by the OISRA, otherwise, we don't have a basis for them to be affiliated with OISRA

State championships. What a well run and well attended event. A exemplary example of cooperation between the host league and the ski area involved and of how leagues can work together, with assisting with providing key personal, thank you to all involved.

Over the last six years all communications with the State Board of Education had been via the president. Generally this was a great benefit for us, but as our organization is growing and adapting it was felt with this being the year that we need to renew our charter it would be a wise move to have the full board meet with the State Board of Education. This was a fruitful meeting and must have paved the way for a better understanding of both organizations. It was not foreseen that there would be any major issues with our renewal, however we were alerted to the possibility of the SBE attorneys paying closed attention to our By-laws, in part because of the issue that the BSE were unwillingly involved with between some school districts and the OSAA.

It is true that the best laid plans of man & mouse oft go awry, because we have ended up with a program today that was in no way envisaged.

There had been a request that suggested by-law or rule changes be submitted so that we could follow the normal practice of holding our executive meeting as a rules meeting. No alpine Bylaw changes or alpine Race rule changes have been submitted; meaning the standard operating procedures for alpine activities will be the same for next year.

Other remaining business will be to slip in an election for the position of alpine president, and a joint meeting with our Nordic cousins to confirm changes to the combine by-laws, all in accordance with our present constitution and by-laws.

The OISRA organization will be adopting new Bylaws, and the alpine executive committee will be a majority voice for moving along this process of improving the efficiency of the organization and bringing the organization into compliance with all federal and state laws governing 501 (c) (3) corporations.

I cannot close without thanking the executive members that I have had the privilege to serve with, in particular Lois Stow, Bill Wainwright and Rob Smoot who served with me on the Board of directors, and the constant reminder from Ben McKinley to put the kids first.

Respectfully
Richard A. Sellens
Alpine president.