

STATE 2011: A SUMMATION OF OUR RESOLVE

The OISRA Board of Directors met for several hours on June 11, 2011 in beautiful Sisters, Oregon. Your Board had the challenging task of knowing and following the OISRA Bylaws and Policies, sorting fact from opinion, weighing the importance of the matters at hand, and making decisions that will not necessarily please everyone. In the end, our primary mission was to remain impartial and to serve the best interests of the OISRA as an organization.

In short, four appeals were filed to the Board pertaining to Coaches Code of Ethics violations that occurred at the 2011 State Championships Awards Assembly; and a separate appeal pertained to the Alpine Division decision that the state Boys SL race jury vote was unanimous. After thorough deliberation of the issues raised in the appeals, the Board upheld each one.

Fortunately, OISRA has a pertinent, workable set of Bylaws and Policies. Other than routine use of race rules, most of the coaches and parents don't dwell on the details of how our organization functions. However, when uncommon circumstances like this develop the Bylaws and Policies become ultra-important. This year's Awards Assembly controversy involved individual racers, coaches, and the membership in attendance. The Board's role was to see to it that our policies were followed in every instance, with every decision. Each issue/appeal had protagonists and antagonists. Opinions often conflicted with facts, and emotions sometimes conflicted with reason. If you or your team had an interest in an issue, be sure, as you read the Minutes to our meeting, to consider not only at your own perspective, but also at that of the others involved.

The importance of this recent special meeting of the OISRA Board is to assure each member that we have viable policies that protect the individual as well as the whole. Without a diligent effort to interpret and enforce the rules, our organization would not have a sturdy foundation upon which to stand as it has for over 50 years.

Although the Board's position is not generally one of giving advice to the membership, a couple of take-home lessons for the future did stand out – endeavor to know the race rules so that you don't find yourself (as coach, racer or parent) astraddle of those rules; and know that during any OISRA function, remaining calm and focusing on good sportsmanship should be the top priorities.

On this OISRA website, you can find the summary details of the Board actions in our Minutes. As President, I'm speaking for a Board of Directors who has done an exemplary job with dozens of hours dedicated to resolving the issues that developed last spring. We did our best to bring resolution to the issues within the rules as they are written so that we can all start next season anew.

Looking forward to seeing you on the hill,

Randy Hewitt
OISRA President