District Director report from State session July 12 2024:

The Annual Meeting Directors session met in Abilene.  All fourteen districts were represented, along with special guests from UIL, TAPPS, TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS COACHES ASSOCIATION, and others. The most impactful presentation came from UIL, where they re emphasized their directive from last year regarding sportsmanship development.  They reported not a single player ejection last season and one coach ejection, which was highly acceptable and a reflection on the coaches, officials, players and administrators.  Fan ejections are up 45% over a couple years back so there still is room for improvement, but overall they were pleased.  UIL would like to encourage timely incident reporting—a 24 hour window is expected, and they also would like to receive positive sportsmanship incident reports, again with the 24 hour window for reporting. If you or your crew see a particularly sportsmanlike gesture or situation please submit a Positive Incident report, the forms should be found on the UIL website or contact me or Joanie, our president.  Any player, coach, or fan ejection should be reported by BOTH officials in writing on an incident reports form, again on the UIL website and possibly on the TASO website as well.  There will be a change in the playoff structure, with divisions 2A through 6A having two state finals each.  1A will be unchanged.  The structure of this will be revealed more fully in a separate posting elsewhere on the website, the upshot being far more officials and line judge officials will be needed than before.  Remember you must score at least a 90 on the test and I believe you should also score 90 and above on the Line Judge test to be eligible for those important assignments!  TASO is working on an app for video instruction, not up yet, we have a new insurance carrier and the rates did not go up, which was a pleasant surprise.  Testing begins on July 17, you may take the test up to 5 times, please obtain the highest score you can, and remember anyone scoring 100 on your exam will be eligible for a drawing.      State Meeting attendance was down this year, almost half, likely not helped by the remote location.  Our Regional in Katy may not be at the listed location due to Centerpoint issues but it will be held on July 27, please please please pre register otherwise a walk up fee is $25 is charged.  Your TASO dues cover pre-registered attendees only. Stay tuned for the update on the meeting site, it may be known soon and certainly plan on attending our Havoc chapter meeting Tuesday July 23 at Lutheran North High school at 6:20 pm.  By the way,  brand new officials are not charged a walk up fee at the Regional Clinic.  I’m sure the vendors at State were hurt by the turnout so be sure to support them at the Katy Regional.

Dutifully submitted,

Tom Trigger