



Mid-Continent Officials Association

President: Mike Niemeier (816) 470-5736

Vice President: Dale Werle (816) 770-3795

Sec/Treasurer: Mike Suddarth (816) 296-3489

For Official Use Only
Dues _____

Application For Membership

Please Print

Name Last First Middle Official's No.

Address City State Zip

Telephone Day Evening Cell

E-Mail Date of Birth

Occupation High School

Education 9 10 11 12 A.A. B.S./B.A. M.S. Ph.D. Attended
(Circle Highest Completed)

List all Previous Experience as Sports Official:

Three horizontal lines for listing previous experience.

Sport: Football Basketball Baseball Track Wrestling Softball Volleyball
(Circle All That Apply)

Check each box to indicate acceptance of the following terms for application.

- As an approved Mid-Continent Officials Association official, it is hereby agreed, stipulated and understood that my employment as a high school official is that of an independent contractor...
It is further stipulated and agreed that the consideration for each game officiated will be negotiated by a contract price...
I hereby agree to officiate the interscholastic competition according to the applicable federation rulebook...
I hereby release the Mid-Continent Officials Association, the Missouri State High School Athletic Association and the participating school districts from all claims...
It is further agreed that I am assuming all the risks of this undertaking and that I am acting as an independent contractor.
It is further stipulated and agreed that my compensation is based upon a lump sum fee for a single competitive event and that no withholdings of these funds are made by the payer.
I understand and agree that either school retains the authority not to employ my services.
I agree to uphold and observe the Constitution and By-laws of the Mid-Continent Officials Association.

Signature Date

CODE OF ETHICS FOR MSHSAA ATHLETIC OFFICIALS

Believing that mine is an important part in the nationwide school athletic program, I pledge myself to act in accordance with these principles:

1. I will honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss and will avoid all potential conflicts of interest.
2. I will study the rules of the game, observe the work of other officials, and will at all times, attempt to improve myself.
3. I will remember that while my work as an official is important, I must conduct myself in such a way that attention is drawn, not to me, but to the contestants playing the game.
4. I will dress and maintain my appearance in a manner befitting the dignity and importance of the game.
5. I will shape my character and conduct so as to be a worthy example to the youth who play under my jurisdiction and will at no time use profanity in any verbal interaction with players, coaches, fans, school administrators and/or fellow officials during my contracted assignment.
6. I will be fair and unbiased in my decisions, rendering these without regard to the score or next year's contract.
7. I will give my complete cooperation to the schools which I serve and to the State Association which I represent.
8. I will cooperate and be professional in my association with my fellow officials and will do nothing to cause them public embarrassment.
9. I will, in my actions on the field, be firm but not overbearing; courteous but not ingratiating; positive but never rude; dignified but never arrogant; friendly but not companionable; calm but always alert.
10. I will keep in mind that the game is more important than the wishes of any individual player or coach or the ambitions of any individual official.
11. I will be prepared both physically and mentally to administer the game.
12. I will not use any tobacco product on or in the vicinity of the athletic event, nor drink any alcoholic beverages on the day of the game until my assignment is complete.
13. I will not give any information which might be used by a team's future opponent nor will I visit with any player during a time-out.
14. At no time will I engage in any action verbal or physical that might be interpreted as sexual harassment with any contest participant, cheerleader, coach, school administrator, fan and/or fellow official.

I believe that interscholastic athletics is an integral part of our secondary school program and that good officiating promotes enjoyment of these athletic contests as well as protection to the participants. Because I want to render a service to the youth of Missouri and progressively improve and elevate officiating standards in Missouri, I agree to abide by the above Code of Ethics.

Signature _____ Date _____

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN OFFICIAL (excerpt from MSHSAA Officials Handbook)

Many things go into the making of a good official. Knowledge of the rules and officiating techniques are very important. However, there are other details that may determine whether a man or woman becomes a good official or just someone registered to officiate.

The need is great for new officials. Many times new officials register with the MSHSAA and then fail to renew their registration for the next season.

Perhaps there are several reasons why new officials fall from the ranks. In some cases, they could have moved from the state and may continue their career elsewhere. Others failed to renew their registrations because they were unable to work any games or only a few in their rookie season. Many realized that the officiating business was not for them. However, there were some who were influenced in their decision by coaches, fans, and even fellow officials. Too often a coach is critical of young officials who, because of lack of experience, have not learned to cope with the situations that arise in the course of an athletic contest. Many times a veteran official is critical of his/her young partner or even worse the "older and more experienced man" refuses to work with the younger official who is trying to become established.

The life of an official is not an easy one. Perhaps the first year or two are the toughest, but like the formative period in anyone's life these first years are all important. The most important requirement is that you must gain experience. That means you have to work all the games you can find. Be ready and willing to work YMCA games, church and industrial league games and scrimmages. Somehow, you have to get the feel of it, and the only way to do that is to officiate. The key is to be patient, and when you get your first interscholastic game, make sure you are prepared to properly handle the assignment.

A. Seven steps designed to help an official.

1. **THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR STUDY.** Textbooks are made available through your state association, such as rule books, case books, interpretation meeting folders or handbooks, officials manuals and the MSHSAA Journal, which contains many items of importance to officials. Game rules are generally complex and you don't learn them without extensive study. Many experienced officials still average several hours each week of solid study of the rules publications. There is no sadder spectacle than an official who doesn't know the rules. You learn the rules by means of thorough intensive study.
2. **ATTEND ALL RULES INTERPRETATION MEETINGS WITHIN YOUR REACH.** They are arranged for the purpose of reviewing old rules, explaining new ones and giving positive interpretations on the more tricky ones. It is also a good place to get acquainted with fellow officials, coaches, and athletic directors.
3. **ATTEND MECHANICS CLINICS WHEN AVAILABLE.** Knowing and understanding proper positioning will enable you to make the right call.
4. **JOIN A LOCAL OFFICIALS GROUP.** There may be one in your area or not too far away. Many of these local groups meet regularly for rules discussion and for discussing common problems. The state sponsored meetings are important but local groups must take over in a follow-up program of rules study and interpretations.
5. **TAKE THE RULES EXAMINATIONS PROVIDED BY THE MSHSAA AND BY YOUR LOCAL GROUP.** The National Federation examinations provide an excellent review and a thorough test. There is no finer review of the rules than the challenge presented in actually writing a good rules examination.
6. **SEE ALL THE GAMES YOU CAN.** Especially games worked by capable officials. It is one of the best ways to learn about the technique and mechanics of officiating.
7. **ALWAYS STRIVE TO IMPROVE.** The game of officiating has no place for an official who doesn't want to improve himself. Here, you either get some place or drop out; you can't stand still. Give attention to such factors as rules examination grades, ratings received from schools and assistance from rules meetings.

B. Other items that make a good official.

1. When you start out for a game, plan to be there early. It is better for you to help the janitor open the front door than it is to rush in breathless at the opening whistle. The time preceding the game can be used to confer with fellow officials. Go over some pertinent phases of the rules. Talk over the general plan of administering free throws, position of touch down plays, etc. Many of these items may be found in the officials manual for each sport. A good pre-game conference is very necessary and a must.
2. Out on the floor or field do your share of running.
3. In your attitude toward players and coaches, be kind and polite but firm. It is a big order and few ever fill it completely. But this is what it takes! Be firm but not over-bearing. Be courteous and never rude. Be dignified but never cocky. Be friendly to players but avoid "kidding" on the floor or field.
4. With the game at an end, your duties are over. It isn't your job to congratulate the winner, console the defeated, or offer advice to the losers. It is business-like for officials to leave the floor or field together, neither seeking out nor deliberately avoiding the two coaches, and this is a good thing to remember as the game is completed. Make no statements and offer no comments concerning the game to members of the press or radio. Your best bet is to shower, dress, collect your gear and head for home; not because you are afraid or ashamed to talk to anyone, but the game is over and your job has been completed. There is no need to hang around.