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**IHSAA and IGHSAU
OFFICIALS' CODE OF ETHICS**

The Iowa High School Athletic Association's Board of Control and the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union's Board of Directors has officially adopted the following Code of Ethics for high school athletic officials.

Officials at an interscholastic athletic event are participants in the educational development of high school students. As such, they must exercise a high level of self-discipline, independence, and responsibility. The purpose of this Code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all interscholastic officials.

Officials shall master both the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, consistent, and controlled manner.

Officials shall work with each other and their state associations in a constructive and cooperative manner.

Officials shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interaction with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.

Officials shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, and shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the standards of the profession.

Officials shall be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.

Officials shall remain mindful that their conduct influences the respect that student-athletes, coaches, and the public hold for the profession.

Officials shall, while enforcing the rules of play, remain aware of the inherent risk of injury that competition poses to student-athletes and themselves and shall notify the event manager of any condition that might not be conducive regarding participation.

Officials shall be cognizant of adverse conditions (including weather) that might arise during the competition and react appropriately to ensure the safety and welfare of all participants.

Officials shall not be party to actions designed to unfairly limit or restrain access to officiating, officiating assignments, or to local association membership. This includes selection for positions of leadership based upon economic factors, race, creed, color, age, sex, physical handicap, country or national origin.

The IHSAA and IGHSAU serves as a registration agency for Iowa Junior and Senior High School athletic officials. Officials are registered as independent contractors with both entities. This Code of Ethics relates to the status of each official registered with the IHSAA and/or the IGHSAU.

Failure to comply with any of the above items may result in reprimand or suspension (temporary or permanent) for the official. Any sanction issued by the Iowa High School Athletic Association or the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union as a result of a violation to this Code of Ethics, shall apply equally to each organization the official is registered with.

OFFICIALS MANUAL

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Officials Manual is to help officials by covering and clarifying such points as purpose, procedure and requirements in officiating. A function of the Iowa High School Athletic Association is the registration of contest officials for interscholastic competition as stipulated in its Articles of Incorporation under "Powers and Duties of the Board of Control": The Board of Control shall register game officials for interscholastic competition, and the Board shall have the authority to determine qualification for membership and conditions for revocation, suspension or probation of registration.

It is the purpose of this Association in its program of registering officials to improve interscholastic competition by:

1. Aiding officials, coaches and players in acquiring a thorough knowledge of contest rules in all sports.
 - A thorough knowledge of contest rules and an ability to correctly interpret these rules shall be a primary requirement of all officials. To implement this requirement, the IHSAA requires that officials pass an on-line, open book examination at 75% or higher to be registered in that particular sport. Additionally, the IHSAA conducts annual online rules interpretation meetings in all sports as well as posting memos on our website or sending emails from the sport administrator. It is the responsibility of an official to view such meetings, memos, and emails for the purpose of keeping informed of rules changes and interpretations.
2. Promoting uniformity in mechanics of officiating.
 - A thorough knowledge of the mechanics of officiating shall be regarded as imperative. To implement this requirement, the IHSAA annually will include a section on sport specific mechanics in the on-line rules interpretation meeting required for certification in a specific sport.
3. Recruiting competent young officials to replace retiring officials.
4. Encouraging observance of the spirit and letter of contest rules and ethical codes on all occasions.
5. Establishing high professional standards as developed by tradition. High standards contribute toward the total value of education-based activities.

MEMBER SCHOOL INFORMATION

USE OF REGISTERED OFFICIALS

When member schools participate in a contest, meet or tournament, registered officials must be used. Registered officials are those that have paid the proper registration fee, viewed the annual official's rules interpretation meeting and passed the on-line sport exam at the appropriate percentage. If only one official is available who is registered by the IHSAA, then only the registered official should be used. Under no condition will the Association permit a contest to be played using officials who are not currently registered with the IHSAA. The use of non-registered IHSAA officials will result in sanctions by the IHSAA which could include forfeiture.

EXCEPTION FOR JUNIOR HIGH OFFICIALS

At the junior high school level (grades 7-8), only one currently registered official is required. It is not the prerogative of any member school to agree to set aside this rule. Such schools would be in violation of the Articles of Incorporation if they decided by mutual agreement to use officials not registered. It is very important for each school administrator and coach to read the game contract signed between member schools. This contract states the method by which both schools agree to the selection of registered officials. Placement on the Registered List constitutes certification by the IHSAA that an official has paid the proper annual fee, passed the requisite exam and has participated in all required rules meetings. Certification constitutes no further reference or guarantee.

SUGGESTED OFFICIATING CREWS

Baseball: Umpires (2, 3 or 4)
Basketball: Referee & Umpire(s) (3-person or 2-person crew)
Cross Country: Referee (Starter)
Football: 4-Person Crew-Referee, Umpire, Linesman & Line Judge
5-Person Crew-Referee, Umpire, Linesman, Line Judge, & Back Judge
7-Person Crew-Referee, Umpire, Linesman, Line Judge, Back Judge, Field Judge, & Side Judge
Soccer: 2-Person Crew-Referee & Assistant Referee
3-Person Crew-Referee & 2 Assistant Referees

Swimming: Referee (Starter)
Track & Field: Referee (Starter)
Wrestling: Referee (can use Assistant Referee)

Note: No registered officials are required in **TENNIS, GOLF and BOWLING.**

INFORMATION FOR NEW OFFICIALS

WHO CAN BECOME AN IHSAA OFFICIAL?

Any high school aged student or above may become a registered official with the IHSAA. Refer to the Registration Procedures section of this manual for details on how to become registered. Officials who register with the IHSAA should have an enjoyment for high school activities and a desire to give something back to others who are now involved in those activities. Officials should have a thorough understanding of the activity for which they are officiating and possess the ability to interpret and apply the game rules.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BECOME AN IHSAA OFFICIAL?

Go to the IHSAA website for officials at <https://www.iahsaa.org/officials/> and review the step-by-step procedures for setting up your officials account on DragonFly. If you have questions or difficulties, contact Whitney Schlicht at 515-432-2011. Registration fees apply annually, and all officials must view the annual online rules meeting as well as receive a passing score of 75% on the annual online exam for that particular sport. Officials desiring to work IHSAA sponsored tournaments must also submit a request form and submit their schedules to the IHSAA.

HOW DO I GET GAME CONTRACTS?

As an IHSAA registered official your name and city will appear on the IHSAA website. Officials can contact athletic directors of schools directly for game contracts. You are encouraged to join a local officials' association (lists of associations appear on the officials' tab of our website under Officials Associations) where you can receive mentoring and assistance in obtaining contracts. The IHSAA may share your contact information with school A.D.s and local assignors to assist in the securing of game contracts.

Be patient. Officials work many years to advance to varsity level contests. Establish your credibility and ability by working junior high and sub-varsity contests. Work hard at those games and your efforts will be noticed. The IHSAA does not secure regular season contracts for officials. District or state level contracts are given to selected, registered officials through the IHSAA. You are an independent contractor and subject to the appropriate IRS requirements.

WHERE AND HOW DO I GET?

- **Rulebooks**
 - The 2025-2026 school year will be the last year that physical rules books will be mailed out. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, officials will receive their respective rules books digitally.
- **Insurance**
 - In state registration fees include a \$17 NFOA membership with insurance coverage. Refer to the NFOA Registration Benefits section of this manual for more information.
- **Uniforms and equipment**
 - Most sporting goods stores and many online officiating websites can be used to purchase uniforms and equipment. Refer to the Uniform Requirements section of this manual for more detailed information. Officials must take pride in their physical appearance and wearing clean, pressed clothing that is not worn out is part of that expectation. IHSAA logoed shirts can be purchased from different vendors and are encouraged to be worn during regular season contests. A sampling of possible vendors to order equipment from include:
- [Iowa Officials Supply](#)
- [Ump Attire](#)
- [Fifth Region Officials](#)
- [Purchase Officials](#)
- [Precision Officials](#)
- [Officially Dalco](#)
- [Smitty Apparel - Iowa Preferred Dealers](#)

Local sporting goods dealers are also excellent places to shop for officiating equipment, and it gives you a chance to try things on for size and comfort.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

MAINTAINING YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT

Registered officials are encouraged to maintain their online account with the IHSAA via DragonFly. Please be sure telephone numbers, mailing addresses, and email addresses are correctly entered and up to date. The correct county of residence is also important for sorting and mailing purposes! These items are taken from the DragonFly database and used as the primary sources of communication with all officials.

NOTE FOR ALL OFFICIALS: You must be fully registered prior to officiating any Iowa High School contest.

REGISTERED OFFICIALS' PROCEDURES

1. The IHSAA registration is powered by DragonFly and can be accessed at <https://max.dragonflyathletics.com/>
2. Registration for each new school year begins June 15th. Current registrations expire at the conclusion of the state baseball tournament.
3. Iowa Residents: The initial registration fee, as well as any re-registration fee for an official living in Iowa, is \$60 per school year for registration in one sport. If registration is desired in more than one sport, a fee of \$15 is due for each additional sport requested.
4. All IHSAA officials (JH – Varsity) must view an annual online IHSAA rules meeting.
5. All IHSAA officials (JH – Varsity) must pass an annual online IHSAA rules examination.
6. The IHSAA has a no refund policy. If an IHSAA official fails to meet the rules meeting and/or the exam requirements in a sport for which they have paid fees, no refund will be issued.
7. If an IHSAA official fails to register and/or meet the rules meeting and exam requirements mentioned above for a period of three consecutive years, and desires to register later, he/she will be required to start anew.

COLLEGE STUDENTS' REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

1. The IHSAA registration is powered by DragonFly and can be accessed at <https://max.dragonflyathletics.com/>
2. Registration for each new school year begins in Mid June. Current registrations expire after the state baseball tournament.
3. Full-time college students, currently enrolled, may register as officials for an annual fee of \$20 for one sport and \$15 for each additional sport. This fee is intended for students coming from high school and going into college--not former college students going back to school to take additional hours.
4. All IHSAA officials (JH – Varsity) must view an annual online IHSAA rules meeting.
5. All IHSAA officials (JH – Varsity) must pass an annual online IHSAA rules examination.
6. The IHSAA has a no refund policy. If an IHSAA official fails to meet the rules meeting and/or the exam requirements in a sport for which they have paid fees, no refund will be issued.
7. If an IHSAA official fails to register and/or meet the rules meeting and exam requirements mentioned above for a period of three consecutive years, and desires to register later, he/she will be required to start anew.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

1. The IHSAA registration is powered by DragonFly and can be accessed at <https://max.dragonflyathletics.com/>
2. Registration for each new school year begins in Mid June. Current registrations expire after the state baseball tournament.
3. High school students may register as officials for an annual fee of \$20 for one sport and \$12 for each additional sport. Those completing the RefReps course in their high school will have their fee waived for the first year.
4. All IHSAA officials (JH – Varsity) must view an annual online IHSAA rules meeting.
5. All IHSAA officials (JH – Varsity) must pass an annual online IHSAA rules examination.
6. The IHSAA has a no refund policy. If an IHSAA official fails to meet the rules meeting and/or the exam requirements in a sport for which they have paid fees, no refund will be issued.
7. If an IHSAA official fails to register and/or meet the rules meeting and exam requirements mentioned above for a period of three consecutive years, and desires to register later, he/she will be required to start anew.

OUT-OF-STATE OFFICIALS' REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

1. The IHSAA registration is powered by DragonFly and can be accessed at <https://max.dragonflyathletics.com/>
2. Registration for each new school year begins in Mid June. Current registrations expire after the state baseball tournament.

3. Iowa will recognize fully registered out-of-state officials through a practice called reciprocity. Officials choosing this option are eligible to work regular season games only in Iowa. If out-of-state officials desire to work postseason tournament contests, they must be fully registered as an Iowa official.
4. The annual fee to register through reciprocity is \$20. You must be fully registered in the said sport in your home state. If your state association doesn't offer a sport in which you register with the IHSAA, you will be required to register fully in Iowa, taking the IHSAA exam and rules/clinic meeting.
5. The annual fee to register fully as an Iowa official will be \$60. Any additional sport will be \$15.
6. To be a fully-registered IHSAA official (JH – Varsity) you must view an annual online IHSAA rules meeting.
7. To be a fully-registered IHSAA official (JH – Varsity) you must pass an annual online IHSAA rules examination.
8. The IHSAA has a no refund policy. If a fully registered IHSAA official fails to meet the rules meeting, exam or clinic requirements in a sport for which they have paid fees, no refund will be issued.
9. The IHSAA has a no refund policy. If an IHSAA official fails to meet the rules meeting and/or the exam requirements in a sport for which they have paid fees, no refund will be issued.
10. If an IHSAA official fails to register and/or meet the rules meeting and exam requirements mentioned above for a period of three consecutive years, and desires to register later, he/she will be required to start anew.

MILITARY INITIATIVE: The IHSAA is encouraging current and former military personnel with the opportunity to register as an IHSAA sport official by waiving the basic registration fee and the sport fee for two years. This offer is extended to those current and former military personnel who are registering as an IHSAA sport official for the first time. The current registration fee is a basic fee of \$60 for one sport, and an additional cost of \$15 for each additional sport. These fees will be waived for military personnel registering for the first time (for their first two years).

Regardless of the branch of service, the training, discipline, and core values ingrained in military personnel are the same qualities demanded of sport officials. Because of these qualities, we believe that men and women with military experience and training would fit well into interscholastic sport officiating and in this small way, the IHSAA wants to acknowledge those who serve or who have served and say, "thank you". Military personnel registering for the first time should contact Whitney Schlicht at the IHSAA office (515-432-2011) as well as send [this completed Armed Forces Registration form](#) by email to weschlicht@iahhsaa.org or by U.S. mail to IHSAA, P.O. Box 10, Boone, IA 50036. It is asked that documentation of military service accompany your [Armed Forces Registration Form](#).

NFOA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Registration fees include a \$17 NFOA membership with the insurance coverage mentioned below.

- Coverage for all levels of officiating in sports recognized by the state high school association
- Excess General Liability
- Excess Accident Medical
- Accidental Death and Dismemberment

For more detailed insurance information, visit the [Dissinger Reed website](#).

OFFICIALS' CONDUCT AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES

OFFICIALS CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDANCE

Neutrality is paramount for an official to maintain integrity and credibility, and avoiding even the appearance of partiality should be considered in every assignment accepted in both the regular season and post season tournament. It is the official's responsibility to notify their assigner (regular season) or tournament manager (postseason tournament) when a possible conflict of interest arises, so that a possible change in assignment may occur. All potential conflicts are not equal and depend on the sport and the circumstance. An official's residence, in itself, should not be considered a conflict of interest. Additionally, it will not be considered a conflict if a student participating in the RefReps program officiates contests at their local junior high or junior varsity level. This following list is not exhaustive and high schools, assignors and officials should use their best judgment in determining whether a conflict exists. Some potential conflicts include:

- Official's child attends or is a recent graduate, i.e., within 4 years, of a participating school.
- Official (or immediate family member) is a current or former staff member, i.e., teacher, coach, employee or board member, at a participating school.
NOTE: An exception may be considered for cross county, track & field, and swimming.
- Official serves in a formal advisory capacity for a team in the specific sport within 12 months from officiating a participating team.
NOTE: This is not intended to discourage officials from participating in preseason sportsmanship programs, being invited to discuss rules changes or interpretations or from officiating preseason scrimmages.

- Official has a close connection to the coach of a participating school, i.e, formerly coached, umpired, employed with club sport relationship or currently in these situations.
- Official is a recent graduate, i.e., within 4 years, or a closely connected alumni of a participating school.
- Official is a varsity coach in the sport he officiates.

NOTE: Varsity coaches are limited to officiate only at the first round of the sport-specific postseason tournament.

CONDUCT OF OFFICIALS

Officials' conduct, at all times, shall be such 1) not to reflect discredit upon other officials, member schools, or the IHSAA and 2) to promote discipline, good order, and a sportsmanlike environment. The Executive Director of the IHSAA may discipline an official for a violation of the Officials' Code of Ethics (IHSAA Officials' Manual) or for conduct unbecoming of school athletic officials. The disciplinary action may be a written reprimand, suspension, forfeiture or revocation of the registration of an official for actions or conduct which include, but are not limited to:

- Failure to honor a contract without written consent or release from the contract
- Unethical conduct or failure to abide by the rules and regulations of the IHSAA
- Officiating a high school contest while not classified as a fully registered official with the IHSAA
- Falsifying information on a registration form
- Violations of the IHSAA Criminal History policy

APPEALS PROCESS

An official who has been reprimanded or whose registration has been denied, suspended, forfeited or revoked will be given the opportunity to appeal to the Board of Control by presenting facts to the Executive Director in writing within 7 days of notification of disciplinary action. The Board of Control shall review the case at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Control, and their decision shall be final.

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR OFFICIALS (as adopted from the National Association of Sports Officials-NASO)

- Consider social media communications as public at all times — even if created with private intentions. If you are going to use social media in any form, consider your communication may be read by anyone at any time.
- You represent the officiating industry, your associations, your assigners and your partners. Act accordingly.
- Promote officiating in a positive light and with a general feeling of pride and professionalism. You are an ambassador for officiating.
- You have a unique access to information. The same ethical restrictions that apply to any form of public speech also apply to social media. It is inappropriate to communicate specifics about your assignments, other officials, conferences/schools, coaches, players or any related personnel.
- Do not engage in specific play and or ruling evaluation/commentary, whether it be of a game you worked, one that you witnessed or in general about the impact of officials in any sporting event.
- Communications among officials for learning purposes should be done privately and not using social media. Be mindful that email and other forms of direct communication can be made public.
- Be very sparing in the sharing of your personal information, including photos. Adjust security settings accordingly. Report fake profiles or posts to the appropriate authorities/governing bodies in a timely fashion.
- Follow specific conference, school and/or governing body social media policies.

CRIMINAL HISTORY POLICY

1. New Registration Application or Renewal

An IHSAA Official's Registration will not be issued or renewed without the written consent of the Executive Director of the IHSAA if the applicant:

- a. has ever been convicted or adjudicated with a finding of fault, guilt or violation regarding an offense related to an act of violence against a minor;
- b. has ever been convicted or adjudicated with a finding of fault, guilt or violation regarding any offense which required or requires the applicant to register with the sex offender registry of any state;
- c. has ever been convicted or adjudicated with a finding of fault, guilt or violation, regarding an offense involving the sale or distribution of any illegal/illicit drug or controlled substance as defined by Federal or State law; or
- d. has ever been convicted or adjudicated with a finding of fault, guilt or violation, regarding an offense defined by applicable Federal or State law as a felony.

2. Currently Registered Officials

A currently registered official who receives a conviction or adjudication of fault, guilt or violation of an offense listed in paragraph 1(a) – 1(d) of this policy shall result in immediate and automatic revocation of their officiating registration, unless the official obtains the written consent of the IHSAA Executive Director.

Upon receipt of or upon having knowledge of an indictment or criminal charge against them of any offense listed in paragraph 1(a) – 1(d), a currently registered official must immediately inform the IHSAA Executive Director of said indictment or charge. The IHSAA Executive Director shall have the discretion to suspend the official's registration pending disposition. Failure to notify the IHSAA Executive Director of such indictment or criminal charge shall in itself be a basis for immediate and automatic revocation of the officiating registration.

3. Reinstatement / Reregistration

An official whose registration has been suspended or revoked or an applicant who is denied registration, under the provisions of this policy, may petition for reinstatement/reregistration based on the following:

- a. a. If suspension, revocation or denial of registration is based upon conviction, adjudication or finding of fault, guilt, or violation of an offense defined as a felony, the official/applicant may petition for reinstatement/reregistration one year after the completion of the parole/probation period; or immediately upon obtaining written consent from the Executive Director of the IHSAA.
- b. If suspension, revocation or denial of registration is based upon any conviction, adjudication or finding of fault, guilt or violation, in regard to an offense related to the sale or distribution of any illegal/illicit drug or controlled substance as defined by Federal or State law, the official/applicant may petition for reinstatement/reregistration one year after the completion of the parole/probation period; or immediately upon obtaining written consent from the Executive Director of the IHSAA.
- c. If suspension, revocation or denial of registration is based upon conviction, adjudication or finding of fault, guilt, or violation of an offense involving an act of violence toward a minor or any offense which requires or required the person to register with the sex offender registry of any state, reinstatement/reregistration will not be permitted unless written consent is obtained from the Executive Director of the IHSAA.

CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

PROTOCOL FOR CONTRACTING GAMES, FEES, AND MILEAGE

IHSAA registered officials should utilize contracts when securing contests with member schools. Contracts for contests should include the contest date and starting time, fees for payment, mileage fees, and other pertinent information.

OFFICIALS BREAKING CONTRACTS

If an official has a conflict arise and needs to get out of a contract, he/she should contact the local school district or assigner, and either be released from this contract or provide an adequate replacement approved by the contracted party.

SCHOOLS BREAKING CONTRACTS

If a school breaks a contract with an official for no reason, they should be held responsible for paying the game official the stated contract fee. If weather or any unusual situation arise, both parties should work together to resolve the situation. This agreed upon fee is up to the hiring school.

POST-SEASON OFFICIALS AND EJECTION POLICIES

IHSAA OFFICIALS DESIRING TO WORK IHSAA-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS OR PLAYOFFS

All officials desiring to be considered for the IHSAA tournament series in football, basketball, wrestling, swimming, soccer, track & field, and baseball must meet the following criteria.

1. View the annual online rules/clinic meeting in the season you desire to work the tournament.
2. Take and pass (@ 75%) the annual online exam in the season you desire to work the tournament. (Three attempts are given to pass the rules exam)
3. Current year IHSAA observations and evaluations with recommendations from approved observers are considered.

4. Submit the postseason Request Form and Schedule by the deadlines communicated from the IHSAA Officials Department or the specific sport administrator. Officials in basketball, wrestling, swimming, soccer, track & field and baseball are required to fill out an individual request form and schedule. In football, the crew chief/referee is responsible for filling out the form for the entire crew.

CLINIC VERIFICATION

Clinic attendance is indicated in each official's DragonFly account.

PLAYER & COACH EJECTIONS

The IHSAA spends a great amount of time and places emphasis on sportsmanship. The ejection rule is for the benefit of interscholastic high school athletics, to give contest officials support, and to provide a tool to correct flagrant violations of good sportsmanship. Officials must accept their responsibilities in making this program effective. This policy is in effect for grades 7-12. Exception: junior high baseball does not apply because the IHSAA does not sanction junior high baseball.

PLAYER/COACH EJECTION REPORT PROCEDURE

It will be the responsibility of the game/meet official to report any ejections including junior high to the IHSAA the day following the game/meet. These reports should be made by submitting the form online at www.iahhsaa.org/officials.

POLICY PERTAINING TO OFFICIALS COMMUNICATING WITH SCHOOLS REQUESTING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TOURNAMENT SERIES

The IHSAA policy prohibits officials from communicating with schools requesting recommendations for tournament assignments. That practice is against the philosophy of the Iowa High School Athletic Association. Schools are asked to report officials who contact them requesting recommendations for tournaments. Officials who use communication (letters, e-mails, text, telephone calls, etc.) as a means of seeking recommendations from member schools will not be considered for tournament assignments in the sport programs sponsored by the IHSAA in which the request has been made.

HOW OFFICIALS ARE SELECTED FOR TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS

The IHSAA asks member schools to recommend officials for each sport. Schools recommend the following number of officials in each sport: football (up to 4 crews), basketball (up to 12), wrestling (up to 8), swimming (up to 3), soccer (up to 6), track & field (up to 4), baseball (up to 8). This list of recommendations is compiled, with each official given credit for each school's vote. Officials can view their recommendations from their accounts. Each school is permitted to list the names of officials the school does not want to officiate their tournament contests. Recommendations used for the current season will not be released until 2 business days after the state tournament. Tournament assignments are determined using member school recommendations and IHSAA observations and evaluations. The IHSAA uses the previous year's school recommendations as one part of the criteria for tournament assignments.

MAILINGS AND ONLINE INFORMATION

ALTERNATE YEAR RULES BOOK MAILING

Officials are asked to keep their Rules Book and Case Book for a two-year period. New rule changes, editorial changes, points of emphasis and mechanics changes will be discussed during the rule meeting sessions that officials are required to attend or view online. These changes will be placed on the IHSAA website to keep officials apprised and informed relative to any rule changes that take place during the alternate year. The alternate year rules book schedule is as follows:

2025-2026 SCHOOL YR MAILINGS (FINAL YEAR)

Football	(July)
Wrestling	(October)

NEW OFFICIALS: During a non-mailing year, you will still receive your initial rules book, as well as case book, and officials' manual, if applicable. Those will be sent during our scheduled mailing after the registration period closes.

The NFHS Rules and Case Book app, which has a searchable feature, is available during the year you receive mailings for the books or if you purchase a set of books from the NFHS.

BEGINNING WITH THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR: ALL RULES BOOKS AND CASE BOOKS WILL BE THE DIGITAL VERSION – OFFICIALS MAY PURCHASE PAPER COPIES BY ORDERING THROUGH THE NFHS.

IHSAA WEBSITE

The IHSAA website is www.iahhsaa.org. Officials should access that website frequently, particularly the officials' link at www.iahhsaa.org/officials/. Your official's account, contracts for IHSAA sanctioned tournament contests, registered officials list, online rules meetings and exams, post season availability dates, due dates, etc. will be made available through your DragonFly account.

IOWA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC UNION

If you are interested in registering for girls only sports you must contact the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union.

- **WEBSITE:** www.ighsau.org
- **MAILING ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER FOR IGHS AU**
5000 Westown Pkwy., Suite 150, West Des Moines, IA 50266 Phone: (515) 288-9741

REGISTERED OFFICIALS LIST

A list of registered officials will be placed on our website. During the regular season, an updated list will be provided every Monday. These lists will be used to communicate with officials when looking to hire for or assign to games. Getting fully registered (pay fees, view rules meeting, pass rules exam) in a timely manner will allow officials to be included on this list.

OFFICIALS ORGANIZATIONS IN IOWA

All officials are encouraged to join an association in your area. In addition to scheduling contests, associations provide training and mentoring and the opportunity to develop friendships and camaraderie with other officials. A list of associations can be found on our website.

ONLINE RULES MEETING REQUIREMENT

All active officials, including fully registered out-of-state officials, must view an annual online IHSAA rules meeting for each of their registered sports. The annual rules meeting requirement includes anyone not working but wanting to count this year as a year of service. All tournament eligible officials will have a due date to meet this requirement prior to the season's first legal playing date of each individual sport. You cannot officiate unless the online rules meeting viewing requirement has been completed.

ONLINE RULES EXAMINATIONS

All active officials, including fully registered out-of-state officials, must pass an annual online IHSAA examination. A passing score of 75% or higher is required. You will be given 3 opportunities each season to achieve this passing score. All tournament eligible officials will have a due date to meet this requirement prior to the season's first legal playing date of each individual sport. You cannot officiate unless the online exam has been passed. NOTE: Do not complete and submit your exam until you have reviewed your books (or use the previous seasons).

ONLINE RULES MEETING AND EXAM DATES WILL BE COMMUNICATED FROM THE IHSAA OFFICIALS' DEPARTMENT. REFER TO OUR WEBSITE FOR PERTINENT DATES

IOWA OFFICIALS SEEKING A LICENSE WITH BORDERING STATES

Iowa officials desiring to work in Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin are to contact those state association offices directly.

- **ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION:**
2715 McGraw Dr., Bloomington, IL 61702-2715, (309) 663-6377
- **KANSAS STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION:**
PO Box 495, Topeka, KS 66601-0495 (785) 273-5329
- **MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE:**
2100 Freeway Blvd, Brooklyn Ctr, MN 55430-1735, (763) 560-2262
- **MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION:**
1 N. Keene Street, Columbia, MO 65201, (573) 875-4880
- **NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION:**
500 Charleston Street, Suite 1, Lincoln, NE 68508, (402) 489-0386
- **SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION:**
804 N. Euclid Ave., Suite 102, Pierre, SD 57501-1217, (605) 224-9261
- **WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION:**
5516 Vern Holmes Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54482-8833, (715) 344-8580

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

1. The uniforms adopted by this Association are as follows:
 - a. **Football:** All crews are permitted to wear the current 1" or 2 ¼" stripe football officials' shirt. All varsity crew members must wear the same size stripe and style shirt. Sub-varsity football officials are recommended to wear the same style shirt. All football officials will be required to wear the black nylon football officiating pants for all 9-12 football contests. Appropriate football officiating cap, black shoes and socks
 - b. **Basketball:** Black and white striped shirt with short sleeves; black trousers; black shoes and socks.
 - c. **Baseball:** Grey pants; navy, light blue, cream, or black shirt; navy/black umpire's cap; black shoes and socks.
 - d. **Wrestling:** Short sleeved, black and white striped shirt with 1-inch stripes, or a gray shirt with black pin stripes, or an event shirt provided by the meet management for all officials; black trousers, black shoes and socks. The grey shirt with black pinstripes will be required for postseason wrestling tournaments.
 - e. **Soccer:** A shirt approved by the IHSAA; in the event of a color conflict between the officials and either team, the officials shall change to a jersey of a color distinct from both teams; black shorts or long trousers; predominantly black shoes and a solid black cap, if worn.
 - f. **Track Starter:** Khaki pants, white or light-colored shirt and an IHSAA or appropriate baseball style cap. In inclement weather, a light or bright colored jacket may be worn. Starters shall wear an identifying sleeve on the arm holding the starting device.
 - g. **Swimming:** White uniform or blue shirt and khaki pants/shorts and white shoes during the regular season; however, if two or more officials are present, they need to wear the same uniform. The blue shirt and khaki pants are required for postseason meets.
2. Clothing, which is clean, pressed and not over worn, as well as polished shoes are required of all officials.
3. When a team or crew of officials wear jackets, the same jacket should be worn by all members of the team/crew.

IHSAA EMBLEMS FOR UNIFORMS

All IHSAA officials will be instructed to place the following emblems and logos in the same location on his/her garment.

- **IHSAA State of Iowa Emblem** - Officials in all sports can display the IHSAA State of Iowa emblem and it shall be displayed on the left chest. Football, basketball, wrestling, soccer, and baseball tournament/playoff officials will be required to wear the IHSAA State of Iowa Emblem on the left chest. Officials during regular season at any level are not required to wear this emblem but are encouraged to purchase shirts in the above sports with the emblem already on the shirt. Because IHSAA Track & Field is held in conjunction with the IGHSAAU, no IHSAA emblem shirt should be worn or needed. You can purchase the IHSAA State of Iowa Emblem from our office by contacting Whitney Schlicht at weschlicht@iahsaa.org. They are available for \$5.00 and can be a sticky, removeable patch or an iron-on/sewn-on patch.
- **United States Flag Emblem** - If you choose to wear the United State flag emblem available by the IHSAA, we request you wear it on your left sleeve, 2" below the shoulder seam. The union (blue field) should be to the viewer's left. The flag shall be facing forward and streaming to the back as the person moves forward. We request that you wear the standard version of which is red, white and blue with gold trimming and no other combination of colors. They are available for \$3.00 each by contacting Whitney Schlicht at weschlicht@iahsaa.org
- **Say-No-To-Drugs Emblem** - Say-No-To-Drugs emblems are available and may be worn on the right sleeve approximately two inches below the shoulder seam. Additional Say-No-To-Drugs emblems are available for \$3.00 each by contacting Whitney Schlicht at weschlicht@iahsaa.org

ORDERING OF EQUIPMENT

Online Vendors that carry sublimated IHSAA logoed shirts (caps-Iowa Officials Supply) include:

- [Iowa Officials Supply](#)
- [Ump Attire](#)
- [Fifth Region Officials](#)
- [Purchase Officials](#)
- [Precision Officials](#)
- [Officially Dalco](#)
- [Smitty Apparel - Iowa Preferred Dealers](#)

RANKING SYSTEM

VARSITY OFFICIALS (Tournament eligible)

Prerequisites:

1. Pay registration fees annually by the due date.
2. View the annual online rules./clinic meeting by the due date.
3. Take and pass the annual online examination with a 75% or higher by the due date.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (HS rank)

Prerequisites:

1. Pay registration fees annually before officiating a contest.
2. View the annual online rules/clinic meeting before officiating a contest.
3. Take and pass the annual online examination with a 75% or higher before officiating a contest.

Limitations: All high school students who have satisfactorily completed the annual rules meeting and exam will be registered to officiate sub-varsity high school and junior high contests, unless written notification is sent to IHSAA Director of Officials Todd Tharp (ttharp@iahsaa.org) 30 days prior to the start of the season from the local assignor or high school approving them for varsity contests.

RECOGNITION PROGRAM

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

The Iowa High School Athletic Association will recognize years of service that officials have provided, not only to the IHSAA, but more importantly to the schools in your geographic area. Recognition is given for 15, 25, 40, and 50 years of service. Awards will be distributed at state championship events to those attending. For those unable to attend, awards will be mailed to the recipients who acknowledge their award via email or letter.

HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FOR AN ATHLETIC OFFICIAL

The Iowa High School Athletic Association has a Hall of Fame for high school officials. Officials of all contests are a very integral part of the interscholastic program; therefore, they should be honored accordingly. The general criteria for the selection of honorees will be the overall contribution to high school athletics and the individual must adhere to the officials Code of Ethics. You are invited to submit any information on behalf of your nominee that you desire. Please contact Chris Cuellar at ccuellar@iahsaa.org.

The Officials Hall of Fame is a very important part of the IHSAA's program. Nominees for NFOA award recognition should be filed with the IHSAA Office. IHSAA will file with the state NFOA committee.

APPENDIX

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF OFFICIATING?

Some of the benefits of officiating include staying involved in your favorite activities, meeting and working with high school players and coaches, learning how to make firm and fair decisions, learning how to accept criticism, maintaining physical fitness and enthusiasm, earning some extra money, and giving back to your favorite activity and today's athletes.

HOW DO I GROW AND IMPROVE AS AN OFFICIAL?

Read and study your rule book and case book, keep in good physical and mental condition (getting a physical examination annually from your doctor is suggested), refer to the IHSAA website and your officials' account frequently for messages and emails, keep an organized schedule of your contests and meetings, return phone calls or written correspondence quickly, file reports in a timely manner, be prompt and arrive early, conduct yourself in a professional manner, and remember that the contest you are working is the most important contest in the eyes of the athletes, coaches, and fans, so it must be your priority.

COMMUNICATE PRIOR TO CONTEST

Officials who have a contracted contest with a member school should communicate to verify the date, time, and location of the event. Placing a phone call or email to the athletic director or school secretary in advance of the contest can prevent embarrassing situations, unnecessary travel, etc. Discuss your arrival time, where to park, dressing room accommodations, etc. with the host school. Make it a habit to verify your contest with the school personnel.

MECHANICS AND SIGNALS

The IHSAA registered official needs to make a point to follow the National Federation of High Schools guide for mechanics and signals in all sports. Developing consistency in these areas make our IHSAA registered official even more credible with coaches, players, and spectators.

GAME RESPONSIBILITIES

Officials are encouraged to perform the following responsibilities before, during, and after their contests:

- Arrive at the contest site early
- Conduct yourself professionally from the time you arrive until your departure
- Report to administration and/or coaches upon arrival at the contest
- Introduce yourself to administration and/or coaches
- Conduct a pre-game meeting with other officials, if applicable
- Conduct a pre-game meeting with coaches, captains, etc.
- Do your best to get the contest started on time
- Communicate primarily with the head coaches and the captains, but communicate effectively
- Ask for administration's help if needed. Officials do not handle spectator problems themselves.
- Sign off on the contest, if necessary. Print your name clearly.
- Exit the playing facility promptly after completion of the contest, preferably with administration assistance
- Complete any necessary paperwork for the host school in order to receive payment

PRINT YOUR NAME WHEN SIGNING OFFICIAL SCOREBOOK

It is imperative when you sign the official scorebooks that your signature is legible. Therefore, please print your name. Administrators and coaches have experienced difficulty in reading an official's name. Varsity football officials should provide a card with all crew members listed to both head coaches.

2025 Officials Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 5, 2025 (9:30 AM)
IHSAA Office- Boone, IA

Members Present: Jeff Horst, Jim Pfeifer, Jeff Freel, Michael Lucht, Fred Griffiths, Justin Williams, Mark Gassman (via Zoom)

Recognition: Jeff Horst was thanked for serving his two year term.

Purpose & duties of an advisory committee

- Seek input/recommendations to take to Board of Control for consideration
- Representing the entire officiating community, not personal agenda driven
- 7-member committee with each district and each sport represented

Minutes May 6, 2024 – voted, results 7-0

Reviewing Ejection Reports:

Numbers as follows:

Baseball 2024 75

FB 62

BB 31

WR 22

SOC 89

Michael Lucht – Sport specific ejections, rule book reasons for an ejection. General answer or cleaning up ejection report options.

Point of emphasis for next year (TT)

- Misapplications happen more often than not
 - Supplementary report; (ML) used more so in club soccer.
- Adding in more descriptive reason behind ejections
 - Could make the comments section required;
 - Check character count on comments sections
 - Georgia Association videos

-What schools participated, specific facts that led to the ejection

* Could adjust report, to gather more information.

Fan Ejection at one particular school: If a parent is ejected then they follow the athlete similar ejection. Home games only.

Veteran soccer refs do better and settle it easier. Soccer will find an AD and have them removed. Baseball does not always have ADs on site or supervisor so disgruntled coaches can not interact with umpires at the end of the game.

Discussion Items: Tharp shared situations where the IHSAA will send out state-wide email blasts to help member schools who are looking for officials on short notice.

- We will continue to do this to support member schools.

Recommendation: Create conflict of interest guidelines to place in the Official's Manual Definition of a conflict? (7-0)

- Should this be in the manual? (TT)
 - Blocking schools. Thinking twice about working games and who they are or how long they have been away from school. Guideline
- High School Students Officiating Varsity (IHSAA POLICY)
 - *ML – 18 year olds *rule change suggestion**
 - *Died due to lack of second*

Recommendation: Amendment (High School Students to work Varsity Matches)

- *30 days before the season starts, the assignor can have a high school student officiate varsity contests in hand with the conflict of interest policy such as home school. Allowing high school students. Permission with IHSAA Todd Tharp before the start of the season. (7-0)*

Officials Appreciations Weeks (Fall, Winter, Spring)

Creating a calendar of events with TT so we can plan accordingly

Substate Final baseball games when 3-person crew is used.

- Only time during postseason we use 3 man crew.
- Mechanics difficult to learn

Recommendation: 4-man crew for substate final baseball starting in 2026 (motion, seconded, 7-0)

State Tournament Officials Selection:

Proposal from one official's association to limit officials to two consecutive years of working the state tournament, then being required to sit out one year. Rationale: Provide opportunities for additional officials to work at the state tournament.

- IHSAA uses recommendations from schools to select post season officials
- IHSAA uses evaluations from observers to select post season officials
- IHSAA uses personal evaluations from staff to select post season officials
- IHSAA uses local assignors to provide information to select post season officials

At this time, the advisory committee was not in support of this proposal.

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Board Meeting June 10th to present to the board

Recognition: Jeff Horst was thanked for serving his two year term.

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ML- Veteran soccer refs do better and settle it easier. Soccer will find an AD and have them removed. Baseball does not always have ADs on site or supervisor so disgruntled coaches can not interact with umpires at the end of the game.

Discussion Items: Tharp shared situations where the IHSAA will send out state-wide email blasts to help member schools who are looking for officials on short notice.

- We will continue to do this to support member schools.

Tharp shared situations with assignment of officials and guidance regarding conflicts of interest between officials and schools.

Recommendation: Create conflict of interest guidelines to place in the Official's Manual (7-0)

- Blocking schools. Thinking twice about working games and who they are or how long they have been away from school.
- High School Students Officiating Varsity (IHSAA POLICY)
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Respectively submitted,
Whitney Schlicht
Administrative Assistant