

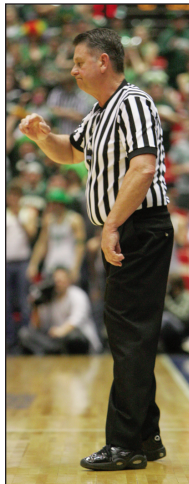
higher rates paid for varsity contests. Some schools and conferences may also pay you for your travel expenses in addition to the contest fee.

What's the biggest adjustment I may need to make?

It is always difficult to go from participating in sports to being the official whom some people seem to believe can do no right. It is important to understand that the basic ingredient of officiating is that of being a decision maker, and sometimes people do not like decisions that do not go their way. Once you clear this hurdle and realize that people will criticize you because you make necessary decisions, rather than because you are a bad person, you are on your way. It is not easy, but we hope you will give it a try!

Take the first step.

To get started, you just need to complete a license application. You can get the application off the WIAA website or by calling or emailing us at 715-344-8580 or refs@wiaawi.org. We're anxious to hear from you!



In conclusion, let us congratulate you on your interest in officiating. Officials play a very significant role in the success of interscholastic athletic programs. If you are ready to accept the challenge and move into this realm, we welcome you. If not, perhaps you now have a better understanding and appreciation of the official. If you can't join our ranks now, perhaps you will be able to sometime in the near future.

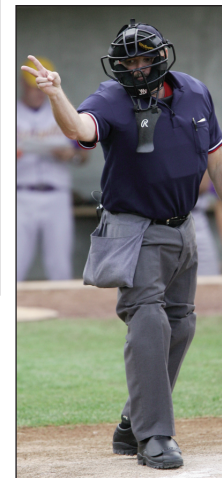


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Welcome to Sports Officiating

The WIAA welcomes your interest in officiating. We have attempted to answer some of the most commonly asked questions about officiating in this pamphlet. We encourage you to sit down with an athletic director, coach, or official that you might know to gain more information about this demanding and exciting avocation. Or, contact our office for specific information regarding licensing procedures. It might just be your way of staying involved in athletics!

Who can become a licensed sport official?

Participation in high school athletics does not have to end with graduation. Any individual who is 18 years old or a high school graduate may become licensed with the WIAA and officiate high school contests. In addition, high school students who become licensed, are allowed to officiate contests up to and including the 9th grade level. In addition, there is the opportunity for a high school aged official to immediately advance to an L2 classification upon graduation and turning 18, if they have been licensed for two years while in high school.

I wasn't a star athlete, should I bother with trying to officiate?

It certainly is not necessary to have been an outstanding athlete to be a good official. It does help to have participated in the sport you wish to officiate and to have a basic understanding of the rules of the game.

What does it take to become a good official?

It takes a very thorough knowledge of the rules of the sport, a love of athletics and kids, physical ability, self-confidence, the dedication and determination necessary to work hard, and personal integrity. Athletes and coaches look upon each contest as the most important event happening in their lives at that moment. Officials must view each contest the same way and react accordingly. This avocation is not for everyone, but you may find this to be some of the most rewarding work you will ever experience.



How do I get games?

This varies greatly from sport to sport. Officials need to write or call their local schools and conference commissioners and let them know they are licensed and interested in officiating. It is also important to remember that in some sports (i.e. basketball, football) it will take considerably



longer to be contracted for varsity games. There are many officials associations around the state that will help new and veteran officials improve so they can advance to upper level games. Officials are provided with a listing of these officials associations and conference commissioners upon application with the WIAA. They also are available on the WIAA website.



What are the benefits of officiating?

Individuals may look at this in different ways, but officials will often tell you they:

Want to give something back to the sport they enjoy.

Want to stay involved in sport(s).

Enjoy the challenge of being in a pressure-packed situation.

Learn how to make fair and firm decisions and to accept criticism.

Want the physical exercise.

Enjoy working with kids and enjoy the opportunity to meet people and make new friends.

Want to earn a little extra money.



Where and how do I get:

Rules Books - Rules books will be provided when we receive your license application and fees.

Insurance - The WIAA provides an accident medical and general liability insurance program for licensed officials.

Uniforms - Uniforms may be purchased at any local sporting goods store or ordered from an officials supply house.

Officiating Fees - Member schools and/or conferences have established officiating fees based on the level of the competition. Game fees vary from conference to conference with