

***IHSAA Soccer
Officials' "Curriculum Guide"***



Objective: To educate and prepare individuals with the basic knowledge of the rules. To equip individuals with the appropriate tools to become a licensed official.

Start Date:

Location:

Session Time: 60 – 90 minutes

Instructors: TBD by local Association

Session 1 Officiating Principles / Duties

- Association Organization
- Officiating Principles
- Officials and Their Duties

Session 2 NFHS Rules / IHSAA Modifications / Game Management

- Game Management/Awareness
- Pre-Game Conference
- NFHS Rule Changes/IHSAA Modifications/Points of Emphasis

Session 3 Professionalism / Coach - AD Panel (In Person Meeting)

- Professionalism
- Coach/AD Panel

Session 4 NFHS Signals – Mechanics (In Person Meeting)

- NFHS Signals
- Game Procedures for (Sport Specific) Crew
- Positioning / Mechanics
- Certification Clinic Attendance during the same school year will serve as Meeting 4 Requirement.

Session 5 Administrative Responsibilities / Equipment / Definitions

- Administrative Responsibilities
- Players and Equipment
- Definitions

Session 6 Rule Review / Definitions / Study Session

- Rules Reviews/Definitions
- Study Session

*** All applicants are responsible for completing the official's test online within the designated timeframe.

I. OFFICIATING PRINCIPLES / DUTIES

During this session, officials will discuss the various *Officiating Principles* in the Officials Manual and the importance of *Officials Duties* that should be demonstrated for all contests.

- This initial session provides an opportunity to offer additional information regarding the benefits of joining an association as well as provide an overview on how to use myIHSAA dashboard.

Association Organization

- Give an overview of Association Personnel, their duties, and functions.
- Discuss the expectations of Association members with respect to attendance and participation in Association activities.
- Discuss the responsibilities of professional development and mentoring provided by the Association.
- Discuss Tournament Application process.
 - Rules Interpretation On-Line Meeting
 - Certification Clinic (Obligation every 2 years)
 - Meeting Requirements (Association Meetings and on-line Training Sessions)
 - Part II Test (90% score or better – online)
 - Tournament Application process

Officiating Principles

- Discuss the Code of Ethics and the importance for officials to demonstrate those characteristics.
- Discuss the Officiating Philosophy as it pertains to the importance of rules knowledge, language, and the proper use of NFHS signals/mechanics.
- Personal Characteristics: Discuss the importance of conditioning, decisiveness, teamwork, and maintaining control.
- Discuss the importance of proper preparation prevents poor performance (examples incl. rules study, practicing mechanics, attending assoc. meetings, obtaining a schedule, and sending back contracts)
- Working with coaches and players, preventive officiating

Officials and Their Duties

- Discuss the Officials' positions.
- Highlight the Official's pregame and during the game duties.
- Explain Correctable Errors
- Discuss Physical Conditions before and during the contest (ie. Field Conditions, Weather,)
- Discuss Concussion protocol.
- Discuss scorer and timer duties before and during the contest.
- Discuss the responsibility of the game official to conduct the contest according to the playing rules and standards set forth in the current rules publications.

Session 1: Wrap-Up (Administer Quiz / Assign Homework)

II. NFHS RULES/ IHSAA MODIFICATIONS / GAME MANAGEMENT

During the session, officials will discuss and highlight the importance of **Pre-Game Conferences** with their crew. Officials will also discuss and illustrate the importance of following **Game Procedures** as they pertain to game coverage/position.

Game Management / Awareness

- Discuss the importance of always being professional.
- Discuss the importance of clock management and crew communication.
- Discuss and define the importance of preventive game management.
- Discuss crowd control.

Pre-Game Conference

- Discuss the importance of performing Pre-Game Responsibilities before every contest.
- Discuss NFHS/IHSAA standard procedure for pre-game conference.

NFHS Rule Changes / IHSAA Modifications / Points of Emphasis - Officials will discuss NFHS Rule Changes and any Points of Emphasis for the current year: (ex: 2023-24)

- 3-3-2b (2,3) (NEW) — Permits the referee to stop the clock to review game situations at any time without negatively impacting a player's ability to remain in the game.
- 3-3-7 — The rule change clarifies that a player should re-enter the game from the official area at midfield.
- 3-4-1e (NEW) — Players shall exit the field on the bench side unless they are unable to do so because of an injury.
- 4-2-12 (NEW) — Defines that wearable technology may not be worn on the arm but is permissible under the uniform top and on the shoe. Rule 4 Reorganization — Adjusts the structure of the uniform rule to offer clarity.
- 11-1-5 (NEW) — Defines the criteria for deliberately playing the ball when determining an offside infraction.
- 12-1-1 thru 3 (NEW), 18-1-1 — Clarifies various foul categories and defines the seven direct free kick fouls to provide consistency.
- 12-3-2,3 (NEW) — Clarifies that neither accidental nor deliberate hand/arm contact can result in a goal.
- 12-8-5 (NEW) — Adds language and direction for officials regarding handling penalty for goalkeepers and when disciplinary sanctions should be applied.
- 12-9-4 (NEW) — Defines considerations of denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO)
- (Insert sport specific rule changes)
- (Insert sport specific rule changes)

Session 2: Wrap-Up (Administer Quiz / Assign Homework)

III. PROFESSIONALISM / COACH / AD PANEL

During the session, officials will outline the details around *Professionalism*.

Professionalism

- Discuss the Code of Ethics and the importance for all officials to demonstrate these characteristics.
- Discuss the importance of positive lines of communication with coaches and players.
- Discuss Official's dress code (sport specific)
 - Professional dressed before contests if applicable.
 - Clean and pressed uniform
 - Proper equipment
- Discuss the importance of supporting those in the crew as well as proper communication.
- Discuss proper game arrival time.
- Discuss proper physical fitness needed to appropriately officiate the contest.
- Discuss game management.

Coach/AD Panel – Discussion Topic – Sportsmanship Focus

- Daily focus on positive sportsmanship
- Role of the Coach and Team Captain
 - Fans and players will follow the lead of the Coach and Captain
 - Partner with Officials not against

IV. NFHS SIGNALS – MECHANICS

During the session, officials will outline the details around *Signals and Mechanics*.

NFHS Signals - Officials will discuss and illustrate the proper use of signals. Participants in class will have the opportunity to practice and receive feedback.

- Discuss the importance of executing clear and concise signals.
- Discuss the importance of practicing signals as a method of improvement.

Game Procedures for crew

- Discuss and explain the Pregame Duties that should be completed by the officiating crew.
 - Meeting with Game Management Personnel
 - Mock Coin Toss
- Discuss the importance of observing experienced officials.

Positioning / Mechanics

- Discuss and define Crew Positions. Reference most recent Game Officials Manual and Certification Clinic Position Manuals
- Discuss and demonstrate recommended crew communication signals.

Session 4: Wrap-Up (Administer Quiz / Assign Homework)

- **Homework: Review Sport Specific Definitions in preparation for Session V.**

V. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES / PLAYERS & EQUIPMENT / DEFINITIONS

During the session, officials will continue to discuss and study the ***Definitions*** and how they should be applied. Officials will also outline the details around ***Players, Substitutes and Equipment***.

Administrative Responsibilities

- Unsporting Behavior Reports
- Mercy Rule Application
- Exemplary Behavior Reports
- Tournament Application
- Certification Clinic Registration
- Importing Games

Players and Equipment

- Discuss and explain the concept of a team and the responsibilities of a captain.
- Discuss and define substitute's role (if applicable) and the process when they can enter the contest and become a player.
- Explain the process and the importance of having starters listed in the scorebook and possible penalties if not entered correctly.
- Discuss and explain Rule 1, Sections 4, 5, and 6
 - Rule 1-5 – Player Equipment
- Discuss the equipment / apparel that is appropriate and not appropriate based on NFHS standards.
- Highlight the importance of adhering to proper uniform and numbering standards.

Session 5: Wrap-Up (Administer Quiz / Assign Homework)

- **Homework:** Review remaining sport specific definitions in preparation for session VI.

VI. RULES REVIEW / DEFINITIONS / STUDY SESSION

During this session, officials will review sport specific rules and discuss scenarios associated with that sport. Discussion regarding sport specific definitions should continue as well.

Session 6: Wrap-Up (Administer Quiz / Discuss Next Steps)

Review the following topics based on the NFHS 2023-2024 Rules Book:

- Code of Ethics
 - Coaches (p. 8)
 - Officials (p.9)
- Tie-Breaking Procedure (p. 89)
- Review (again) Rule Changes and Points of Emphasis