



MHSAA - Legacy Student Official Program 2009-2010 Mentor Pledge

The mentor pledge is to guide, educate, supervise, critique and assist the student official in order that the student official can develop and progress toward a meaningful avocation as an official.

Thank you for your interest in the MHSAA Legacy Student Official Program. This program was conceived by officials, teachers of officiating classes and staff members of the MHSAA. **As a benefit for the Student Official - the MHSAA will waive the processing fee (\$30) for one registration year.**

Basic to the program is the belief that properly and adequately coached from the outset, young people with an interest in officiating can develop as capable officials so that in the future they will be prepared to follow in the footsteps of their mentors. It is a goal of the program that student officials will learn the correct way to perform as an official. Designed training, we believe, will better prepare officials than any program previously attempted. (MHSAA rules and regulations need to be discussed and observed).

Each student official must be prepared to dedicate time to study, practice and learn officiating skills as well as officiate sub-varsity contests. Learning to be an official is work. Student officials must understand the time commitment before they embark on this experience. The student official should contact and discuss this with a veteran official in their area to begin the Legacy/Mentor relationship. The school Athletic Director may be able to assist in referring the student to someone within the area.

The mentor will be a leader. The leader will chart the course, help arrange contests and introduce the student to the practices and procedures of officiating. **The mentor will also be a teacher** providing learning opportunities for the student official. Assistance with tests and clinic experiences will be a part of this responsibility. The mentor should accompany the student official to MHSAA Rules Meetings. **The mentor will be a friend.** It will be the mentor who will answer the tough questions, support the student official in tight situations and encourage the student in times of distress.

Finally, the mentor will be responsible for actively critiquing the student official throughout the season. Improvement rather than perfection will be the goal. Positive rather than negative evaluations will be critical to reinforcing the accomplishments of the student official.

STUDENT OFFICIAL

By signing below, I acknowledge that I am a 16 or 17 year old junior or senior and qualify to participate in the Legacy Student Official Program. I will actively and enthusiastically pursue becoming a capable official.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Date: _____

(Student Official's Signature)

MENTOR

By signing below, I acknowledge that I will be mentoring a 16 or 17 year old junior or senior in the Legacy Student Official Program. I will actively and enthusiastically pursue helping them become a capable official.

Name: _____ MHSAA ID#: _____

Address: _____ Sport(s) _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Date: _____

(Mentor's Signature)

The MHSAA thanks every mentor for the energy, dedication and effort that will be required to see this dream come true. One by one, each of you will contribute to the preservation of high school athletics by guaranteeing that officials will be prepared and available to carry on. The MHSAA Legacy Student Official Program is proud to welcome your commitment to this important project.

Send the Legacy Mentor Pledge with the Officials Registration Form and Registration Fee(s).

Please contact the MHSAA office if you do not have registration materials 517-332-5046 or go to mhsaa.com



OVERVIEW

The student official will read the MHSAA *Officials Guidebook* and discuss it with the mentor, accompany the mentor to an MHSAA Rules Meeting, read the Rules Book, Casebook and Officials Manual, study signals, mechanics and proper positioning. A student official will officiate only sub-varsity contests with the mentor or a mentor designated approved MHSAA official.

The mentor will discuss and assist the student in gathering proper official's uniform and equipment. The mentor will schedule discussion periods to study rules, signals, mechanics and positioning, explain and discuss elements of an officials contract, promote physical/mental readiness and punctuality. The mentor should introduce the student official to officials and coaches and be present at all games officiated by the student official, participating either as an official or observer.

ENTERING THE ARENA

The student official and the mentor will:

1. Attend contests often to observe and study officials.
2. Discover and discuss the ideal personality of the official.
3. Discuss and practice development of an impartial attitude.
4. Explain and practice professional style for an official when developing relationships with coaches.
5. Promote and practice a sense of humor.
6. Recognize a teachable moment in each officiating experience.

THE CONTEST

The student official and mentor will:

1. Discuss entering/leaving a venue as a group.
2. Explain the place and value of a "no-call."
3. Promote and practice common sense decisions and the courage to make decisions.
4. Explain the need to rely on partner(s).
5. Discuss "over-officiating", what it is and how to avoid it.

THE SEASON

The student official and the mentor will:

1. Discuss and practice methods for dealing with dissent from coaches, players and spectators.
2. Discuss and establish methods and techniques useful in handling a fracas/fight.
3. Identify and recognize contest elements that can and should be handled by officials.
4. Identify and practice techniques to maintain emotional control and to deal with specific pressure packed situations.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The mentor will:

1. Promote reading of rules books, casebooks, officials manuals and current literature.
2. Encourage and assist the student official in self-evaluation.
3. Encourage the student official to observe, talk with and "be around" veteran officials.
4. Explain how officials secure contracts.
5. Review an evaluation and establish comfort in being evaluated.

GROWTH AND ADVANCEMENT

The mentor will:

1. Critique the student official during every contest.
2. Accentuate the positive . . . always.
3. Monthly evaluate the student official in writing using specified, detailed accounts.
4. Arrange for one evaluation by an accomplished sensitive official.
5. Maintain a log into which comments about the development of the student official are entered.
6. Encourage the student official to keep a log into which game notes and comments are entered. This practice will keep discussions meaningful and useful.

MENTOR MOMENTS

The mentor will:

1. Prepare for the possibility that the student official does not make the grade.
2. Prepare for the possibility that the student official cannot complete a contest assignment.
3. Write and discuss with the student official critiques about positive growth.
4. Phone the student official regularly and maintain contact, be interested.
5. Officiate with or observe the student official a minimum of once per week.
6. Personally discuss weaknesses with the student official. Written discussion of weaknesses should be avoided until the end of the season. Even then, be sensitive and positive.