



"Be The Referee" is a series of one-minute messages designed to help educate people on the rules of different sports, to help them better understand the art of officiating, and to recruit officials. "Be The Referee" features MHSAA Assistant Director Mark Uyl's insights on officiating.

Respect For Basketball Referees

Over the past three years, I've gotten to attend my share of middle school athletic events with my oldest two children being involved in a variety of sports at this level.

In just about every game, there have been times where I have shaken my head in watching how some of the adults involved conduct themselves, especially those adults sitting in the stands.

Middle school sports should have the focus of kids participating, learning the game and having fun. In these games, you have the most inexperienced players, newer coaches and often times officials just starting out. Everyone is learning at this level, and a critical eye could identify numerous things done by each of these groups that could be improved upon.

Adult spectators at sub-varsity games need to be positive people...cheer for your team and child, and avoid the second-guessing and criticism of officials. We need to give these officials a chance to gain experience and become a good referee.

(12/31/15)