

MHSAA OFFICIALS BULLETIN



SPECIAL POSTSEASON EDITION

Preparation for Postseason

While this edition of the MHSAA Basketball Officials Bulletin is primarily geared toward those of you that will be working the 2020 Girls and/or Boys Basketball Tournaments, all MHSAA officials should be able to glean some good information for use in your games.

Tournament Assignment Process

First, it's important that MHSAA officials understand all that goes into selection of officials for postseason assignments. The MHSAA Officials Program wants to be as open and transparent as possible in explaining the philosophy and method for assigning postseason positions. The philosophy and requirements are located on pp. 25-26 of the Officials Guidebook. Please familiarize yourself with this and all the parts of this document.

It's also important officials know the practical aspects of assigning nearly 4200 individual assignments. It is virtually impossible to know the skills and abilities of all of the postseason-eligible officials around the state. This is why it is imperative that we receive recommendations from assigners, associations and leagues and conferences*. This, combined with the input from Officials Selection Committee members, contribute to the overall rank of an official.

Officials are then paired with contests taking into consideration geography and travel limitations, date blocks (on the MHSAA website – not Arbiter) and potential school conflicts. Due to the need for a quick turnaround before the start of the first tournament date, the assignment process must begin well in advance of the date seeds are announced. This means that often officials are assigned without knowing the specific teams that will be playing on particular dates/times, and with the goal of avoiding having an official work more than one night in the same District.

While some adjustments are made after seeding, a wholesale assignment process would not be possible.

* To ensure more comprehensive recommendations, the MHSAA will begin publishing the names of assigners and associations that fail to submit recommendations for the sports they assign or sponsor beginning in the 2020-21 school year.

Who's the R?

This is often the question on those early round assignments when no R is designated. It is expected that the most senior official (by years service) will be the R, along with all of the responsibilities that come with it. These include communication to the site administrator on behalf of the crew, conducting the pregame meeting with the site administrator, leading the single pregame captains/head coaches conference and having the final authority during the game. The senior official may designate this role to another official on the crew, but should do so well in advance of the contest date.

Apparel Rules

As noted before the start of the season, it is expected that MHSAA officials enforce the apparel rules and written. This is the same expectation for the MHSAA Tournament. Explain the expectations at the pregame conference and remove any player that does not adhere to the requirements/restrictions (as outlined in the [Apparel Guide](#)) until the violation is corrected.

Conflicts of Interests

Check out what the [Officials Guidebook](#) has to say about conflicts of interests on p. 3. There are clear conflicts that are outlined, but officials should know that residence, in itself, should not be considered a conflict. Officials should not be kept from working in their home city if no conflicting relationship exists.

MHSAA Postseason Officials' Expectations

MHSAA Tournaments are a showcase of athletic talent, and it's important that the officiating mirrors that same aptitude level. To ensure this, officials assigned to all levels of the tournament must consistently adhere to the expectations of the MHSAA for signals and mechanics, rules enforcement and administrative responsibilities. Use the following links for important resources such as this [Basketball Officials Tournament Guide](#). Only approved 3-Person mechanics as outlined in the [MHSAA Basketball Officials Manual](#) are permitted during the regular season and MHSAA tournament. This is especially important for this year's points of emphasis including going opposite-table after reporting fouls, free-throw positioning and the single pregame captains/head coaches conference. A thorough crew pregame should be conducted before the start of the contest using this [3-Person Pregame Outline](#).