



Basketball Officials Tournament Guide

Postseason Officials Reference • MHSAA Basketball

The success of the MHSAA Basketball Tournament rests in large part on the skills of the officials assigned. Officials are selected based on the criteria outlined in the [MHSAA Officials Guidebook and Policy Manual](#) and through the confidence and vetting process of the Basketball Officials Selection Committee. This document provides MHSAA Basketball Tournament officials reminders of what they should expect from the MHSAA, and what the MHSAA expects of them.

Tournament Officiating Fees		Mileage Reimbursement
District	\$110 per official	Roundtrip miles in excess of 50 miles will be reimbursed at \$0.40 per mile.
Regional	\$110 per official	
Quarterfinal	\$110 per official	
Semifinal	\$125 per official	
Final	\$125 per official	

Before the Game

Conflict of Interest: If an official has a personal relationship with the locality, school, players, or coaches of a competing team that might cause embarrassment, contact [Will McKoy](#) or [Jeff Spedoske](#) immediately so a change in assignment may be considered. When in doubt, check with the MHSAA before accepting the assignment.

Admission: Only the officials working the contests shall be admitted free by the Tournament Manager. *Officials are not to ask for free admittance for friends, family, or other non-working officials.*

Proper Uniform: Officials shall wear the proper uniform outlined in the [MHSAA Officials Guidebook and Policy Manual](#), including the MHSAA emblem on the left pocket. Officials may not wear a striped uniform top with solid black shoulder panels, nor any other unapproved uniform.

Arrival: Report to the site Tournament Manager at least **one hour prior** to the scheduled game time. Early arrival allows for a proper pregame conference and notification of any unusual or last-minute details. Review the 3-Person Pregame Outline as a crew before the start of the game.

Rulebooks: The officiating crew should have a rulebook present at the scorer's table for each game should a rules or interpretations controversy arise. It is better to take a moment to check the proper rule enforcement than to misapply a rule that might have a significant impact on the outcome.

Pregame Conference: A single pregame captains/coaches conference is **mandatory** before the start of the game, at approximately the **13-minute mark** prior to tipoff. Discuss expectations with captains, then dismiss them for the remainder of the conference with both coaches. Be professional — limit physical contact to handshakes. This is important business; be businesslike.

During the Game

Public Perception: Be mindful of the perception your comments have in a public forum. Avoid providing details of assignments online before the contest. Do not carry on unnecessary discussions with players, coaches, or spectators. Do not provide commentary on team play or behavior following the contest, nor engage in public debates over calls. *"Discretion is the better form of valor."* Simply officiate the contest and hold your tongue.

Bench Conduct: Review Rule 10-5. Poor bench conduct will not be condoned. If a coach is out of the box other than as allowed by rule, assess a technical foul. Enforce the rule consistently throughout the tournament — do not look for violations, but **do not look the other way** when a violation has occurred.

Beginning Play: The administering official shall sound the whistle to indicate play is about to begin following a charged timeout or unusual delay. Follow the same procedure at the beginning of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarters.

Mechanics & Signals: Use only the mechanics and signals prescribed in the current edition of the [MHSAA Basketball Officials Manual](#) during MHSAA Tournament games. When you need to "sell" a call, do so only within approved parameters — do not draw unnecessary attention to yourself.



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Communication: Make clear signals and verbalizations to the scoring table. Every communication matters. **STOP – MAKE CLEAR SIGNALS.** Do not walk through your signals or rush. Use only approved signals from the [MHSAA Basketball Officials Manual](#).

Time-Outs: Do not start the time-out clock until teams have reached their benches. Teams should receive the full length of the timeout. Advise the scorer to sound the first horn with **15 seconds remaining**.

Scorebook: The referee shall check the scorebook at the end of each period. Require scorers to compare scorebooks at the end of each quarter to avoid conflict at the end of the game. Require the Officials Scorer to audit the visual score (the scoreboard is unofficial).

End of Game Administration: Check with the table during late timeouts. Know who has last-second shot responsibility. Understand *"lag time" principles*. Exaggerate clock start/stop signals. Do not rush from the court leaving unresolved issues behind. Visually check with the scorer/timer after the final horn. The table must keep officials on the floor if a problem exists. **Get it right.** Once duties are complete and no controversy remains, leave the court promptly and return to the locker room.

Questions or concerns? Contact [Will McKoy](#) or [Jeff Spedoske](#) via email. Emergency during business hours: 517-332-5046. After hours, call Will at 313-428-0018.