



— OFFICIATE —
MICHIGAN

GRAND
RAPIDS

Day

2026

OMD
2026

JULY 25

Welcome to Officiate Michigan Day!

The MHSAA is honored to welcome our registered officials from across the state for a special day dedicated to teaching, training, and continuous learning.

Today represents an exciting milestone for officiating in Michigan. Through the outstanding partnership between the MHSAA and NASO, we have assembled one of the finest groups of officiating instructors in the nation. Their knowledge, experience, and passion for developing officials will provide valuable skills that will benefit officials at every stage of their careers.

We are proud of the exceptional lineup of speakers and the outstanding educational content prepared for today's attendees. We encourage you to engage fully, ask questions, share experiences, and take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn from some of the very best in the officiating industry. It's events like this that make school sports in Michigan so unique and

Thank you for your dedication to serving the 200,000 students in Michigan each year through school sports. We hope you enjoy this edition of Officiate Michigan Day and leave West Michigan inspired, better prepared, and more connected with fellow officials from across our state.

Thanks for making the trip to Grand Rapids! Enjoy your day with us!

Mark Uyl
MHSAA Executive Director



Below you will find an outline of the event. For a more detailed schedule visit the lunch session and sport sections of the program or download the OMD app.

9:00 am – 9:45 am	Opening Session
10:00 am – 10:50 am	Sport-Specific Session 1
11:00 am – 11:50 am	Sport-Specific Session 2
12:10 pm – 1:10 pm	Lunch Session
1:30 pm – 2:20 pm	Sport-Specific Session 3
2:30 pm – 3:20 pm	Sport-Specific Session 4
3:30 pm – 4:15 pm	Closing Session

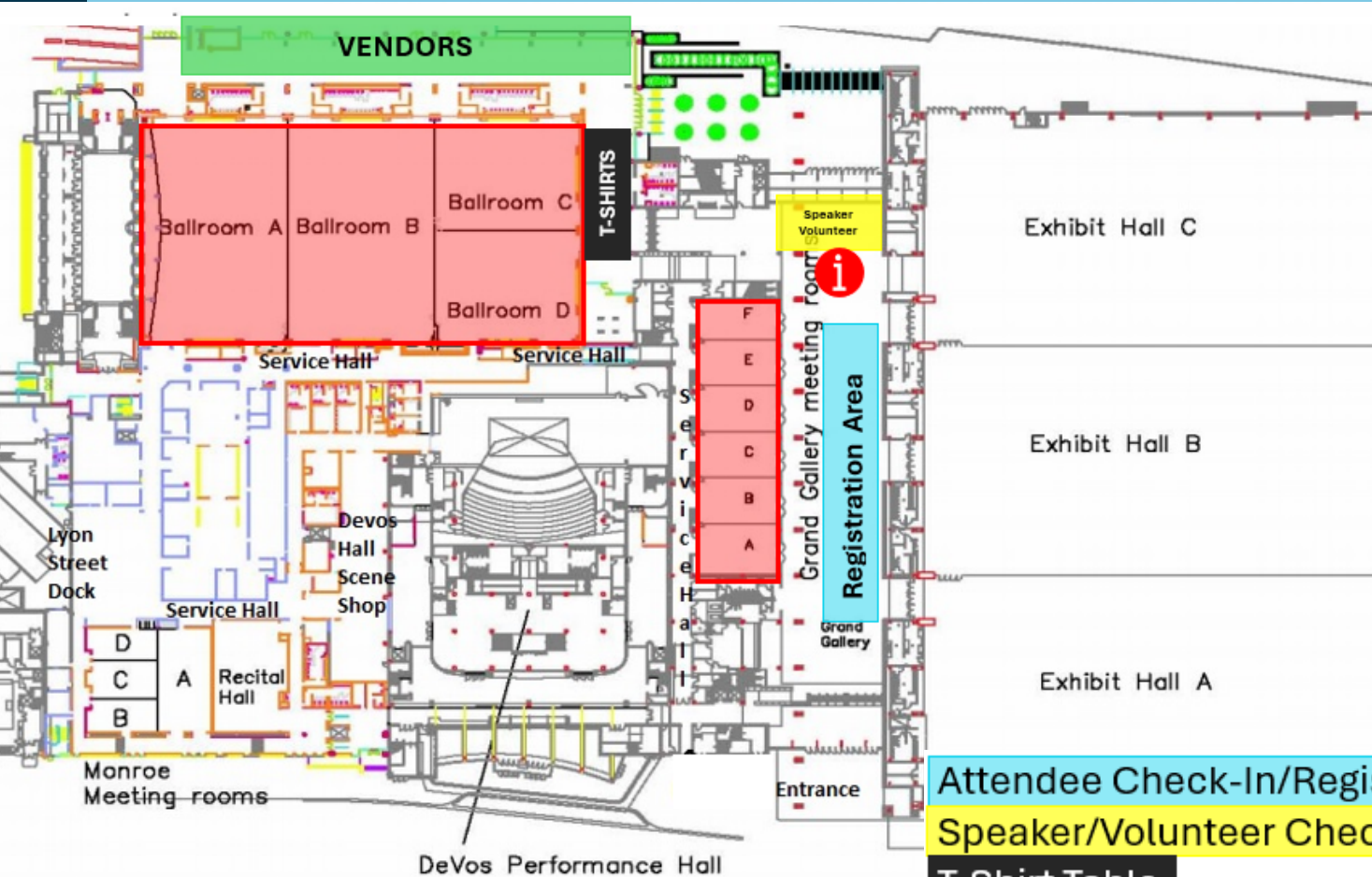
Join the OMD app on SportsYou with the unique access code below.

UYXE-GUMT



STREET LEVEL

GETTING AROUND



Attendee Check-In/Registration

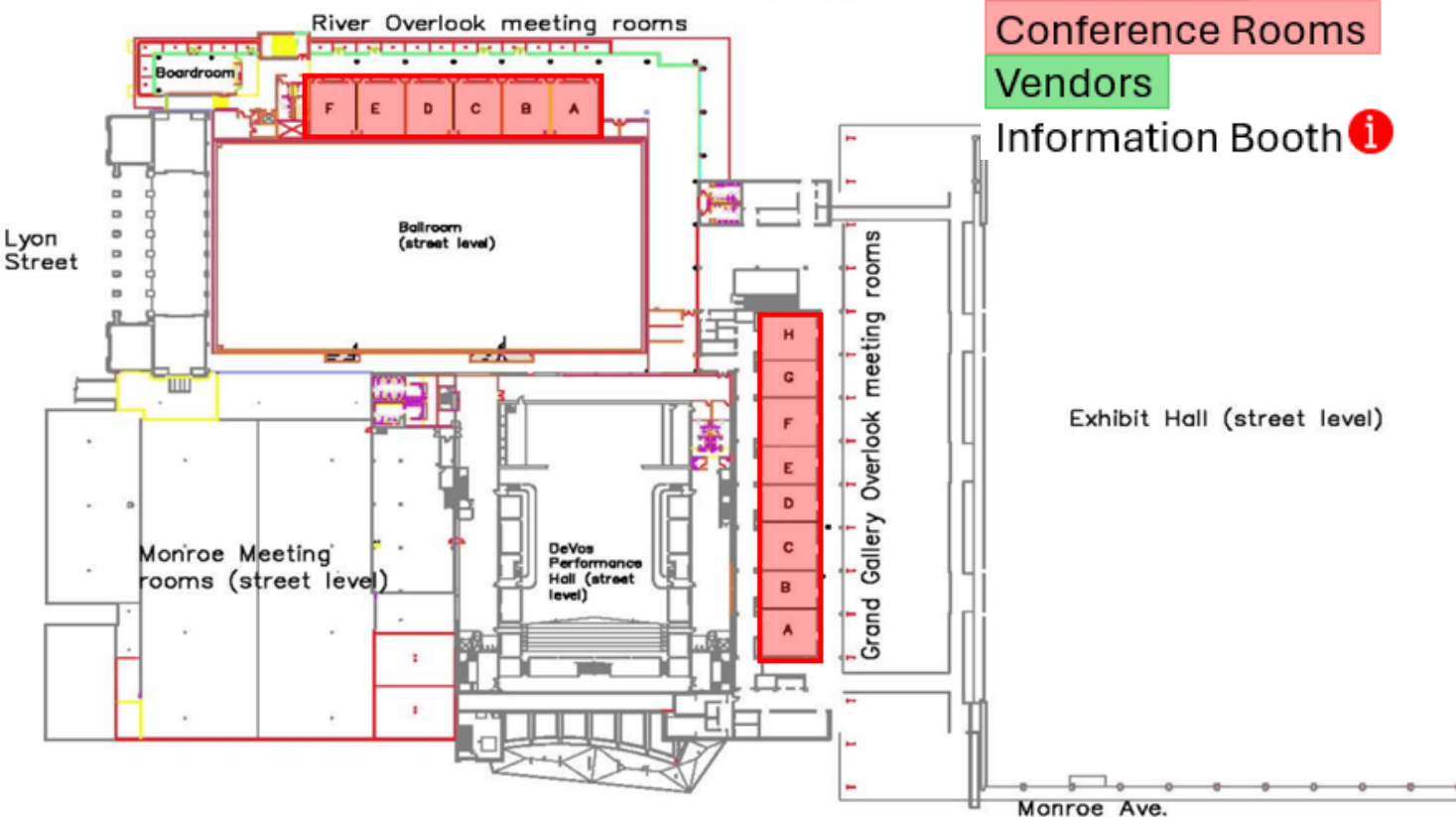
Speaker/Volunteer Check-In

T-Shirt Table

Conference Rooms

Vendors

Information Booth 



THIRD LEVEL

MIKE PEREIRA

Mike Pereira is a former Big West, WAC, and NFL football official who later became vice president of officiating for the National Football League. He is currently the head of officiating for the United Football League. Since 2010, he has served as a rules analyst for Fox Sports and has become one of the leading voices for officials, offering insight to TV audiences which had never been provided before his work.



He is the founder of Battlefields to Ballfields, a national foundation that provides military veterans with scholarships, training, and mentorship to become sports officials, helping them reintegrate into their communities through the camaraderie of officiating.

KARI SEITZ

Kari Seitz was one of the top American professional soccer referees and one of the most experienced female referees in the world. She is currently the vice president of refereeing for US



Soccer and formerly served as the FIFA head of refereeing. She worked four FIFA Women's World Cup tournaments (1999, 2003, 2007, and 2011), as well as three Olympic soccer tournaments (2004, 2008, and 2012), and is the only referee — man or woman — to do so. Kari was inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame in 2026 and is a graduate of Brighton High School and Michigan State University.

ASK THE MHSAA STAFF*(gallery overlook A)*

Brad Bush, Andy Frushour, Cody Inglis, and Will McKoy

ASSIGNER & ASSOCIATION MEETING*(ballroom A-B)*

Jeff Spedoske

**COMMUNICATION &
GAME MANAGEMENT***(ballroom C)*

Dr. Jayson Dibble

FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S CHAIR*(grand gallery C-D)*

Connor Thomas, Jonathan Goei, Nikki Norris, and Chris Zylstra

LEADERSHIP LESSONS*(river overlook C-D)*Donnie Eppley, Suzanne Lowry, Ron Torbert,
Devonie McLarty, and Rob Wigod**LEGAL LESSONS FOR OFFICIALS***(gallery overlook E)*

Jim Dworman

**MENTAL PERFORMANCE - HOW TO OFFICIATE
WITH CONFIDENCE & PREVENT BURNOUT***(gallery overlook G-H)*

Dr. Sandra Serafini

**MENTORING, RECRUITING AND
RETAINING OFFICIALS***(grand gallery A-B)*

Ed McCarty and Charlie Morrison

MOVING UP THE LADDER - WHAT'S THE PATH? *(grand gallery E-F)*

Rich Fetchiet, Jason Nickleby, and Andy O'Brien

NFHS RULES PROCESS & OFFICIALS PROGRAM

(gallery overlook C)

Dana Pappas

OFFICIATING MANAGEMENT AND AI

(gallery overlook B)

Patrick Kane and Megan Cusick

REFREPS

(gallery overlook F)

Caleb Lovelace and Kyle Armstrong

THE FIRST THREE YEARS - NEW (AND NEWER) OFFICIALS

(river overlook A-B)

Christian Smith and Nick Kubitskey

THE GAME IS OVER: NOW WHAT?

(river overlook E-F)

Nichole Kramer-Kiuchi

VIEW FROM THE TOP

(ballroom D)

Shawn Smith, Jenna Schroeder, and Gary Zielinski

BASEBALL*(grand gallery A-B)*

10:00 am – 10:50 am:	Becoming a Better Plate Umpire in 2027
11:00 am – 11:50 am:	The Ideal Umpire
1:30 pm – 2:20 pm:	Handling People & Situations
2:30 pm – 3:20 pm:	Video Review: 8 Plays for Umpiring Improvement

BASKETBALL*(ballroom D)*

10:00 am – 10:50 am:	Trail, Center, Lead Positioning and Court Coverage
11:00 am – 11:50 am:	Play Calling Principles
1:30 pm – 2:20 pm:	Mental Approach to the Game: From Locker Room to the Final Horn
2:30 pm – 3:20 pm:	Video Review: Breaking Down Plays with the Pros

COMPETITIVE CHEER*(gallery overlook A)*

10:00 am – 10:50 am:	Recruiting, Mentoring, and Retaining Officials
11:00 am – 11:50 am:	Hot Topics: Scoring Breakdown
1:30 pm – 2:20 pm:	Consistency During a Long Day – Preparedness & Professionalism
2:30 pm – 3:20 pm:	Hot Topics

FIELD HOCKEY*(gallery overlook F)*

11:00 am – 11:50 am:	Foundations for Umpiring Hockey
2:30 pm – 3:20 pm:	Management & Leadership on the Field

FOOTBALL*(ballroom A-B)*

10:00 am – 10:50 am:	When Communication Matters – Handling Tough Situations and Tricky Plays
11:00 am – 11:50 am:	Position Breakouts <i>(see next page)</i>
1:30 pm – 2:20 pm:	Position Breakouts <i>(see next page)</i>
2:30 pm – 3:20 pm:	Video Breakdown: Each clinician shares one play that was a “learn from” moment

FOOTBALL: DEEPS BREAKOUT*(river overlook E-F)*

11:00 am – 11:50 am: Foul Recognition/Quality Fouls
(Defensive Pass Interference)

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm: Goal Line Coverage (Tricks of the Trade)

FOOTBALL: LOS BREAKOUT*(ballroom A-B)*

11:00 am – 11:50 am: Foul Recognition/Quality Fouls
(Offensive Holds)

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm: Forward Progress Spots

FOOTBALL: REFEREE BREAKOUT*(river overlook A-B)*

11:00 am – 11:50 am: Crew Chief 101

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm: Game Management & Penalty Enforcement

FOOTBALL: UMPIRE BREAKOUT*(river overlook C-D)*

11:00 am – 11:50 am: Foul Recognition/Quality Fouls
(Offensive Holds)

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm: Penalty Enforcement
(How to Help the Crew)

GYMNASTICS*(gallery overlook b)*

10:00 am – 10:50 am: Vault & Beam

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm: Bars & Floor

ICE HOCKEY*(gallery overlook E)*

11:00 am – 10:50 am: Safety-critical rule enforcement

2:30 pm – 3:20 pm: Game Management & De-escalating "The Temperature"

LACROSSE - BOYS*(gallery overlook C)*

10:00 am – 10:50 am: Officiating the Defense

11:00 am – 11:50 am: Deciphering Personal Fouls

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm: Climbing the Ladder: Tangible Steps to Improve at any Level

2:30 pm – 3:20 pm: Selling Your Calls Using Professional Dramatic Affect

LACROSSE - GIRLS*(gallery overlook E)*

10:00 am – 10:50 am: Three-Person Positioning: Beyond the Basics

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm: Seeing the Game: Positioning and Play Analysis

SOCCER*(grand gallery E-F)*

- 10:00 am – 10:50 am: Reflections from World Cup 2026
- 11:00 am – 11:50 am: Taking the Jersey Off: Recovering After Difficult Matches
- 1:30 pm – 2:20 pm: Whistles and Wisdom: Training, Mentoring and Supporting Local Referees
- 2:30 pm – 3:20 pm: Inside Referee Development: A Panel Discussion

SOFTBALL*(grand gallery C-D)*

- 10:00 am – 10:50 am: Climbing the Ladder
- 11:00 am – 11:50 am: The Ideal Umpire
- 1:30 pm – 2:20 pm: History of Signals & Mechanics
- 2:30 pm – 3:20 pm: “You Missed the Call, Now What?”

SWIMMING & DIVING*(gallery overlook B)*

- 11:00 am – 11:50 am: The Professionalism of a Swimming and Diving Official
- 2:30 pm – 3:20 pm: Preparing for the 2026-27 Season

TRACK & FIELD*(gallery overlook F)*

10:00 am – 10:50 am: Procedures: We Don't Just Go Around the Oval Pt1

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm: Procedures: We don't just go around in circles, Pt2

VOLLEYBALL*(ballroom C)*

10:00 am – 10:50 am: What's New?

11:00 am – 11:50 am: What's Not New?

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm: Game Management (You can be a 100% test-taker, but can you manage the match?)

2:30 pm – 3:20 pm: Words Matter (A module on effective communication/response skills)

WRESTLING*(gallery overlook G-H)*

10:00 am – 10:50 am: Wrestling 101

11:00 am – 11:50 am: Birth of a Wrestling Rule: NFHS Rules change process

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm: Wrestling 101

2:30 pm – 3:20 pm: You Make the Call

JOSH ABTS (SOCCER)

Josh Abts is a national referee coach with US Soccer, developing and educating referees within Michigan and around the country. He serves as manager of regional referees for Michigan and provides training and leadership to the West Michigan Soccer Officials Association under the MHSAA. Outside of soccer, Josh is an IT professional in the greater Grand Rapids area.

KYLE ARMSTRONG (REFREPS)

Kyle Armstrong is the founder and CEO of RefReps, an innovative education platform. He's on a mission to transform how the next generation of referees are trained — and to elevate the way fans, athletes, and coaches view officials in every sport

DALTON BARKSDALE (FOOTBALL)

Dalton Barksdale has been on the Missouri Valley Football Conference staff since 2023, where he works as an umpire. Prior to his time in the Missouri Valley, he worked in the GLIAC including two seasons in the playoffs. He graduated from the University of Buffalo and Detroit Cass Tech, where he played on the defensive line. He works as an engineer for the Army and currently lives right outside Detroit in Lathrup Village.

MARK BENNETT (FOOTBALL)

Mark Bennett has served on the Big Ten officiating staff since 2017 as a line of scrimmage official. Prior to joining the Big Ten, he officiated in the MAC, GLIAC, MIAA, and Arena Football League. Mark also helps coordinate an official's study group in the Grand Rapids area, supporting the continued development of football officials. Outside of officiating, he is a retired captain from the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office and currently serves as a township supervisor in West Michigan.

BRENDA BETZ (GYMNASTICS)

Brenda Betz is a highly experienced gymnastics official and a leader in the sport. She currently serves as an officials coordinator for the National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association and has been involved in Michigan gymnastics governance and championship officiating. She has been a member of the MHSAA Gymnastics Committee and has served as a chief judge and meet referee at the MHSAA Gymnastics Finals. Brenda has been instrumental in the recruitment, training, and development of officials.

DON BOYER (BOYS LACROSSE)

Don Boyer is a multi-sport official with three years of experience officiating boys lacrosse and four years officiating football. A former collegiate lacrosse player, Don competed at the college level for four years before transitioning into coaching, where he spent nine years coaching high school boys lacrosse in Michigan.

AMY BRAUN (COMPETITIVE CHEER)

Amy Braun is a respected leader in Michigan girls competitive cheer with experience as a coach, official and advocate for the sport. She has worked closely with coaches and officials to support consistent rules knowledge and athlete safety and continues to contribute to the development of coaches and programs in MHSAA Competitive Cheer.

JULI BROWN (COMPETITIVE CHEER)

Juli Brown is a longtime MHSAA official with more than two decades of judging experience. Juli has dedicated her career to promoting excellence, consistency, and education in competitive cheer officiating throughout the state. She has been recognized by her peers as an MCJA Official of the Year recipient, and her unique perspective as both a coach and official has made her a valued resource for judges and coaches.

LIZ BRUSH (GIRLS LACROSSE)

Liz Brush has officiated girls lacrosse for more than 25 years at levels ranging from youth and high school competition to collegiate, international and professional play. She has worked NCAA Division I Final Four events for more than a decade and has officiated conference championships for the Big Ten, ACC, Atlantic 10, Patriot League and Ivy League. Brush also has officiated professionally in Athletes Unlimited and the Women's Lacrosse League Championship Series. An internationally recognized official, Brush has worked five World Championships, including four medal games. She serves as the Maryland girls lacrosse state rules interpreter and as the NFHS Section 2 representative on the NFHS Girls Lacrosse Rules Committee. Since 2012, Brush has served as senior manager of Women's Officials Education Programs for USA Lacrosse, developing educational resources and training materials used by officials nationwide.

MARK BURNETT (BOYS LACROSSE)

Mark Burnett serves as the Manager of Men's Game Officials at USA Lacrosse. He currently officiates collegiate, high school, and youth lacrosse and has had the opportunity to officiate both the PIAA and MPSSAA state championship games. In addition to field lacrosse, Mark is active in box lacrosse and has officiated two NABLL National Championship games. Before beginning his officiating career, Mark coached at various levels, including NCAA Division II and high school, after playing collegiate field lacrosse and semi-professional box lacrosse.

BRAD BUSH (MHSAA)

Brad Bush is in his fourth year with the MHSAA, where he oversees baseball, the Athletic Director Connection Program, the Personal Branding Activity, and eligibility, while also assisting with football. Prior to joining the MHSAA, he served for many years as the athletic director and head football coach at Chelsea High School. Bush is a past president of the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association and continues to coach football at Albion College.

TONY CLARKE (WRESTLING)

Tony Clarke has worked for the Department of the Navy since 1984, the same year in which his officiating career began. He was named an IHSA wrestling clinician in 1999 and wrestling rules interpreter in 2005, and Tony presently serves on the NFHS wrestling rules committee as the NFHS officials representative. He has worked several IHSA state tournament assignments and has received numerous wrestling accolades for his work and service to the sport.

JIM CONNORS (SOFTBALL)

Jim Connors is a highly respected softball umpire with more than 33 years of officiating experience. He has worked three MHSAA Softball State Finals, 29 USA Softball National Tournaments, seven WBSC international events—including two Pan American Championships and one World Championship—and has served as an NCAA umpire since 2000, officiating 33 collegiate conference and championship tournaments across the NCAA and NAIA. In Michigan, he has also umpired 65 USA Softball state tournaments and served as the USA Softball of Michigan Umpire-in-Chief for 10 state tournaments.

CANDY COX (COMPETITIVE CHEER)

Candy Cox serves as executive director of the Michigan Cheer Judges Association, where she has trained and mentored hundreds of officials throughout the state. As the first competitive cheer official to receive the MHSAA Vern L. Norris Award, she was recognized for her decades of service, mentorship, and educational leadership. Candy is widely regarded as one of the foundational figures in Michigan competitive cheer.

JOEY CRAWFORD (BASKETBALL)

Joey Crawford is a proud inductee into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2026. He was an NBA referee from 1977-2016 and officiated more than 300 NBA playoff games including 50 Finals games. Simply put, Joe is one of the top referees in NBA history and part of a famous officiating family with his father Shag and brother Jerry both having served as longtime National League baseball umpires and crew chiefs for decades.

MEGAN CUSICK (MHSAA OFFICIAL)

Megan Cusick is entering her 9th year of officiating and 3rd year as lead varsity basketball assigner. Megan is also a volleyball official and serves as the OK conference volleyball assigner at all levels.

DR. JAYSON DIBBLE (MHSAA OFFICIAL)

Dr. Jayson Dibble serves as the department chair for the communication department at Hope College. When outside the classroom, he officiates high school and small college football. In 2014, he was honored to officiate the MHSAA Division 6 football state championship at Ford Field.

DIANA DILDINE (COMPETITIVE CHEER)

Diana Dildine is a longtime educator and competitive cheer official. Her background as both a teacher and official has given her a unique perspective on athlete development, performance standards and rules application. She is recognized for officiating at the highest levels of the sport, including MHSAA Finals competitions.

JIM DWORMAN (MHSAA OFFICIAL)

Jim Dworman concentrates his practice on commercial and real estate litigation (including landlord/tenant and collections), appeals, business and entertainment law. He was law clerk to the Honorable William R. Beasley of the Michigan Court of Appeals.

DONNIE EPPLEY (BASKETBALL)

Donnie Eppley currently serves as the executive director of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials. He also has served as coordinator of men's basketball officials for the Horizon League, and is a former B1G, MAC, Summit and Horizon League men's basketball official. He has officiated in the NCAA Tournament 12 times and in the NIT Tournament as well.

RICH FETCHIET (BASEBALL)

Rich Fetchiet is the current coordinator of umpires for the Big Ten and Big 12 conferences and former coordinator for the American, Big East, Conference USA, Horizon, MAC, Missouri Valley and Summit conferences. He is a retired college baseball umpire (Big Ten) and football official (MAC) who worked three College World Series, working the plate in the 1999 championship game. Rich also worked the 2000 Olympic Games in Australia and is the winner of the 2026 NASO Gold Whistle Award. He is a retired administrator at the University of Michigan.

ANDY FRUSHOUR (MHSAA)

Andy Frushour is a Senior Assistant Director for the MHSAA and has been on staff for 25 years. Frushour is the soccer director, leads the association's marketing and communications efforts, and heads all student leadership programs.

RUDY GODEFROIDT (TRACK & FIELD)

Rudy Godefroidt is a 50-year MHSAA high school official in track & field and cross country. Rudy has served as the meet referee and officials coordinator for the MHSAA Cross Country Finals since 1996 and the MHSAA Track & Field Finals since 1995. Rudy is the 2010 MHSAA Charles E. Forsythe Award winner and a longtime president and board member of ATOM, the statewide association of track & field officials.

JONATHAN GOEI (ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, FOREST HILLS CENTRAL HS)

Jonathan Goei is the Athletic Director at Forest Hills Central High School, where he oversees 37 varsity sports, over 150 coaches, and approximately 700 student-athletes. A Certified Athletic Administrator, Jonathan has worked very hard to foster a comprehensive athletic program that emphasizes both competitive success and personal development. He spent 15 years coaching basketball at both the high school and collegiate levels before jumping into the business world for seven years. That combined experience brought him back into the world of athletics and into the role of Athletic Director. With a passion for creating opportunities for student-athletes to excel both on and off the field, Jonathan is committed to advancing the mission of educational athletics.

DORIS GOODLOCK (GYMNASTICS)

Doris Goodlock is a highly-respected gymnastics official and officiating leader with decades of experience in the sport. Doris has been dedicated to promoting excellence, consistency, and professionalism in gymnastics and cheer officiating while supporting the development of officials at multiple levels of competition. In addition to her work as a judge, Doris currently serves as the officials coordinator for the National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association, where she supports and develops officials across the country.

LUKE GRIEMSMAN (BOYS LACROSSE)

Luke Griemsmen is in his 29th year officiating boys and men's lacrosse, with football sprinkled in. As a professional educator, he has many years of secondary teaching experience and has coached at various levels including men's college lacrosse and trained within the USA Lacrosse coaches development program. He currently serves as the Grand Rapids Area Lacrosse Officials Association president and trainer, as well as former secretary, vice president, and sub-assigner.

PHIL HICKS (FOOTBALL)

Phil Hicks has been on the Big Ten staff since 2020 and works primarily as a field judge. He has officiated two Big Ten Championships, two Orange Bowls, and a College Football Playoff first-round game. Prior to his time in the Big Ten, he worked in the MAC and the GLIAC. Born and raised in Detroit, Phil currently resides in Van Buren Township, Michigan. Additionally, Phil is a Davenport University graduate and works in the automotive industry.

DAN HUTCHESON (WRESTLING)

Dan Hutcheson is an Assistant Director for the MHSAA, where he oversees wrestling, tennis, boys lacrosse, and international student eligibility. He brings a diverse background in wrestling as a collegiate All-American, former member of the U.S. Olympic Training Center Resident National Team in Colorado Springs, high school head wrestling coach, and high school administrator. His experience at every level of the sport allows him to view wrestling from multiple perspectives, providing a well-rounded approach to leadership, education, and the continued growth of the sport.

CODY INGLIS (MHSAA)

Cody Inglis has served with the MHSAA since 2014, following a 20-year career in education as a teacher, coach, athletic director, assistant principal, and principal at Suttons Bay High School (1995–2007) and Traverse City Central High School (2007–2014). During his time at Suttons Bay, he coached cross country, track & field, ice hockey, and basketball. As Senior Assistant Director at the MHSAA, Inglis oversees cross country, ice hockey, track & field, and alpine skiing, while also serving as the Association's primary resource for eligibility and regulation matters.

PATRICK KANE (MHSAA OFFICIAL)

Patrick Kane is entering his 25th year of officiating, getting his start through intramural sports while at Notre Dame. Throughout his career, Patrick has officiated across the country, including California, Indiana, Minnesota, and Texas. He served as the recruitment and mentorship coordinator for the WMOA from 2019-2024 and was WMOA Official of the Year in 2020.

ALEX KEMP (FOOTBALL)

Alex Kemp is a current NFL referee who has been on the NFL staff since 2014, starting as a side judge before being promoted to referee in 2018. Prior to his time in the NFL, Alex worked in the Big Ten, MAC, and GLIAC. He is a graduate of Greenville High School and owns and operates Kemp Insurance, which has been family-owned and operated since 1879. Alex's father Stan was a longtime NFL official, and his brother Jake currently works in the Big Ten.

DR. YUYA KIUCHI (SOCCER)

Dr. Yuya Kiuchi currently serves as the state director of referee development for the Michigan Soccer Referee Program. He also directs the Referee Academy and serves as a PRO assessor. Yuya is a professor at Michigan State University in human development and family studies.

NICHOLE KRAMER-KIUCHI (OFFICIAL)

Nichole Kramer-Kiuchi is a U.S. National Referee Coach with more than 20 years of officiating experience, including four years serving as a U.S. Soccer National Referee Coach. She has provided referee instruction both domestically and internationally, supporting the development of match officials across a wide range of adult and youth competitions. In addition to her national coaching role, she serves on the Michigan Referee Committee as Manager of Referee Coaches, where she leads coach development and mentoring initiatives. She is also an active collegiate referee assessor.

NICK KUBITSKEY (MHSAA OFFICIAL)

Nick Kubitskey began his officiating career at the age of 12. His passion for baseball has fueled a rapid progression from umpiring recreational leagues to the Division II and semi-professional levels while earning his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. Nick's ultimate goal is to become a Major League Baseball umpire.

JILL LANSKY (COMPETITIVE CHEER)

Jill Lansky is a longtime member of the Michigan Cheer Judges Association. She is an experienced girls competitive cheer official and former MCJA Official of the Year. She has dedicated years to promoting excellence, consistency, and education in cheer officiating across Michigan.

CALEB LOVELACE (REFREPS)

Caleb Lovelace is an account executive at RefReps. Caleb placed top 25 in a national sales competition at Baylor University. Caleb is motivated by growing his network and is an entrepreneur at heart.

SUZANNE LOWRY (OFFICIAL)

Suzanne Lowry is the former Vice President of Marketing at T-Mobile and an active referee for the FIVB, AVP, USA Volleyball, and the NCAA. She officiated the 2024 NCAA Women's Volleyball Championship and has refereed matches on six continents in 19 countries. In 2023, Lowry was part of the officiating crew for the historic Nebraska Outdoor Volleyball Match, which drew a crowd of 92,003 spectators.

PAULA MCALLISTER (COMPETITIVE CHEER)

Paula McAllister has demonstrated a strong commitment to the education, development, and mentorship of cheer officials throughout her years of service. She continues to be a valued resource for officials and coaches, and her dedication to supporting competitive cheer has made a lasting impact. In recognition of her contributions to the profession, she was named the Michigan Cheer Judges Association Official of the Year in 2022.

ED MCCARTY (MHSAA OFFICIAL)

Ed McCarty started his officiating career while in the U.S. Navy, officiating basketball, football, volleyball, and softball. While stationed in Scotland, he organized a crew of U.S. service members to officiate American football games and also officiated FIBA basketball games. After retiring from the U.S. Navy in 1996 and returning to Michigan, he officiated football, cross country, basketball, volleyball, track & field, baseball, and softball. He currently officiates NCAA and NJCAA women's basketball and previously worked both men's and women's NCAA and NJCAA basketball. He has been selected to officiate MHSAA Finals in boys basketball, girls basketball, and 11-player football. He also serves as the basketball trainer for the Top O' Michigan Officials Association in Petoskey.

WILL MCKOY (FOOTBALL)

Will McKoy has been on the Big Ten staff since 2023 and works as a line judge. Prior to his time in the Big Ten, he worked in the MAC and GLIAC. Will has been an MHSAA assistant director since 2021 and is responsible for basketball and football. Prior to joining the MHSAA staff, he worked as the athletic director at Summit Academy North in Romulus. He also serves as Michigan's NFHS football rules committee member and has been the NFHS football mechanics manual chair since 2025.

DEVONIE MCLARTY (OFFICIAL)

Devonie McLarty serves as Major League Volleyball's Director of Officials. McLarty has been a volleyball referee for more than 25 years, officiating domestically at all levels including numerous NCAA Women's Final Fours and a NCAA Men's National Championship. She holds the highest levels of referee certifications in the United States and is also an FIVB International Referee.

CHARLIE MORRISON (MHSAA OFFICIAL)

Charlie Morrison lives and works in Marquette. A registered MHSAA official since 1993, Charlie has dedicated more than 33 years to officiating basketball, football, volleyball, and softball. In addition to his high school experience, he has officiated NCAA athletics across all four sports, including 28 years as an NCAA Division II women's basketball official. Charlie's extensive experience at both the high school and collegiate levels provides a unique perspective on officiating, professionalism, and continuous improvement.

JASON NICKLEBY (FOOTBALL)

Jason Nickleby is an MSHSL assistant director and Big Ten football referee who worked the College Football Playoff in 2024. He is a former high school and small-college basketball, baseball, volleyball, and softball official. Jason is also a former assigner and local association leader.

NIKKI NORRIS (ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, EAST LANSING HS)

Nikki Norris is the athletic director at East Lansing High School, where she's been since 2018. Before that, she was athletic director at Corunna Public Schools for eight years. Before working in administration, she spent 17 years in the classroom while also coaching volleyball and basketball. She was the recipient of the 2020 WISL Award and the 2025 Allen W. Bush Meritorious Service Award. Norris served as MIAAA president in 2021 and 2022 and was named Region 7 Athletic Director of the Year in 2016.

ANDY O'BRIEN (BASKETBALL)

Andy O'Brien currently serves as the IAABO university coordinator and as an NCAA men's basketball official in the B1G, Mountain West, MAC, Summit, and Horizon leagues. He has been an NCAA Tournament official.

DINO PAGANELLI (FOOTBALL)

Dino Paganelli has been on the NFL staff since 2006, working as a back judge his entire career. He worked Super Bowls XLVII (2013), LV (2021), and LVII (2023). Prior to his time in the NFL, Dino worked in the Big Ten, MAC, GLIAC, and the MIAA. He is a graduate of Wyoming Rogers High School in West Michigan and graduated from Aquinas College, where he played baseball. Dino's father, Carl, was the true "godfather" of football officiating in Michigan for decades, and his two brothers Perry and Carl Jr. were both longtime NFL officials.

DANA PAPPAS (NFHS)

Dana Pappas joined the NFHS as Director of Officiating Services after spending 24 years with the New Mexico Activities Association. She served on the Referee Magazine editorial board from 2010 to 2012 and hosted the 2014 National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) Summit in Albuquerque. Dana also serves as a member of the Officiating Development Alliance (ODA) and the Battlefields to Ballfields Board of Directors, continuing her longstanding commitment to the advancement of sports officiating.

JOAN POWELL (VOLLEYBALL)

Joan Powell is the current W5 coordinator of women's volleyball officials and coordinator of women's volleyball officials for the Mountain West, Big West, Big Sky, and Big 12. Joan was the first NCAA national coordinator of volleyball officials and was the 2022 NASO Gold Whistle recipient. She officiated multiple NCAA DI, II, and III championships and is a former NASO board member.

RACHAEL RODRIGUEZ (VOLLEYBALL)

Rachael Rodriguez has extensive experience in education and sports leadership. Currently serving as an adjunct professor at Liberty University Online since 2010, Rachael has also held the position of executive coordinator for the Professional Association of Volleyball Officials since 2017 and has been a volleyball referee for USA Volleyball since 2011. Her previous roles include time at Trinity Baptist College, where Rachael also contributed as an associate professor, chair of the office administration program, volleyball coach, and assistant basketball coach.

JENNA SCHROEDER (BASKETBALL)

Jenna Schroeder has been an NBA referee since 2020 and previously worked in the NBA-G League. Prior to officiating, she played basketball at Oakland University and Saginaw Valley State University. She was an MHSAA basketball official from 2003-2018.

DR. SANDRA SERAFINI (SOCCER)

Dr. Sandra Serafini is a former FIFA soccer referee and current evaluator and trainer of soccer referees around the world. "Fini" is the co-founder of ReflInsight, combining IT platform development for officiating organizations, strategic planning, needs analyses, and organizational methods. She also enjoyed a long career in academia at Duke University with an emphasis in neuroscience/neurosurgery. She is a former board member and chair of the NASO Board.

JEFF SERVINSKI (FOOTBALL)

Jeff Servinski has been on the Big Ten staff since 2014, starting as a side judge before being promoted to referee in 2018. Prior to his time in the Big Ten, he worked in the MAC and GLIAC. He is a graduate of Midland Dow High School and Central Michigan University, where he played baseball. He currently owns and operates Burkhart-Presidio Insurance in Midland and still officiates high school basketball.

RANDY SHEAHAN (ICE HOCKEY)

Randy Sheahan is a 30-year MHSAA ice hockey official who has refereed three MHSAA Ice Hockey Finals and numerous Semifinal games. Randy also has worked numerous NCAA games at the DI and DIII levels, as well as at the ACHA level, as a referee and linesman. Randy is the assigner and president of the West Michigan Hockey Officials Association. Randy serves as an MHSAA observer and is also a member of USA Hockey Officiating.

BRYAN SMITH (SOFTBALL)

Bryan Smith has been one of the nation's premier softball umpires for nearly five decades, officiating at every level of the game since 1976. His distinguished career includes seven Women's College World Series, 27 NCAA Division I Regionals, nine Super Regionals, two International Softball Federation Men's World Championships, four Women's World Cups, four U.S. Olympic Team Trials, and more than 60 USA Softball National Championships as either an umpire or Umpire-in-Chief. A member of the Greater Lansing Area Sports Hall of Fame and the USA Softball of Michigan Hall of Fame, Bryan currently serves as USA Softball Region 6 Umpire-in-Chief and continues to mentor and develop umpires throughout the Midwest and has served as a clinician at the MHSAA Softball Finals for over ten years.

CHRISTIAN SMITH (MHSAA OFFICIAL)

Christian Smith is a registered MHSAA official who has been on the court since 2016, beginning as a legacy official. A former college basketball player at Northwood University, he was hired to the JUCO basketball staff in 2018, hired to D3/D2 (MIAA/GLIAC/GMAC) in 2019, and joined the D1 Ranks (Big Ten/MAC/Horizon/Summit) in 2025. This past season, Christian officiated the NCAA D2 Elite Eight, NCAA D3 Elite Eight, and the GLIAC Conference Championship.

SHAWN SMITH (FOOTBALL)

Shawn Smith is a current NFL referee who worked Super Bowl LX in 2026 and has been on the NFL staff since 2015, Shawn started as an umpire before being promoted to referee in 2018. Prior to his time in the NFL, Shawn worked in the Big Ten, MAC, Conference USA and the GLIAC. He is a graduate of Cody High School in Detroit, a former track athlete at Eastern Michigan and Ferris State, and currently resides in Southfield, where he works in finance.

STACY SMITH (COMPETITIVE CHEER)

Stacy Smith's journey into the world of cheer began in 1989, a time when competitive cheer had yet to be recognized as a sport in Michigan. As the landscape evolved, so did Stacy's role. In 1994, she was at the forefront of change as girls competitive cheer was introduced as an official MHSAA-sanctioned winter sport. Beyond coaching, Stacy immersed herself in the world of competitive cheer as an official, and her commitment and expertise led her to be elected to the Michigan Cheer Judges Association board, where she assumed the presidency.

GUS SOTERIADES (FIELD HOCKEY)

Gus Soteriades' international officiating career began close to your home — at a summer camp at Detroit Country Day High School, where he was discovered by Michigan officiating legend Pat Hayes and Barbara Carriero. He went on to umpire numerous Olympic and World Cup qualifying events, including multiple Pan American Games and Asian Games, before being honored with field hockey's Golden Whistle Award. He now serves as an FIH umpire manager and Supervisor/Coordinator of officials across six NCAA D1 conferences, and as an umpire manager for USA Field Hockey events, as well as providing color commentary for multiple Ohio State sports on BTN+ & USFHL national events. A senior enterprise technology program manager by trade, Gus sees officiating and leadership as two practices built on the same foundation.

JEFF SPEDOSKE (MHSAA)

Jeff Spedoske was hired by the MHSAA as the Officials Department Specialist in August of 2023. He has been an NCAA Men's Basketball official for almost thirty years, nineteen in Division I. Jeff currently works in the Mid-American, Summit and Horizon conferences. He refereed the NCAA Division II Final Four in 2012 and 2017 and the Division II National Championship game in 2015. He is a highly sought-after speaker and clinician on the summer basketball camp tour. Jeff spent 10 years in professional baseball (1992-2001) as an umpire, working all the way up to the AAA level.

CONNOR THOMAS (ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, MASON HS)

Connor Thomas is the Athletic Director at Mason High School, where he has served for the past five years after spending two and a half years as the Athletic Director at Caro High School. He has also been an active MHSAA official for more than 11 years, officiating track & field and basketball.

RON TORBERT (FOOTBALL)

Ron Torbert is a current NFL referee who worked Super Bowls LVI (2022) and LIX (2025), Ron has been on the NFL staff since 2010, starting as a side judge before being promoted to referee in 2014. Prior to his time in the NFL, Ron worked in the Big Ten, MAC and GLIAC. He is a graduate of Michigan State University and Harvard Law School and worked as the longtime vice president and general counsel for Barton Malow prior to retirement. He is the current chair of the NASO Board.

CINDY TYZO (COMPETITIVE CHEER)

Cindy Tyzo is one of Michigan's most experienced leaders in girls competitive cheer officiating. She is also a former coach and has served in multiple leadership roles within the Michigan Cheer Judges Association, including as president and immediate past president. She has been instrumental in the recruitment, training, and development of officials, helping to ensure consistency and professionalism in the sport.

DAVID UYL (BASEBALL)

David Uyl currently serves as the director of officials services for the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, Dave also umpires in the Big Ten and SEC and worked the 2024 College World Series along with numerous NCAA Division I Regional and Super Regional assignments. He is a former professional umpire for over a decade, who worked two seasons of MLB Spring Training. Dave also officiated football in the Mid-American Conference and is the former athletic director at Pope Saint John Paul II Preparatory School in Nashville.

R.J. VAN ALMEN (SWIMMING & DIVING)

R.J. Van Almen is a former four-time Ohio State Championship qualifier and three-time All-Ohio swimmer from Canton. Today, he is self-employed, with a passion for serving the aquatics community and officiating at the high school, collegiate, and USA Swimming levels. Throughout his officiating career, R.J. has worked 15 Division I and 15 Division II Ohio High School State Championships, 54 NCAA Championships (Divisions I, II, and III), one NAIA National Championship, five Arena Pro Swim Series/TYR Pro Series meets (Mesa, Santa Clara, Orlando, Charlotte, and Atlanta), USA Swimming National Championships, the U.S. Open, and numerous collegiate conference championships.

MIKE VANDYKE (TRACK & FIELD)

Mike VanDyke is a 25-year MHSAA high school official in track & field and cross country. Mike is also the head girls track & field coach at Grand Rapids West Catholic and serves as the officials coordinator for the MHSAA Track & Field Finals, which he has officiated for the past 15 years. Mike is an Association of Track & Field Officials of Michigan board member.

SALLY WALKER (SOFTBALL)

Sally Walker serves as the coordinator of umpires for the Big Ten Conference and NCAA regional advisor for the Softball Umpire Program. Additionally, Walker was a Division I umpire for 19 seasons. Her postseason experience includes a total of 32 postseason championships – four Women's College World Series (2002, 2003, 2006 and 2009), five Super Regionals, 11 NCAA Regionals and 12 Division I conference tournaments.

ROB WIGOD (NASO)

Rob Wigod currently serves as a member of the NASO Board of Directors. He served as Commissioner of the CIF Southern Section for 11 years after previously spending 11 years as an assistant commissioner. During his tenure, he guided high school athletics through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic while expanding opportunities for student-athletes through new sports and championships, including lacrosse, girls wrestling, beach volleyball, and girls flag football.

GARY ZIELINSKI (BASKETBALL)

Gary Zielinski is a retired NBA referee with more than 1,000 regular-season games and 18 playoff games officiated. Gary is a former staff member in the NBA Referee Operations Department and served as the Youth & Amateur Officiating Development lead. He serves as a clinician, camp coordinator, and public speaker.

CHRIS ZYLSTRA (ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, BYRON CENTER HS)

Chris Zylstra, CAA, serves as the Athletic Director at Byron Center High School. He brings six years of experience in athletic administration, having previously served as Athletic Director at East Grand Rapids High School and Lakeview High School. Before transitioning into athletic administration, Chris coached baseball and football in both South Carolina and Michigan. While pursuing his master's degree, he stepped away from coaching football and began officiating high school and middle school football, giving him firsthand insight into the demands and challenges officials face.

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In the 2025-26 school year...

MHSAA-REGISTERED OFFICIALS: 9,330

REGISTERED LEGACY OFFICIALS: 299

TOP 3 SPORTS FOR REGISTERED OFFICIALS

- Basketball: 3,877
- Football: 2,374
- Baseball 1,966

MHSAA VERN L. NORRIS AWARD WINNER

Bob Czech, Oak Park

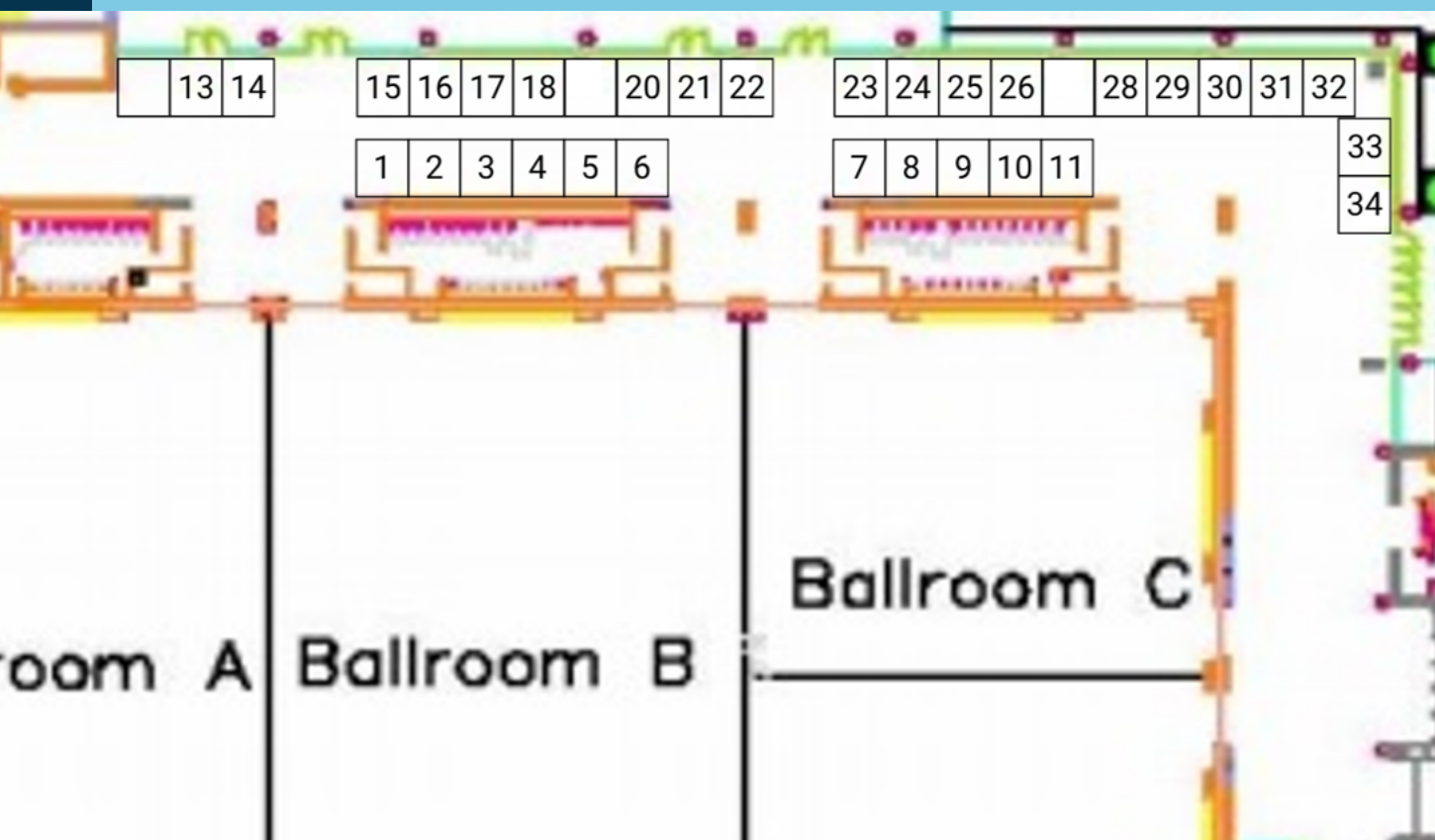
RANDY PAULSON / LEGACY AWARD WINNER

Owen Rottier, Grand Ledge High School

Attendees will have the chance to win these great prizes throughout OMD!

- UofM vs. MSU Football Experience, including game tickets, hotel, dinner and a meet-and-greet with the B1G officiating crew.
- Autographed Aidan Hutchinson Jersey
- 75" VIZIO Smart TV
- Ausar Thompson (Detroit Pistons) Autographed Hat
- MSU vs. Illinois Football Tickets (2) with Parking Pass
- Detroit Tigers Tickets (4)
- Four Lansing Lugnuts Ticket Vouchers (2 sets)
- Playmakers Gift Cards
- Northern Michigan University Football Tickets (2)
- Eastern Michigan University Football Tickets (2 sets of 2)
- \$50 Belle Tire Gift Certificate
- Sherwood Brewing Gift Certificate
- Toledo Mud Hens Tickets
- NMU Hockey Tickets (2)
- Saginaw Spirit Hockey Tickets
- Cooper's Hawk Lux Wine Tasting for Four

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 - Midland Radio | 15 - Mic'd Up by Elements Athletics |
| 2 - MIBT Media | 16 - Arbiter |
| 3 - Purchase Officials Supplies | 17 - PAVO |
| 4 - NFHS | 18 - Officials Federal Credit Union |
| 5 & 6 - RefReps | 20 - Michigan Referee Program |
| 7 - VOKKERO by VOGO | 21 & 22 - NASO |
| 8 - Fellowship of Christian Athletes | 23 & 24 - Ump Attire |
| 9 - Refr Sports | 25 - UMPS Care Charities |
| 10 - Hudl | 26 - Sports Officials Care |
| 11 - USA Cheer& STUNT | 28 - IAABO |
| 13 - Wounded Warrior Umpire Academy | 29 & 30 - Correct Call Officiating Outfitters |
| 14 - Time Out Synchronized System
(T.O.S.S.) | 31 - 34 - Referee |



All vendors are located on the main floor in the hallway outside the Ballrooms.



**HAVE A
GREAT
SEASON**

2026-2027