



Get Into the Game

YOU CAN BE A PART of the education away from the classroom that shapes today's young athletes, one of the people who gets into the game as an official to teach good sportsmanship, fairness, and equity—how to play by the rules.

The need is great. The time is now for you to become a Minnesota State High School League official.

Qualifications

- A high school graduate or 18 years of age.
- A thorough understanding of the sport you wish to officiate.
- The ability to interpret and apply rules.

Benefits

- Staying involved in your favorite sports.
- Opportunities to meet and work with high school students and others who share your interest in sports.
- Learning how to make fair and firm decisions.
- Physical fitness.
- Earning extra money.



How to Register

- Contact the League Office and request an official's registration form.
- Complete and return the form along with the required registration fee to the League Office. Fees include rules books, case books, insurance and other publications.
- Annually attend one of the League-sponsored rule interpretation meetings which are held prior to each sport season.
- Score 80 percent or better on an open-book examination in each of your registered sports.

How to Get Games

- Directly contact the athletic directors at area schools for game contracts.
- As a MSHSL registered official, your name will be listed in the *Officials' Directory* on the MSHSL Web site.
- You are **strongly encouraged** to become a member of a local officials' association where you can receive training, mentoring and assistance in obtaining game contracts. A list of associations is on the MSHSL Web site—www.mshsl.org.
- Be patient. Many officials work years to advance to varsity level contests.
- Develop your skills and establish credibility by working junior high and sub-varsity contests.

Pay

- Member schools set the officiating fees you receive based on the level of competition, distance to and from the contest, number of contests officiated, number of officials needed to "work" the game.
- Pay will range from \$20 or more for middle school and lower level contests, up to \$75-\$80 for working a JV/Varsity double-header.
- You are an independent contractor and subject to the appropriate IRS requirements.

Where and How Do I Get—

Rules books – rules books are included in your packet of registration materials sent from the League Office.

Insurance – the cost of insurance coverage is included in your registration fee.

Uniforms – officials uniforms may be purchased at a local sporting goods store or ordered from a variety of companies that provide officials uniforms. Refer to the National Federation Rules Book for your sport to determine the specific uniform needs.

Tips for Success

- Read and study your rules book and case book.
- Keep in top physical and mental condition for the demands of your sport. A physical examination should be a priority.
- Read the MSHSL *Bulletin* and check the League Web site (www.mshsl.org) to keep current with rules changes, situation rulings, and activities of the League.
- The National Federation of State High School Associations has a Web site (www.nfhs.org) for rules changes, situation rulings, and officials' information.
- Join a local officials' association and attend meetings and clinics.
- Keep a schedule of contracts. Write down each date to avoid accepting two contracts for the same date. Return contracts promptly.
- Purchase the appropriate uniform and contest equipment and keep all in good condition.
- Return telephone calls and written correspondence promptly. Keep a copy of your correspondence for your files.
- Report all incidents to the League Office promptly and provide all written reports as requested.
- Remember that the contest you are working is the most important contest in the eyes of the athletes, coaches and fans. It must also be your priority.

Questions

Your questions are welcome at the League office. Staff will give you guidance and directions to keep you informed and involved.

Officiating is not for everyone . . . but it could be for you!