Lissimore selected NFHS Section 5 Citation Award winner

Lisa Lissimore has been selected the NFHS Section 5 Citation Award recipient. The honor recognizes outstanding leadership and service at the state and national levels. The award, presented by the National Federation of State High School Associations, is considered one of the most highly regarded achievements for leaders in co-curricular activities.

Section 5 is comprised of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri.

Lissimore is in her 32nd year of service to the League’s more than 500 member schools. Among the many roles she holds with the League is overseeing girls and boys cross country, girls and boys swimming, girls basketball, synchronized swimming, badminton and softball. Lissimore also coordinates corporate sponsorships and oversees the League’s Hall of Fame program and other recognition programs. At the national level, she has served on NFHS committees that include: The Citizenship, Student Services, Hall of Fame and Strategic Planning.

“I am so humbled to be recognized in this way,” Lissimore said upon learning the news. “I am born to serve. That is what I do. You don’t do this to win awards. You serve and lead to provide opportunities for growth and success.”

Lissimore will be recognized during the NFHS Summer Meeting in Orlando.

“Lisa is an incredibly talented person who has provided exceptional leadership in every League-sponsored activity and initiative for which she is responsible,” said former MSHSL Executive Director Dave Stead. “She has developed programs that support deserving Minnesota students, coaches, officials, and administrators; and her vision, work ethic and selfless initiatives have positively impacted the lives of thousands of Minnesota students and families. Her genuine dedication and servant leadership are shining examples for state high school associations across the nation; and her selection as an NFHS Citation recipient is an affirmation of her distinguished career of service.”

During busy preparations for winter state tournaments, Connect was able to catch up to Lissimore and visit about her journey of service.

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COVID-19 is spread by respiratory droplets and aerosols containing the virus; quite simply, the air we breathe. The five variables for corona virus spread related to reducing transmission including exposure time (contact within six feet for a total of more than 15 minutes accumulated within a 24-hour period), physical distancing, masking, heavy breathing (singing, chanting, cheering, and exertion), and ventilation (air dispersion). The data currently available to make decisions regarding sports competition was nonexistent a year ago but is increasing almost daily now. We are basing many recommendations on cohort and case control observational data derived from natural experiments occurring in the community that imply association. These are not the randomized controlled trials that imply causation that we would like to have for health and safety decision making.

Here are some published studies that have influenced my thinking regarding return-to-sport during the pandemic and reducing transmission:

- A church choir practicing in a poorly-ventilated basement with one infected member spread to 52 of 61 in attendance. The choir members physically distanced by at least six feet but did not wear masks. So, closed spaces and heavy breathing without masking is risky.
- Two masked hairstylists with COVID-19 saw 139 masked clients in their studios in close proximity for 15 to 20 minutes each and no one got the disease. Masks are effective.
- Somewhere between exercising alone outside and competing indoors unmasked there is a tipping point between safety and the spread of COVID-19 where masking will make a difference.

The data from sports participation is limited but increasing.

Two-twenty-two men met at a local ice arena in Florida to play hockey; one was infected, and none were masked. Fourteen developed COVID-19. Could it have been game exposure in close proximity for more than an hour or perhaps a social get-together afterward? The cause is unknown. What is becoming clear through recent publications and conference abstracts is outdoor activities are safer than indoor, and masked activities indoors are safer than unmasked.

COVID-19 will spread without masks and we do not know the full effect of moving to indoor competitions. The Centers for Disease Control tool kit for youth sports during COVID states, “Wear a mask if feasible, especially when it is difficult to stay less than six feet apart from other people and especially indoors, for example, in close contact sports such as basketball,” which is consistent with the current Minnesota Department of Health requirement. In November when most sports were outdoors, the rate of COVID among our high school athletes was 680 cases per 100,000 athletes and it will be interesting to see what the rate is for our winter sports.

Masks, while bothersome, pose no known injury risk. A well-fit mask over the nose and mouth will decrease risk from droplet spread. There is no data suggesting masks pose a risk to the ears, decrease the visual field, cause choking from being inhaled, or interfere with oxygen exchange during physical activity. The effectiveness of a wet mask is not known but masks are inexpensive and can be changed during breaks in the game. Adding a metal support to the top seam of the mask to improve the seal or taping the top of the mask to the skin will decrease eye-wear fogging. Another aspect of COVID-19 infection is the tissue damage that occurs in the heart and lungs, and can be documented with advanced imaging, even in asymptomatic people. Asymptomatic test positive college athletes have scaring in the heart muscle that can potentially trigger fatal arrhythmias and asymptomatic test positive patients are showing changes in the lungs on CT imaging like those who had moderate and severe cases. This implies that there is no safe haven from this disease, and even though many young athletes are asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic, we do not know the long-term consequences of the infection. It is clearly best to not get infected at any age.

Sports participation has many physical and psychological benefits, but it is not only student-athletes who are suffering mental health impacts from the pandemic. Students and teachers want to get back to in-person teaching safely and soon. Our state economy and businesses, including the schools, health clubs, restaurants, and bars, are depending on all of us to keep the rates down. More infections mean more chances for the virus to mutate and make our vaccines and treatments less effective. Anything that keeps COVID-19 infected droplets and aerosolized particles from landing in the uninfected lungs, nose, and throat helps reduce the spread.

The Minnesota Department of Health has the well-being of our young athletes in mind, and based on the available data, wearing masks for indoor sports activities makes sense. We know masking works and we know that not-masking does not work. Given the choice between playing with a mask or not playing, I think many of our youth athletes will choose to play with a mask.

Policy decisions for our athletes should be based on the best science available and we are looking at what is happening during practices and on the field of play to help shape medical recommendations and improve athlete safety. Successful completion of the current and spring seasons will pave the way toward next year’s sports plan.

About the Author: Dr. Bill Roberts is the chair of the Minnesota State High School League’s Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. He is the Director of Family Medicine Sports Medicine Program at the University of Minnesota, the Vice Chair of Faculty Affairs and a faculty member of the University of Minnesota Medical School.
Lissimore “a servant leader” for more than three decades

Continued from Cover

Connect: When you reflect on your decades of service to the member schools of the Minnesota State High School League, what are some of the first things that come to mind?

Lissimore: “I think about the countless lives that we have touched through the recognition programs that the League sponsors like ExCEL, Triple ‘A’, Spotlight on Scholarship, and the Hall of Fame. Through these programs, I’ve had the pleasure of telling the stories of so many great people that go the distance year after year to help young people achieve success in League-sponsored programs. I also think about the rapid growth of participation and opportunities that are now available for all students, regardless of their gender, their interests, their race, or their abilities. A proud moment for me occurred in 1993 when the Representative Assembly approved the amendment to provide adapted athletics for students with disabilities. Finally, I think about the wonderful people that I have met on this journey. I first met Dorothy McIntyre as a student participant in the 1976 girls basketball state tournament. Who would have guessed that 12 years later, Dorothy and I would work together for 15 years?”

Connect: Your leadership journey with the League began with service on the Board of Directors. What was that experience like?

Lissimore: “It was a great learning experience that changed the trajectory of my career. I was coaching basketball at the University of St. Thomas and working for the Minnesota Legislature as a writer when I was approached by the State Board of Education to serve on the high school league’s board of directors. I was hesitant to serve at first, but after talking to my then-boss and mentor, I accepted the position to serve and give back. During that time, I had a close-up view of the League’s operations, services, and programs. I also worked with an incredible group of people that were committed to shaping the future of the League and its programs.”

Connect: Shortly after that service, about 32 years ago, you began a role as an Associate Director with the League. What were your initial responsibilities and was it a daunting challenge as you peered down that leadership path?

Lissimore: “My responsibilities in 1988 included sponsorship marketing and sales and promotions. I was also responsible for the sports of softball, swimming and diving, Nordic skiing, and synchronized swimming. The most fun I had was the rollout of the Triple ‘A’ program. Daunting was driving to Bismarck for the first time in my life by myself. At the time, Duluth was as far north as I had ever been. Daunting was the fear of falling into the diving well at swimming. I have a fear of water, especially if the water is above my shoulders.”

Connect: How would you describe your leadership style?

Lissimore: “I view myself as a servant leader, so my leadership style would be categorized as servant leadership.”

Connect: Was there a magic moment when you realized you wanted to lead in this way?

Lissimore: “All my mentors and coaches were servant leaders. Their leadership philosophy was a combination of servant leadership and transformational leadership. It is from their examples that I learned to lead in the way I do. I am deeply indebted to them all, especially Jim Robinson, Jean Steiner, Kwame McDonald, Louis Kanavati, and Rhoda Stroud.”

Connect: Your service to students and schools is being recognized beyond Minnesota’s border. You are well known across the country as well. What has that experience been like to serve the thousands of high schools across the NFHS?

Lissimore: “I came into this work because I believe high school activity programs make a difference in the lives of young people; providing them with opportunities to lead, learn, and grow. To be part of this type of learning that takes place in schools throughout the country is truly a blessing. I am grateful for the opportunity and happy to share my talents with others.”

Connect: Take us back to your high school experiences at St. Paul Central. How did those opportunities shape the person you are today?

Lissimore: “Central was where I learned that anything is possible. My classmates and I were surrounded by a supportive team of educators that taught us to strive to make something of yourself, then strive to make it of yourself. This type of affirming made a huge difference in my life. It is the reason why I have such fond memories of my high school experience. Central also provided me with countless opportunities to test my athletic abilities and to develop leadership and teamwork skills. I firmly believe that a good athletic program with coaches that are good role models can be a life-changing experience for many kids. I am one of those kids!”

Connect: What are some of the joys you have experienced in your league leadership?

• “The opportunity to watch some of the state’s most gifted and talented athletes compete.
• Five members from St. Paul’s Rondo community inducted into the League’s Hall of Fame: Dave Winfield, Stacy Robinson, Linda Roberts, Jim Robinson and Frank White.
• Girls sports significant gain in popularity.
• Six high school associations being led by African-Americans, three men and three women. In 1994, Louis Stout of the Kentucky High School Association became the first African-American to lead a high school association.
• The NFHS being run by a woman for the first time in its 100-year history.”

Connect: What advice would you share with an administrator that is about to embark on career of leadership and service?

Lissimore: “To work in a leadership position for a local or national organization that serves others is meaningful and enjoyable work. Always remember that you are inspiring future generations through your work and your deeds. And finally, surround yourself with people that encourage you through success and failure.”
**Sponsor Spotlight**

**KSTC-TV, 45TV is the proud broadcast partner** of the Minnesota State High School League state tournaments. Over the past 16 years, the Emmy Award-winning station has broadcast over-the-air a multitude of high school hockey, basketball and football games from the homes of Minnesota’s professional sports teams including the Xcel Energy Center, Target Center, Target Field, U.S. Bank Stadium, as well as Williams Arena and TCF Bank Stadium on the University of Minnesota campus. 45TV has also worked with great partners to stream other events such as wrestling, Dance and the baseball tournaments.

During its telecasts, 45TV has captured amazing high school sports moments that have gained national recognition, including the 2005 ESPY Award to Hopkins basketball player Blake Hoffarber, who at the final horn of regulation, sank an 18-foot shot while on his back side. In addition, 45TV has been listed on several ESPN Plays of the Week throughout the years. 45TV has also been nominated for more than a dozen regional Emmy Awards, winning nine of the statues for our production of the Minnesota State High School Tournaments.

45TV’s HD broadcasts are second to none. Partnering with F&F Production, 45TV broadcasts tournament games using production teams, multi-camera set-ups, instant replay and graphics packages used to televise college and professional sporting events.

The partnership between Hubbard Broadcasting and the Minnesota State High School League began in 2005. Ten years later, that partnership was extended to 2031.

45TV has made it a priority to bring these state tournament games to friends, family and sports enthusiasts across Minnesota. A network of broadcast and cable partners have helped distribute these games to areas in Minnesota outside of 45TV’s normal broadcast range. 45TV is also proud to live stream the complete broadcast on www.45TV.com across the state and around the world. Tournament broadcasts have been seen as far away as Africa, South America, Australia and to our American troops serving in the Middle East.

In 2021, 45TV plans to broadcast 44 games in 10 days. The puck will drop for the boys and girls hockey state tournaments at the Xcel Energy Center on March 30, with the tournament running five days, four games per day and will conclude with Championship Saturday on April 3 with the finals of both the boys and girls hockey tournaments. The tip-off for the boys and girls basketball state tournament begins at the Target Center on Tuesday, April 6. The championship games will air on Friday and Saturday, April 9 and 10, respectively.

Over the years, 45TV has worked hard to represent the goals and initiatives of the Minnesota State High School League by supporting the League’s mission of providing educational opportunities for students through interscholastic athletics and fine arts programs and providing leadership and support for member schools.

Some of the programs supported by 45TV include:

- The ExCEL and Triple ‘A’ awards which celebrate juniors and seniors for their work in the classroom, participation in athletics and fine arts, leadership skills and connection to their communities. The Spotlight on Scholarship program also recognizes individuals and teams for their academic achievements.

- The Herb Brooks award is given to a player during each of the girls and boys hockey state tournaments that strongly represents the values, characteristics and traits that defined Herb Brooks. This prestigious award commemorates the unending influence Herb Brooks had on the sport of hockey in Minnesota and throughout the world.

In addition, 45TV has created and presented several scholarship/grant programs benefitting students and schools that best represent the mission of the Minnesota State High School League. The annual submissions for these scholarships/grants have resulted in more than $1 million being awarded to schools throughout the State of Minnesota.

45TV looks forward to the continued success of this great Minnesota tradition and to bringing you the best in high school sports tournament action for years to come!
This praise report was submitted by gymnastics official Jenni Smith of Woodbury:

“I have officiated two times so far this season for the Hastings gymnastics team. Not only do they have a great coaching staff, but their gymnasts are also very kind, well behaved and respected. This season is a challenge for everybody, and they have all risen to continue to stay safe and still get to perform in the sport they love. Huge kudos to (Hastings head coach) Jeanne Kasel for doing such a terrific job this season. She is a great asset to the team! I know when I judge at Hastings, everything will go extremely well! Thank you, Jeanne for everything you do for the sport of gymnastics. It is people like you that keep the judges coming back every year.

This praise report was submitted by basketball official Justin Schmidt about Mounds View head boys basketball coach Dave Leiser

“I just wanted to point out that working for Dave is a pleasurable experience. Dave sets an excellent example for his players, fans, and peers in the coaching profession. He stays calm and asks pointed questions about specific plays instead of arguing/discussing every call like other coaches tend to do. Recently, League officials were reminded and encouraged to submit positive reports. After watching the game film and especially comparing his actions to the actions of the opposing coach, I thought that Dave should get recognized and congratulated for his actions and interactions with the officials. Thank you!

This praise report was submitted by basketball official Lucas Karnas following a boys varsity game between Maranatha Christian and host Breck.

“I had the best experience I’ve had officiating in years and it was because of these two gentlemen: (Breck head coach Tim Sension and Maranatha Christian head coach Mike Landers). I wish I could bottle the way they both interact with officials. When they would get excited, they would let me talk and they listened to any explanation I had for the call I had made. On more than one occasion, I left the interaction laughing. It was a pleasure to be in the gym with them. The game was great, their players played hard, and it’s going to be tough to have more fun than I did working with them tonight. Please make sure they know that they made my day!”

Fifteen schools participated in the virtual State One Act Play Festival from February 11-13, 2021. Participants in Class A: Fillmore Central, Belle Plaine were Central Minnesota Christian, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted, Milaca, Hawley, Rock Ridge (Eveleth Gilbert and Virginia), and Bagley; Belle Plaine for The Amish Central Minnesota Christian, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted, Milaca, Hawley, Rock Ridge (Eveleth Gilbert and Virginia), and Bagley; Belle Plaine for The Amish Project (Ensemble) and Fillmore Central for Orval J. Bies Day. There were 180 member schools that accepted the challenge of participating in virtual sub-section and section One Act Play competitions. Plays were recorded in-person with safety precautions or through a videoconference. The creativity and tenacity shown by directors and students exceeded all expectations, and they all should be praised and celebrated for their efforts.

Highlights include comedic shows about surviving in quarantine, shows written with the videoconference as the setting, shows that were chosen for the natural nature of characters wearing face coverings, and numerous radio-style shows. There was at least one show that was prepared to film in person but had to quickly (and successfully) switch to a videoconference format when the lead actor tested positive for COVID-19, and others that filmed while students were safely quarantined at home. We thank AnywhereSeat/Ludus for creating

Music:
Preparations and implementation for music contests on the HeartOut virtual platform continue. The contests for the 10 regions participating begin this month and conclude in May. For assistance in the process, please contact Tim Leighton at ttleighton@mshsl.org or Amie Ince at aince@mshsl.org.

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Speech:
To safely accommodate the same number of qualifiers as in years without a global pandemic, the Speech State Tournament will be held on a virtual platform April 23-24. There will be 336 students participating each day and up to 100 judges will be used. The Speech Advisory Committee voted unanimously on the virtual-platform format.

Sub-sections and sections will take place from mid-March until April 17. They may run virtually or in-person with modifications.

Visual Arts:
The League plans to share a model with the regions for virtual-platform competitions by early March and a template for submitting work.

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2. The 1989-90 season. Minnesota became the 24th state association to use the rule adoption that mandated coaches must stay within that area.
3. It was “Orval J. Bies Day” a celebration to honor Orv Bies for his 19 years of service as an assistant to the Executive Director and Executive Director. He was honored during a ceremony at Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul.
4. The memorandum stated: “the only bats that high school baseball teams may use during the 1989 season are those made of wood, aluminum or magnesium. The graphite and ceramic bats have not been approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations.”
5. Boys and girls basketball (1,443) and Boys Gymnastics (17).
The Minnesota State High School League’s Officials Distinguished Service Award is designed to recognize the individuals that go above and beyond in service to their association. While service to the League is not required as criteria for the award, most recipients are difference-makers in their dedication to the member schools. The award is not based on an individual’s skills as an official, but instead, it is reflective of the leadership and service contributed to help grow the avocation of officiating. The award goes to officials that make a difference in an association through long-term service and commitment.

The honorees here are the 2020 recipients of the League’s prestigious award. Typically, these recipients are honored during Championship Saturday festivities at the boys basketball state tournament. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, opportunities for in-person recognitions were not allowed by health and safety protocols.

The League salutes the honorees for the service and dedication to officiating.

**Ed Bova, St. Paul**

- MSHSL registered official, 25 years
- Northwest Umpires, 23 years
- Northwest Umpires Board of Directors
- Four-time state tournament selection
- Authored job descriptions for association board members and “The Northwest Way,” a compilation of expectations, duties, professionalism and comportment
- Mentorship director of Northwest Umpires
- Decades of public service as a police officer
- Selected 1996 Minnesota Police Officer of the Year for Valor
- Member of National Association of School Resource Officers

**Peer quote:**

“He continues to serve on the NASRO in any capacity requested with a commitment to help make the NASRO training experience the best possible for our stakeholders. He continues to enthusiastically teach and communicate the positive attributes of school-based policing throughout our great nation.”

**National Association of School Resource Officers**

**Dave Firkeus, Woodbury**

- MSHSL registered official, 35 years
- St. Paul Capital City Officials Association, 35 years
- St. Paul Capital City Officials Association board member, 18 years
- Instrumental in leadership in merger of two officiating associations, St. Paul Officials Association and Capital City Officials Association
- MSHSL clinician
- Created first website for St. Paul Capital City Official Association
- MSHSL basketball state tournament personnel, 30 years
- MSHSL basketball observer
- Co-chair Officiate Minnesota steering committee
- Many state tournament appearances as a football and basketball official

**Peer quote:**

“I can’t think of a more deserving candidate for this prestigious award. Over the years, Dave has performed at a high level having worked numerous state finals in both football and basketball. He’s well-respected by coaches, athletic directors and fellow officials. His laidback demeanor, knowledge of the game and overall common sense approach has propelled him to the highest tier of officials in our state.”

**Brian Mauer, MSHSL and SPCC official**

**Mike Graf, Rochester**

- MSHSL registered official, 31 years
- Rochester Area Officials Association, 30 years
- Rochester Area Officials Association board, 21 years
- MSHSL football regional coordinator
- MSHSL football charter clinician
- Rochester Area Officials Association football assignor
- Introduced technologies into the organization of the Rochester Area Officials Association
- Assisted in the creation of the League’s football Mechanics Illustrated Manual
- Football replay booth official
- Officiate Minnesota steering committee

**Peer quote:**

“Mike is an outstanding football official serving as the referee on his crew for the MSHSL and small college for many years. He continues to be an asset to the game, fellow officials, member schools and the League. His selfless attitude makes his contributions even more notable. I would be proud to see Mike join the fraternity of officials that have gone beyond the expected to be a contributor to better officiating.”

**Jon Springer, Rochester Area Officials Association**

**Bill Ivory, Shoreview**

- MSHSL registered official, 55 years
- St. Paul Capital City Officials Association, 52 years
- Held all executive positions with St. Paul Capital City Officials Association
- Two-time assignor for St. Paul Capital City Officials Association
- Respected recruiter and mentor of officials
- One of the first officials to work sanctioned League state tournaments
- Has officiated football, basketball, baseball and volleyball
- Former athletic director of the Catholic Athletic Association
- Former youth girls basketball coach
- Former girls golf coach at Totino-Grace High School

**Peer quote:**

“Bill’s contributions are outstanding and deserves my recommendation for this award. He officiated football, basketball and baseball for more than 40 years. He was a mentor and had the respect of his peers and coaches as a member of the Capital City Officials Association. He held many positions as president, assignment secretary and others. His dedication to the Catholic Athletic Association cannot be duplicated. It is an honor and privilege to speak on his behalf.”

**Roy G. Ward, MSHSL Hall of Fame member**
Harold Meissner, Brandon, MN
- MSHSL registered official, 48 years
- Runestone Officials Association member, 48 years
- The association provides officials in football, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball
- Runestone Officials Association co-founder
- Runestone Officials Association leadership and assignment secretary, 40 years

- Is directly involved in the recruitment, mentoring and development of hundreds of current and past officials.
- Summer recreation coordinator and youth coach for more than 30 years.
- Provided opportunities for the youth of Evansville and the surrounding areas a chance to play ball in the summer for many years.
- Served as the bus driver to and from swimming lessons and practices

Peer quote:
“Harold has always been highly respected for the quality of work he’s done for the Runestone Officials Association, the schools of western Minnesota and the Minnesota State High School League. His working relationship with all associated with officiating has been superior. His qualities are exceptional and leave no doubt that he would make an outstanding recipient of the League’s Officials Distinguished Service Award.”

Bill Mills, Activities Director, Minnewaska Area High School

Kevin Ruen, Brainerd
- MSHSL registered official, 29 years
- Mid Mn Officials Association, 15 years
- Co-founded the Mid Mn Officials Association in 2006
- Mid Mn Officials Association leaders, 15 years
- Mid Mn Officials Association trainer and mentor
- Mid Mn Officials Association offers officiating in football and basketball
- MSHSL clinician and ambassador
- Six-time state tournament official, including a championship game
- Three years ago, the group recruited its first female official. He served as her mentor and she now works postseason events.

Peer quote:
“The association was formed to be one that encourages development of officials, uniformity of mechanics and bringing a professional work ethic to the basketball court. He is unwavering in his dedication to these core principals of the organization, and is constantly in the community searching for new and interested prospective officials.”

Darren Larson, Mid Mn Officials Association

Mark Stange, Shoreview
- MSHSL registered official, 50 years
- Gopher State Officials Association, 50 years
- Gopher State Officials Association board leadership
- Created and produced the Gopher State Officials Association Membership Book for 15 years
- Authored the “Well-Dressed Official” guide used by thousands of officials

- Officiated football, basketball, baseball, Nordic Skiing
- MSHSL state football official
- Retired U.S. Navy Captain, 28 years
- Vietnam War combat veteran
- Boy Scouts of America, Scoutmaster
- Shoreview Citizen of the Year, 2012

Peer quote:
“Football was Mark’s primary sport and he really excelled in the training of new officials. Mark leveraged his military training and experience in orientating new officials to the art of officiating football. Many of these new officials became varsity officials, including working the head referee position.”

George Winn, Gopher State Officials Association

Missy Tutewohl, Farmington
- MSHSL registered official, 31 years
- Judges Association of Minnesota Dance Teams, 21 years
- Original member of JAMS when it was created
- JAMS board of directors
- JAMS mentorship program

- MSHSL rules coordinator
- MSHSL supervisor of tournament officials
- MSHSL officials selection committee
- Coach, Valley Middle School, District 196

“As a superior judge, Missy’s leadership is second to none. In fact, she has served as supervisor and assistant supervisor of officials at the state tournament. Missy takes her role as an official very seriously and is always organized and professional.”

Laura Harding, JAMS board member

Association of Excellence
Skyline Wrestling Officials
The metro-based group is one of the top associations for wrestling officials. Skyline is a progressive association that specializes in mentoring and leadership throughout its programs. Skyline has a very specific mentoring program that includes evaluations that are performed by veteran officials that have officiated at the state tournament level. These evaluations are performed a minimum of once per year during the first five years of the official’s career. As part of the mentoring program, the group arranges for a minimum of one ride-along event when the new official will go to a higher-profile assignment with a veteran official and assist in the meet.
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