

PHILOSOPHY:

It is imperative that our officials follow the rules and regulations set forth by the National Federation of State High School Associations and uniform ourselves according to the guidelines presented in the publications as dedicated, sanctioned sports officials to the high school sports experience; furthermore, that we conduct ourselves professionally as we lend support to our partners in education to achieve success as it relates to the student athlete's overall educational experience.

CODE OF ETHICS:

Schools have entrusted officials to assist them in the educational development of their youth through athletics. The proper operation of such a process requires that officials be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people they serve.

In recognition of these expectations, it shall be the responsibility of an official to follow the directions provided in the following Official's Code of Ethics. Violation of the Code of Ethics will be a violation of NCHSAA regulations and may result in a sanction of the offending party.

An official shall:

- Master both the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner.
- Place the welfare of the individual athlete above all other considerations.
- Work with fellow officials and the State Association in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate of points or rules at issue.
- Be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.
- Avoid conflict of interest situations whenever possible. ***Any situation that could potentially compromise the professional and/or personal accountability of the official should be your guide in determining potential conflict of interest.***
- Under all circumstances avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve.
- Constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the avocation in all personal conduct and relations with the student athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public and be remindful that their conduct influences the respect that student-athletes, coaches and public hold for the profession.
- Be prepared both physically and mentally, dress according to expectations, and maintain a proper appearance that is befitting the importance of the contest.

- Remain aware of the inherent risk of injury that competition poses to student-athletes.
- Not make statements to the news media critical of any school administrator, school, team, coach, player or other game official or the NCHSAA.
- Not smoke or use any form of tobacco on or in the vicinity of the playing area, nor drink any alcoholic beverages or use any drugs on the day of the contest.

Every member of the officiating profession carries a responsibility to act in a manner becoming a professional person. The conduct of any official influences the attitude of the public toward the profession in general as well as toward the official in particular.

Sports officials bear great responsibility for engendering public confidence in sports. They are critical to the health of athletic competitions. Officials ensure games are played fairly, by the rules, within the spirit of the rules and in a safe manner. Officiating takes a great deal of preparation, continuing education and commitment of time.