

A CODE OF ETHICS FOR MSHSAA ATHLETIC OFFICIALS

Believing that mine is an important part in the nationwide school athletic program, I pledge myself to act in accordance with these principles:

- a. I will honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss and will avoid all potential conflicts of interest.
- b. I will study the rules of the game, observe the work of other officials, and will at all times, attempt to improve myself.
- c. I will remember that while my work as an official is important, I must conduct myself in such a way that attention is drawn, not to me, but to the contestants playing the game.
- d. I will dress and maintain my appearance in a manner befitting the dignity and importance of the game.
- e. I will shape my character and conduct so as to be a worthy example to the youth who play under my jurisdiction and will at no time use profanity in any verbal interaction with players, coaches, fans, school administrators and/or fellow officials during my contracted assignment.
- f. I will be fair and unbiased in my decisions, rendering these without regard to the score or next year's contract,
- g. I will give my complete cooperation to the schools which I serve and to the State Association which I represent.
- h. I will cooperate and be professional in my association with my fellow officials and will do nothing to cause them public embarrassment.
- i. I will, in my actions on the field, be firm but not overbearing; courteous but not ingratiating; positive but never rude; dignified but never arrogant; friendly but not companionable; calm but always alert.
- j. I will keep in mind that the game is more important than the wishes of any individual player or coach or the ambitions of any individual official.
- k. I will be prepared both physically and mentally to administer the game.
- l. I will not use any tobacco product on or in the vicinity of the athletic event, nor drink any alcoholic beverages on the day of the game until my assignment is complete.
- m. I will not give any information which might be used by a team's future opponent nor will I visit with any player during a time-out.
- n. At no time will I engage in any action verbal or physical that might be interpreted as sexual harassment with any contest participant, cheerleader, coach, school administrator, fan and/or fellow official.