



MSHSL Code of Ethics for Officials

High school interscholastic sports are unique in their mission to provide educational opportunities for students through athletic programs sponsored by their schools.

As a high school official, you share the responsibility to assist schools as they teach students how to reason, make choices, and understand the impact of their decisions on others.

During the competitive season, student-athletes listen to your words and see how you treat them, their coaches, other participants, and spectators. They observe your respect for the letter and spirit of the rules.

As an official, your actions are expected to support the governing values of the Minnesota State High School League:

- Fair play and honorable competition
- Treating people with dignity and respect
- Equity, fairness, and justice
- Activities that enhance healthy lifestyles

The following statements will help you review your responsibilities as an official registered with the Minnesota State High School League.

I Understand

1. I understand that I am part of the educational process of teaching students how to reason, make choices and understand the impact of their decisions on others.
2. I understand that my actions as an official must display decisions and behavior which teach students how to compete within the letter and spirit of the rules so that all competitors have the same fair chance for success.
3. I understand that I must model decisions and behavior which reflect the following principles: justice, honesty, responsibility, and beneficence/producing good.
4. I understand that the League and its member schools are committed to creating an environment in the activity program which promotes respect for and appreciation of racial, gender, and ethnic differences and is disability aware.

I Will

The following moral guides are drawn from the principles of justice, honesty, responsibility, and beneficence/producing good. These principles will help officials choose the appropriate response to situations. They are reminders that the letter and spirit of the rules are meant for everybody and for the good of everyone alike. I will be neutral and impartial.

Honesty: being truthful and trustworthy in dealing with others

- I will uphold and abide by all rules of the Minnesota State High School League. I will work within the established process to change rules and policies.
- I will treat other officials with courtesy and support their decisions.
- I will honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss. When unable to honor a contract because of circumstances beyond my control, I will work with the contracting school and my officiating partner(s) to find a suitable replacement.
- I will admit my own errors and make all possible corrections.

Responsibility: being accountable for your actions; capable of determining one's own actions

- I will register with the MSHSL each year on a timely basis and complete all tier requirements.
- I will not work an interscholastic varsity contest with officials that I know do not hold current MSHSL eligibility in the sport.
- I will actively participate in clinics to improve my skills.
- I will make thorough physical and mental preparations for each season and every assigned contest.
- I will intensively study the rules books, case books and official's manuals, observe the work of other officials, and will work to improve myself as an official.
- I will recruit, encourage, and mentor new officials including female and minority officials.
- I will have a clean uniform and present a professional image in terms of personal appearance and have proper and approved equipment.
- I will not use alcohol prior to, while officiating, or after any League contest or activity at the site of the contest.
- I will refrain from the use of tobacco in the presence of students.
- I will abstain from the use of illegal, controlled substances.
- I will use respectful language at all times and will not use profanity that is casual or directed at any individual.