

NFHS Officials Summit

Friday, June 28, 2024 – 1:00 PM-2:45 PM ET



Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, & Purpose of Officials Summit
- Best Practices Roundtable
 - Officials' Appreciation – Pat Gebhart (Pennsylvania), Richard Pearson (Massachusetts)
 - Officiating Consortiums – Jason Nickleby (Minnesota)
 - Sectional/Regional Summits
 - Midwest Officials Summit: Jo Auch (South Dakota), Toni Hill (Missouri)
 - Section 2 Officials Summit: Ken Kazmarek (Maryland)
- Break
- Informational Items
 - NFHS Officiating Services Department Report (Dana Pappas, NFHS)
 - NASO Advantage Membership Information (Bill Topp, NASO)
 - RefReps Update (Kyle Armstrong, RefReps)
- Q & A Session
- Adjournment



Welcome, Introductions & Purpose

- Welcome
- Introduction of NFHS Officials Advisory Committee
- Introduction of Guests
- Introduction of Attendees
- Purpose of Summit



Best Practices Roundtable

- Officials' Appreciation Weeks
 - Pat Gebhart, Pennsylvania
 - Richard Pearson, Massachusetts
- Officiating Consortiums
 - Jason Nickleby, Minnesota
- Sectional/Regional Summits
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NFHS Officiating Services Department Report

- The State of Officiating
- NFHS Officials Education Services: Insurance Concerns
- Upcoming Content & Initiatives
- Vision & Goals
- A Gift to the Membership from the NFHS



The State of Officiating

- Following the loss of an estimated 50,000 officials post-COVID, there has been an upward trend in officials' registration numbers across the country since 2021-22 (based on 36 state associations that have reported six-year data):
 - 2018-19: 220,340
 - 2019-20: 216,047 (down 2% from 2018-19)
 - 2020-21: 189,140 (down 14% from 2018-19)
 - 2021-22: 201,415 (down 9% from 2018-19, up 7% from 2020-21)
 - 2022-23: 212,327 (down 4% from 2018-19, up 5% from 2021-22)
 - 2023-24: 223,379 (up 1% from 2018-19, up 5% from 2022-23)



The State of Officiating

Sport	2022-23	2023-24	Difference
Baseball	27350	28370	Up 4%
Basketball	55944	58119	Up 4%
Field Hockey	979	996	Up 2%
Football	37109	39715	Up 7%
Gymnastics	932	876	Down 6%
Ice Hockey	2659	2752	Up 3%
Lacrosse (Boys)	2870	3231	Up 13%
Lacrosse (Girls)	2089	2174	Up 4%
Soccer	18726	20228	Up 8%
Softball	21294	21467	Up 1%
Spirit	1004	1002	Down <1%
Swimming & Diving	4238	4419	Up 4%
Track & Field/Cross Country	6241	8966	Up 44%
Volleyball	21144	22787	Up 8%
Water Polo	188	217	Up 15%
Wrestling	7715	8060	Up 4%



The State of Officiating

- The following seven sports are ABOVE their pre-pandemic levels, as reported in 2018-2019 (percentage increase since pandemic noted below):
 - Football (2%)
 - Girls' Lacrosse (15%)
 - Soccer (5%)
 - Swimming & Diving (6%)
 - Track & Field/Cross Country (37%)
 - Volleyball (10%)
 - Wrestling (9%)



The State of Officiating

- The following **16** states are ABOVE their pre-pandemic levels, as reported in 2018-2019 (percentage increase since pandemic noted below):

Arizona (<1%)
Arkansas (3%)
Florida (13%)
Idaho (28%)
Illinois (18%)
Iowa (26%)
Louisiana (5%)
North Dakota (15%)

Oklahoma (12%)
Oregon (10%)
South Carolina (4%)
South Dakota (19%)
Tennessee (2%)
Utah (25%)
Wisconsin (10%)
Wyoming (10%)



The State of Officiating

- This year, we requested the total number of NEW officials registered in each state. There are 28 states tracking that information, with a total of **21,360 new registrants** across the country.
- As we see continued growth in officials' registration numbers, we have several different thoughts:
 - We are cautiously optimistic – is this true growth, pandemic bounce-back or the sign of a weak economy (i.e, 2008)?
 - With the signs of growth, we must focus on retention as much as, if not more than, recruitment.
 - Learning from each other about what is working in growth states.



NFHS Officials Education Services (Insurance Concerns)

- The NFHS Officials Association offers membership for state associations (formerly 100% state program), as well as local associations or individuals in need of insurance, the exam platform, and digital publications.
- We have been made aware that many states that do not register/license officials in sports such as lacrosse, swimming & diving, and track & field have been using officials from NGB's to work their events, assuming the NGB insurance would cover the officials for high school events...this may not be the case.



NFHS Officials Education Services (Insurance Concerns)

- If there are groups of officials that you do not currently register/license/insure working events in your state, you can provide information to them about group and individual memberships offered through the NFHS Officials Education Services Program.



Group Membership: Tier 2

- Tier 2 membership is open to a sport-specific state organization or any local organization. The cost of this membership is **\$25 per member** and includes access to the testing platform, digital publications, insurance, NFHS Officials Awards program, and uniform discounts.
- Minimum of 40 members or more is required for membership in this category.
- 100% of organizational members must be NFHS Officials Association members, registered on the NFHS Center for Officials Services (COS).
- Membership period is from July 1 through June 30 each year.
- One contact person must take responsibility for setting up the group information.
- Tier 2 associations may opt into the NFHS Network benefit for all of its members for an additional \$10 fee, making the total fee **\$35 per member.**



Group Membership: Small Group

- Small group membership is open to a sport-specific state organization or any local organization. The cost of this membership is **\$35 per member** and includes access to the testing platform, digital publications, insurance, NFHS Officials Awards program, and uniform discounts.
- Small group membership is for groups with fewer than 40 members.
- 100% of organizational members must be NFHS Officials Association members, registered on the NFHS Center for Officials Services (COS).
- Membership period is from July 1 through June 30 each year.
- One contact person must take responsibility for setting up the group information.
- Small groups may opt into the NFHS Network benefit for all of its members for an additional \$10 fee, making the total fee **\$45 per member**.



Individual Membership

- Individual membership is open to any interscholastic official who wants to join the NFHS Officials Association but does not fall into any other category of membership. The cost of this membership is **\$35** and includes access to the digital publications, insurance, NFHS Officials Awards program, and uniform discounts.
- Officials must register on the NFHS Center for Officials Services (COS).
- Membership period is from July 1 through June 30 each year.
- Individual officials may opt into the NFHS Network benefit for an additional \$10 fee, making the total fee **\$45**.



Upcoming Educational Content

- **2024-25 Priority Projects:**
 - “How to Keep Score” Videos (Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball) – companion pieces to stats courses.
 - Revamp/overhaul of NFHS Video Library. Index officiating items and make easy to locate for all users.
 - Continuation of existing/annual/seasonal and monthly projects.
 - By popular demand (courses or videos):
 - Communication for Officials
 - Conflict Resolution for Officials
 - Assignor Best Practices
 - Mentorship



Upcoming NFHS Officiating Initiatives

- **New items from the NFHS, available to all state associations:**
 - Welcome Letters from the NFHS (OESP states will include the officials' membership information)
 - Thank you letters for service at the end of a season.
 - Congratulations letters from the NFHS for state tournament officials.
 - Recognition on NFHS web site/social media.
 - Letters of recognition for service milestones or other special recognitions.
 - Recognition on NFHS web site/social media.



Upcoming NFHS Officiating Initiatives

- **NFHS Officials Appreciation Weeks**
 - Fall – October 6-12, 2024
 - Winter – January 12-18, 2025
 - Spring – April 6-12, 2025
 - Great involvement during the 2023-24 school year – some states are going above and beyond and are getting many of their schools involved in the effort. Positive messaging about officiating.
 - This is a great effort in both the areas of recruitment and retention and is a low-cost way to do both.



Overall Departmental Vision & Goals for 2024-25

- The guiding principles of the NFHS Officiating Department, leading into the 2024-25 school year (and beyond) are the continued recruitment of officials, as well as an emphasis on retention, due to recent growth. We can get more officials and continue to nurture and retain those we have by following the **STREAM!**

- Support
- Training
- Recognition
- Education
- Advocacy
- Mentorship

“In the confrontation between the stream and the rock, the stream always wins, not through strength but by perseverance.”

-H. Jackson Brown, Jr.-



Overall Departmental Vision & Goals for 2024-25

- As part of the effort to provide state associations with resources for their officials in line with the **STREAM**, the NFHS is providing a gift membership to the NASO Association Advantage Program to each state association.
- Bill Topp, NASO President, joins us today to tell you about what you will be receiving.



NASO Association Advantage Membership Information (Bill Topp, NASO)

- An informational webinar will be held on **Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 3:00 PM ET** with Ken Koester of NASO to discuss, in detail, what your state association will receive with this membership. Meeting invitations will be sent out just after the Summer Meeting but mark your calendars for this date and time!



RefReps Updates (Kyle Armstrong)

- Status at 2023 Summer Meeting
- Status at 2024 Summer Meeting
- Increase in states and seat licenses
- Feedback





Questions?







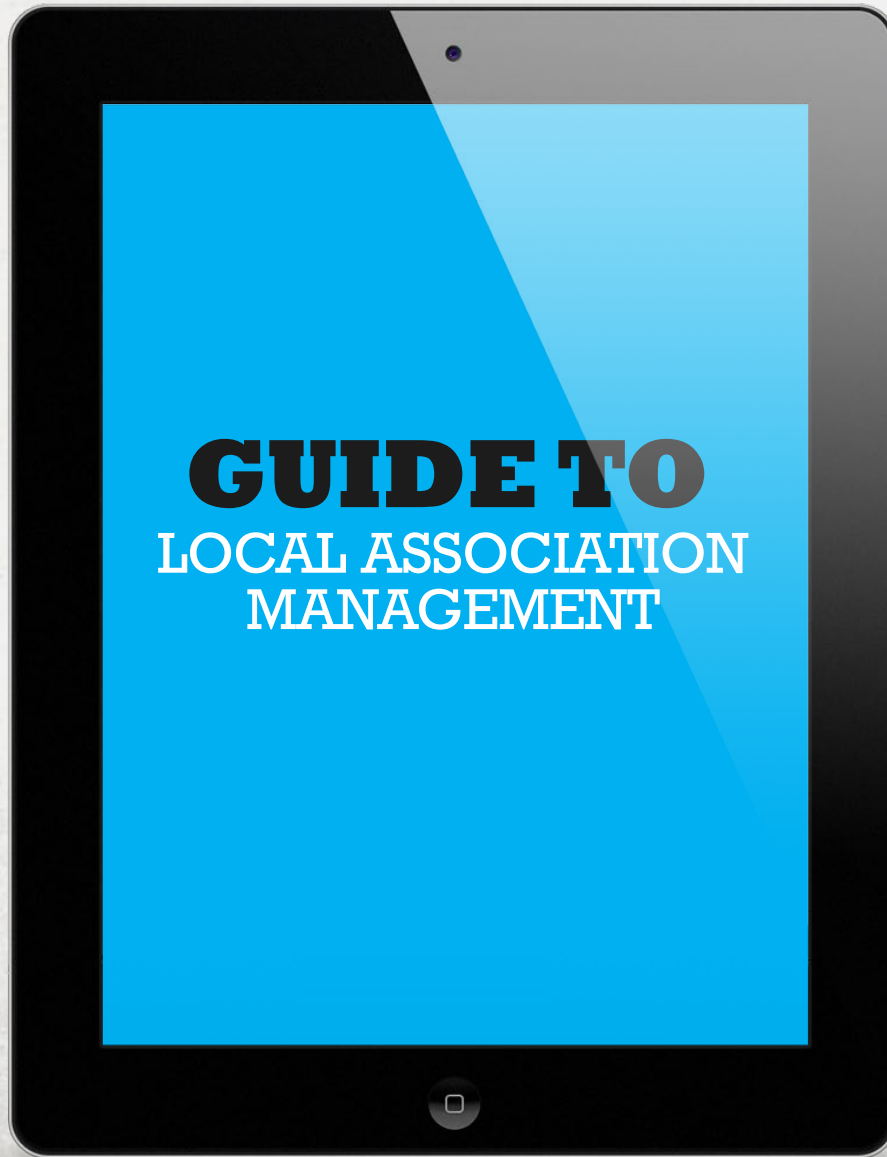
OUR MISSION

Better educated and trained association leaders lead to better managed associations, raising the entire level of sports officiating for your association.

LEVELS

	PLATINUM <i>Traditional ON</i>	PLATINUM <i>Traditional ON & Association Liability Insurance</i> 	TITANIUM <i>Traditional NASO Group Membership</i>	TITANIUM <i>Traditional Group & Association Liability Insurance</i> 	DIAMOND <i>New Association Advantage (Sport-Specific Training & Association Insurance)</i>
Benefits	• E-newsletter • Access to Website • Cliff Keen Discount • Printed Guidebook • Printed Newsletter • Referee Magazine	• E-newsletter • Access to Website • Cliff Keen Discount • Printed Guidebook • Printed Newsletter • Referee Magazine	• E-newsletter • Access to Website • Cliff Keen Discount • Printed Guidebook • Printed Newsletter • Referee Magazine	• E-newsletter • Access to Website • Cliff Keen Discount • Printed Guidebook • Printed Newsletter • Referee Magazine	• E-newsletter • Access to Website • Cliff Keen Discount • Printed Guidebook • Printed Newsletter • Referee Magazine
Added Value		*Insurance	*\$76/NASO memberships *Same activation dates	*\$76/NASO memberships *Same activation dates *Individual NASO insurance	Training materials Website Testing
Insurance		Included: Group General Liability	Included: Individual NASO	Included: Group General Liability & Individual	Included: Group General Liability, Game-Fee/Excess Accident & Medical

MEMBER BENEFITS



Guide to Local Association Management

- Chapters On:
- Training
- Assigning
- Meetings
- Fund Raising
- Public Relations
- Contracts
- Mentoring
- More



Member Information And Consultation Program

NASO annually provides its members with up to three free consultations with one of our qualified advisors for anything related to sports officials and sports officiating.

MICP is the only program providing officials with help on sports officiating business and legal matters. Never before has such protection and assistance been needed more.

RULES, MECHANICS, PHILOSOPHY



KICK STARTS

By George Demetriou

Although every game begins with a kickoff, free kicks occur much less frequently than passing or running plays. Add the fact the kicking game has many special rules and you'll recognize an extra effort is necessary to master kick plays.

A kickoff is a specific type of free kick used to start either half and to resume play after a try or successful field goal. Two of the three kicking methods (placekick and dropkick) can be used on a kickoff. A punt may not be used for a kickoff.

but may be used for the kick
follows a safety, which is from team
K's 20 yardline. A kickoff can never
score.

The most visible kick-off difference between the codes is the spot of the kick: It's team K's 40 yardline for NFHS and team K's 35 yardline for NCAA, if not relocated by penalty. When the ball is kicked, both teams must have all their players behind their free-kick (restraining) line except the kicking team may have the kicker and any holder over the line. Encroachment is a dead-ball foul in NFHS and a

live-ball foul In NCAA (NFHS 6-1-3, NCAA 6-1-2b). Under NCAA rules, if team K is offside, the penalty may be enforced from the previous spot or from the spot where the ball becomes dead in team R's possession.

Formation. There are a couple of formation requirements on the kicking team and one on the receiving team. Team K must have at least four players on either side of the kicker. In NCAA only, all team K players must have been between the numbers after the ready-to-play signal.

Illegal kick. In NFHS, it is a dead-ball foul if a free kick is immediately driven to the ground or strikes the ground once and goes into the air in the manner of the ball kicked directly off the tee (pop-up kick) (2-24.10, 6-1.11). In NCAA, a kick is legal, but the receiver has the same kick-catch and fair-catch protection as if the ball were in flight (6-4.1).

Fair catch. In NFHS, any receiver may signal for a fair catch while any legal kick is in flight. Any receiver who has given a valid or invalid fair-catch signal is prohibited from blocking until the kick has ended. In NFHS, the penalty is 15 yards, but it is 10 yards in NCAA. In NCAA the prohibition is for the receiver to come down, but not to block.

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When the tackle or guard on the opposite side of the line false starts and is flagged by the wing official on that side of the line, the opposite wing should avoid throwing the flag. Doing so indicates the official is not locked in on his or her own side of the line. Moreover, it may cause confusion, leading to the belief the opposite wing has a different foul. If the responsible wing blanks out and misses an obvious false start, the opposite wing should bail out the crewmate by throwing the flag.

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FOOTBALL ERROR IN THE WHISTLE

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ASSOCIATION POINTS OF EMPHASIS

By Tim Sloan

One of the most important parts of each new NFHS rulebook, after the rules themselves, is the points of emphasis. We refer to them colloquially by their acronym, POEs. I suppose that rolls off the tongue better than a more appropriate term like TTAGCRs ("Things That Aren't Getting Called Right").

But seriously, the POEs amount to position statements written by the national rules committee for each sport on the state of their game. Specifically, they focus on areas where applicable rules aren't being enforced consistently or as intended. Sometimes they aren't being enforced at all. Other times, they provide the rationale for introducing new rules. Recent years of the basketball rulebook, for example, focused on the need to limit physicality in a sport that Dr. Naismith designed to be non-contact. The focus has also been on maintaining proper decorum in areas like uniforms and bench behavior. By placing these issues before the interested parties — coaches, players, administrators and officials — the intent is to leave a clear understanding of what concerns the NFHS and how it expects it to be addressed. Often, these pronouncements are taken to heart and gain traction among

officials. They become issues incorporated in mechanics discussions, rules exams and evaluations; this has often led to positive change. At the other end of the scale, the recent NFHS football POEs emphasized the need to penalize assisting the runner. This rule has been in the book since just after the dawn of time, but looking

around my fishbowl named Iowa, this admonishment seems to have gone unnoticed ... some change takes more time.

The important thing is the POEs describe policy, prescribe courses of action and leave it to the participants to honor the sentiment and effect change. This begs the

SEE "EMPHASIS" P.2

BUILD UP LEADERSHIP RESILIENCY

By David Westol

We've heard these truisms a thousand times, as officials for our sports.

Don't sweat the little things. Get the big calls.

"So you made a mistake. You misjudged a play. You were out of position to make the call. You failed to remember an obscure but important rule. You have exactly X seconds to forget about that because the next play or action is about to begin."

"Big-time officials make big-time calls."

"Every game or contest has a rhythm. Find it."

"Work your game. Don't allow the coaches, the players or the fans

to make the calls for you."

Excellent advice. But it also applies to association leadership. And resiliency, in the context of your officials' association leadership, means you can work with, through or around occurrences, situations and the occasional crisis. You can absorb and respond to the criticisms of members, past association officers and others. That you can maintain a steady course despite difficulties.

How can we build resiliency? **Expect the unexpected.** Prepare for a difficult situation — a crisis, if you will — by spending time as a board of directors with, "What if?" situation analysis. Don't accept the status quo — the way things are — as the standard. One unfortunate

SEE "LEADERSHIP" P.4

Advisor Newsletter

Each association receives the official monthly newsletter of Association Advantage, written exclusively for association leaders. *Advisor* contains articles and tips on association management, public speaking, meeting presentations, legal issues and many other topics.

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