

South Dakota Sports Officials Council Mentoring Program

To: All Officials

Topic: Recruitment and Mentoring of New Officials

This letter is to help explain the program that the All Sports Officials Advisory Council has implemented to help **recruit and retain new officials** for high school athletics.

Purpose: Recruit and Retain new officials for high school athletics. This program also provides new officials the opportunity to receive guidance from experienced officials in learning proper techniques, officiating skills, implementation of the rules, etc. while receiving compensation.

Definitions: New official (Mentee): a registered official with 0-5 years of experience (may mentor up to 3 dates/season)

Mentor: An official who is currently certified with the SDHSAA.

Level of games/ matches: High School only

Lower level—Freshman, Sophomore or Junior Varsity

Higher level—Varsity

Requirements:

1. The new official must be registered with the SDHSAA office.
2. The new official can work a lower level match (grades 9-12).
3. Observe a certified official while that official works a match and receive \$50.
Note: New official may only receive compensation for one of the above per date.
4. The new official may be mentored up to three dates per season.
5. Certified officials mentoring the new official and giving written and verbal feedback in regards to their performance, will receive \$50 provided they were not contracted (hired) and receiving compensation for working that match. A copy of the written evaluation must be sent along with the payment voucher.
6. A form/voucher must be filled out and signed by the mentoring official and sent to the SDHSAA to Marsha Karst to receive compensation.

There is a copy of evaluation/mentor form/voucher attached. Please make additional copies as needed. If there are any questions please feel free to contact Marsha Karst at marsha.karst@sdhsaa.com or 605-224/9261

If you know of anyone that may be interested in becoming an official, have them contact our office at 224-9261. WE NEED OFFICIALS STATEWIDE.

BASKETBALL OFFICIALS MENTORING VOUCHER

South Dakota Basketball Officials Association
Sports Officials Advisory Council

Date game worked: _____

Teams involved in game: _____

What level: _____ Frosh _____ Soph. _____ C game _____ JV _____ Varsity

New Official

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ Zip: _____

Mentors Name: _____

Mentors Address: _____

City/ Zip: _____

Prospective official works a game (\$50)

SIGNED BY: _____ Date: _____
(Mentor)

Send to: Marsha Karst
Po Box 1217
Pierre SD 57501

Email to: marsha.karst@sdhsaa.com

**South Dakota High School Activities Association
Basketball Mentor's Report**

Date of Game Observed: _____

Level of Game: _____ JV _____ Varsity

Officials Name _____

Mentors Name: _____

OFFICIALS TOPICS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MENTOR

Appearance/Fitness-----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
NFHS Positioning (2-Person or 3-Person Mechanics) ---	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Judgment/Correctness of Calls-----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Rough Play—Post Play -----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Hand Checking -----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Loose Ball-----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Rebounding-----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Verticality-----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Have Patient Whistle—See Whole Play -----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Referee The Defense -----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Consistency of Calls -----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Decisiveness -----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Crew Communication-----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
NFHS Playing Rules Application (Rules Knowledge)---	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Use of Common Sense-----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Situation Management-----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Focus/Reaction Under Pressure/Poise-----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Hustle -----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Control of Players-----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Use of NFHS Signals-----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____
Fraternization-----	Observed _____	Not Observed _____

Mentor's Signature _____ Date _____

Official's Signature _____ Telephone Number _____

Send to: Marsha Karst
Po Box 1217
Pierre SD 57501

Email to: marsha.karst@sdhsaa.com

The SDHSAA wishes to thank you, as a mentor, for your dedication and efforts that will help the dreams come true for this new individual to become a sports official.

Mentoring Overview

It is the goal of the mentor program that young officials will learn the correct way to perform as an official. Mentor training will better train young officials. Adequately mentored from the outset, new people with an interest in officiating can develop as capable officials.

The mentor will be a teacher providing learning opportunities for this new official. It will be the mentor who will answer the tough questions, support the new official in tight situations and encourage the new official in times of distress.

The mentor will be responsible for critiquing the new official. Improvement rather than perfection will be the goal. Positive rather than negative evaluations will be critical to reinforcing the accomplishments of the young official.

Discuss With The New Official

1. What does it take to become a good official?

It takes a thorough knowledge of the rules of your sport, a love of athletics and kids, physical ability, self-confidence, the dedication and determination necessary to work hard, and above all, personal integrity. The athletes and coaches look upon each contest as being the most important thing happening in their lives at that moment, and the official must look upon each contest the same way, and react accordingly. If you have the interest and the attributes described, you may find this to be some of the most rewarding work you will ever be involved in.

2. What expectations will officiating have of the new official?

To become a respected official one must invest time to learn, time to practice and time to develop. Although the time devoted will vary from person to person, there are some requirements that must be observed. Rules meetings, clinics, jamborees, and region officials meetings are necessary. *Officials improve according to their efforts.*

3. What is the biggest adjustment young officials may need to make?

It is important to understand that the basic ingredient of officiating is that of being a decision maker, and sometimes people do not like decisions that don't go their way. Once realize that people will criticize you because you make necessary decisions, rather than you are a bad person, and you can accept this fact, you are on your way. It is not easy. Do not get discouraged! Stay in the game.

4. Training Materials

The young official will read the SDHSAA Officials Handbook and Directory of Sports Officials, read the Rules Book, Casebook, and Officials Manual, study signals, mechanics and proper positioning.

The New Official and Mentor Will

1. Attend contests to observe and study the new official
2. Discuss and practice development of an impartial attitude
3. Develop a professional style for an official when developing relationships with coaches
4. Discuss entering/leaving the court/field as a group
5. Promote and practice common sense decisions and the courage to make decisions
6. Explain the need to rely on partners
7. Discuss "over-officiating", what it is and how to avoid it
8. Identify and practice techniques to maintain emotional control and to deal with specific pressure packed situations
9. Encourage the new official to observe, talk with and "be around" veteran officials
10. Critique the new official during every contest
11. Accentuate the positive. . . always
12. Encourage the new official to keep a log into which game notes and comments are entered