



# THE OFFICIAL WORD

From the Secretary's Desk

## Charity Golf Outing Raises \$2,800

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The 2004 IOA Charity Golf Outing held July 29 at Twin Bridges Golf Course raised \$2,800 for the IOA Scholarship Fund and various local nonprofits. Thanks to all who played, the sponsors, and the golf committee chaired by Stu Casper.

The outing was won by IOA member Grady Smith and his team, including Larry Nixon, Robb Williamson, and Gavin Smith.

\*\*\*\*\*

To all officials, just a note to remind everyone to use the Web site to update your closed and open dates. I receive many calls from Athletic Directors saying they have called many officials who show open, but they are closed. This does not help the school or the association. If you don't want to work on a given date, leave the date closed!

\*\*\*\*\*

Also, be aware of people assigning games. Find out

how many schools they assign and what level. Too many officials are paying an assigning fee and only receiving a game or two.

\*\*\*\*\*

Any basketball official who wants to work youth basketball should contact me. There is no charge for sending you to these games.

*IOA Secretary  
Bob Klein*

## What Officials Owe the Game

### IOA Board of Directors

- Phil Vidito, President
- Jim Disney, President-Elect
- Tim Maguire, Vice President
- Bob Klein, Secretary
- Brad Brooks, Treasurer
- Mark Baltz
- Mike Bohan
- Mike Furnish
- Don Nester
- Ed Roush
- Jerry Wallace
- John Yantiss

- Terry Magnuson, Web Master

What do officials owe the game? Officials are responsible for their actions and behavior anywhere they are identified as officials. That means that in addition to their on field or on court performance, officials may be held accountable for anything they do in their private lives as well.

**Responsibilities away from the game.** Officials are ex-

pected to embrace higher standards of behavior than other segments of society. If an official is convicted of embezzlement, for example, he or she can anticipate being expelled from his or her officiating group, and the state may lift that official's license to work games. The same if an official is convicted of child molestation or negligent manslaughter. Lesser offenses might be subject to sanctions, too. If an official signs a con-

tract for a game and then doesn't show up, without notifying authorities of a problem, the official can presume that future game assignments may be withheld. That also pertains to showing up late, for not attending required meetings or for acting inappropriately at games. Officials are told not to drink alcohol before working games, not to smoke at the game site, not to park their car

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## What Officials Owe the Game

(continued from page 1)

in the spot designated for the school superintendent. There are also unspoken taboos that may not apply to the general public but for which an official may be held accountable. An arrest, say for domestic abuse or for driving while drunk may not result in a conviction, but it could well be a factor in diminishing an official's reputation, a smudge that the officiating community finds unacceptable. To offer an extreme, if an official were known to be existing as a panhandler, chances are, few game assignments would be available to that individual, plus promotion would likely be out of reach as well. In short, an official's private life could come under scrutiny if distinct aberrations beyond cultural norms were attributed to his or her behavior. In many respects, it is desirable for an official to be a role model within the community and a pillar of acceptable decorum in personal behavior.

**Responsibilities during game.** Let's go back to the definition of officiating excellence: "Excellent officiating is ensuring the game is being played by the rules while emphasizing fairness and safety and doing so in a manner that enhances the stature of sports officiating." Using that as the ultimate goal of officiating, officials' responsibilities — what they owe to the game — should encompass everything that leads them toward that excellence.

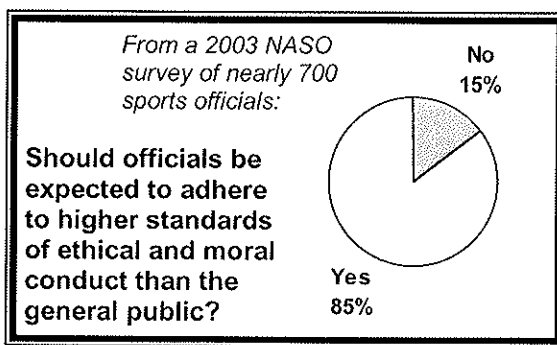
**Rules and mechanics.** The rules are written down in a

very formal way in every sports' rules book. They are the guidelines for nearly every officiating judgment. If an official does not enforce a game by the rules, that is a very easy thing to determine, and he or she should be held accountable for it. Mechanics are procedures used by officials to cover game action. Those steps-in-processes are spelled out in manuals, and a whole field of study has arisen to analyze the intricacies of game techniques. Those tactics also include descriptions of the ways judgments should be made, how officials should make distinctions about acceptable play (legal acts) or violations. Proper officiating means that competition will take place within the letter and spirit of the rules. Proper mechanics means that officials will be in the right position to make accurate calls and that their calls will consist of valid judgments based on the rules.

participants act. Primarily, officials are responsible for seeing that the game moves along in accordance with rules and widely accepted cultural behaviors. Fairness is crucial for officials' judgments in those areas, because they are not always codified by the rules. Game management for officials means also that they must monitor the behavior of coaches and players in regard to strategy, adherence to rules and relationships with opponents. The tolerance for emotional expression is sometimes ill defined by the rules. Officials, therefore, must have a guidance template in their minds about what is acceptable participant behavior and what is forbidden. When players and/or coaches "cross the line" of unacceptable behavior, officials are obliged to deal directly with those transgressions.

must be rigid about enforcing rules pertaining to safety. Playing equipment must be inspected, the playing surfaces must be scrutinized and any unexpected circumstances must be dealt with as they arise (such as weather problems or facility malfunctions). In many instances officials are advised to consult game managers and coaches, using those individuals' advisories to assist in making decisions to suspend playing action, thus sharing legal as well as practical responsibility for decisions regarding player welfare.

**Enhance the stature of officiating.** Officials are often urged to act in a dignified fashion, to be formal without being unapproachable, belligerent or officious. Words describing preferred behavior can be couched in either negative or positive terms: be friendly, but not overly solicitous, etc. Desirable personal characteristics could be listed along with undesirable attitudes. The main point is, however, that officials will be judged by the overall image they convey. "To get respect, you have to give respect," one adage goes. During games an official has an obligation to act in a neutral way, to show interest in the proceedings, and to exhibit an unobtrusive enthusiasm without drawing undue attention. Therefore, showy mannerisms, exaggerated signals and displays of anger are not appropriate. An official can be chastised for stepping over acceptable boundaries. Accountability includes the prospect of being looked up to with admiration in terms of personal behavior.



**Overall game management.** Officials are obliged to assume authority for the way a game proceeds through their knowledge of the rules and mechanics. But they are also required to decide about peripheral things related to the game, most notably the way

**Safety first.** Guarding the physical well-being of participants is not only a primary duty of officials, but it is also a continuous responsibility. Watchfulness can never cease, and compromises about player protection are never legitimate. That means that officials

## TRACK AND FIELD CLASS

### IOA Track and Field Class Dates:

- December 13
- December 22
- December 27
- January 3
- January 10 (Exam)

*All classes Monday  
from 7:00–9:00 pm*

The IOA will sponsor a class for individuals interested in becoming track and field officials.

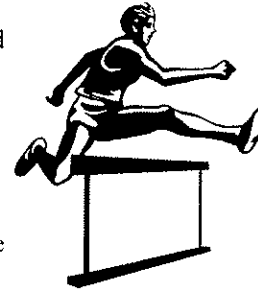
Under the leadership of IOA members Dan Cummins and John Yantiss, participants will be prepared to take the IHSAA examination and learn the techniques of managing a meet.

The class will meet on 5 consecutive Monday night between 7:00–9:00 p.m. at Warren Central High School.

Classes will be held in the Field House conference room.

The cost of the class is \$25, which does not include the IHSAA application fee for rule books and taking the test.

If you are interested in this class, please contact John Yantiss at 862-8773 (home) or 670-8127(cell).



## IOA Student Scholarship

The postmark deadline for IOA Student Scholarship Applications is February 1, 2005. Applications may be requested by contacting Lee Thompson, scholarship chairman, at 803-5400. Other members of the IOA Scholarship Committee include: Dave Bolsega, Jim Fish, Ed Rouse, and Steve Taylor.

Last year the association awarded two \$500 scholar-

ships to IOA members' children.

### Qualifications:

1. Applicants must be a senior in high school or a college undergraduate who has a B (3.0) average or higher.
2. Applicants must be making definite plans to further their education in their chosen field.
3. Applicants must meet nec-

essary entrance requirements in the institution of their choice (proper credits, etc.)

4. An applicant can win the scholarship only once.
5. The parent/guardian of the applicant must have been a member in good standing of the IOA for three consecutive years prior to the application date. Under an extenuating circumstance the committee may waive this requirement.

**The postmark  
deadline for IOA  
Scholarship  
Applications is  
February 1, 2005.**

## Web Site Promotes Healthy Lifestyle for Young People

Having officiated and been a member of the Indiana Officials Association for twenty-seven years, Joe Stafford recognizes the importance of students and athletes eating healthy and staying active year round. Below is an article from an organization, which believes in the importance of teaching a child to lead a healthy lifestyle, so that they may continue those habits into adulthood.

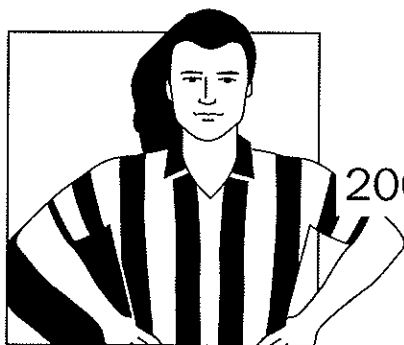
"The Coalition for a Healthy and Active America (CHAA) was formed in 2003 by concerned organizations and national leaders to educate parents, children, schools, and communities about the critical roles physical activity and nutrition education play in reversing the alarming trends of childhood obesity. For more information, please visit our website at [www.chaausa.org](http://www.chaausa.org)."



825 Bayside Drive  
Greenwood, IN 46143

*Is your  
officiating  
schedule  
up-to-date  
on the  
IOA website?*

*ioaofficials.com*



## 2004-05 IOA BASKETBALL

### Meeting Dates

- October 18
- November 8
- November 15
- November 29
- December 13
- January 17
- February 7
- February 21

Remember that all regularly scheduled IOA Basketball Meetings will be held at the FARM BUREAU BUILDING at 225 S. East Street beginning at 7:15 sharp.

IOA Training meetings will be at 6:15 at the same location with Brian Totton leading the way.

Instructions for attending an IOA meeting at Farm Bureau Insurance:

1. Use the covered parking lot behind the building, accessible off either Louisiana or Georgia streets.
2. To enter the lot, approach the parking gate, press the button, and identify yourself as a member of the IOA. For security purposes, each car entering the lot must stop at the gate prior to entry.
3. Enter the rear doors.
4. Sign the Guest Sign-in Sheet located just inside.
5. Meetings are held in Assembly Rooms A—D.

# IOA BASEBALL OFFICIALS CLASS

*Become a licensed baseball official*

Indiana Officials Association (IOA) members Don Nester and Jim Fish, with the permission of the IOA and the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), will be conducting a baseball officials class. This class prepares any prospective official who is about to take the licensed National Federation High School /IHSAA baseball official's exam.

Classes will be held at the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Center; 580 E. Stevens Street; Indianapolis, IN 46203, for 5 consecutive weeks on **Thursdays** beginning **January 13, 2005** from **7:00 to 9:00 pm**.

Your two choices to take the IHSAA basketball exam are:

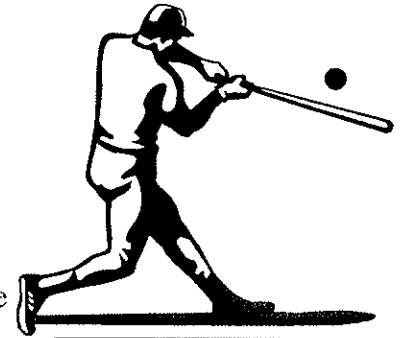
1. **Thursday February 10, 2005**, at 7:00 p.m. during this class.
2. **January 31, 2005** at the location you listed on your application card from the IHSAA.

Our students have been highly successful in passing the baseball officials test. The opportunity for you to attend clinics and officiate area games will be announced during our class sessions.

**Cost:** \$25.00

**Return application and check as soon as possible to Don Nester at 6547 N. Ewing St; Indianapolis, IN 46220-3746.**

*If you cannot attend these classes and want to officiate high school baseball call Jim 849-9594 or Don 466-0092 (after 5:00 pm)*



## IOA Baseball Class Dates:

- January 13
- January 20
- January 27
- February 3
- February 10 (Exam)

*All classes Thursday from 7:00–9:00 pm*



## IOA Baseball Class Registration

**INDIANA OFFICIALS  
ASSOCIATION**

*Return to:*

Don Nester  
6547 N. Ewing Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46220-3746

Name

Street

City, State, Zip

Home Phone

Work Phone

**Make check payable to  
Don Nester**