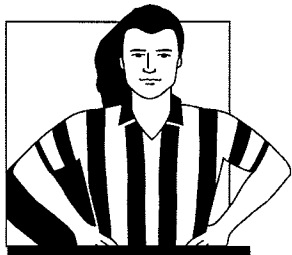


What the Game Owes Officials?

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Phone 262/632-8855; email: referee@referee.com

"What Officials Owe the Game" appeared in the Fall issue of The Official Word, as the first in a series of articles on accountability in officiating. This is the second article in the series.



It is the duty of those who govern the games to back up the officials when the officials have performed up to expectations.

At the same time that officials are responsible to a variety of colleagues and constituencies, groups and individuals that administer sports participation also have obligations toward the officials who serve them. What responsibilities do supervisors, leagues, schools and every other constituency in the game have to officials?

Basic communication.

League administrators who set schedules for competition owe officials communiqués about the accuracy of game assignments, including date, site location, time of event, special considerations such as homecoming celebrations, parents' night and so on. When circumstances require a change in time or venue, administrators should notify officials promptly of those alterations. Unfortunately, sometimes changes are made very late — a field is muddy and the game is shifted to another locale, or another conflict arises. When sudden shifts occur, officials are frequently the

last to be informed, or else they are not notified at all. Officials are sometimes confused and frustrated to arrive at an empty field, with no easy way of discovering where to go. Sometimes too, school hallways are like mazes and getting to the gym can be challenging, especially if doors are locked.

Safety and security.

For liability reasons alone, an assigned game overseer should handle all competitive occasions. That person should see to it that officials have a private place to dress; that security measures have been taken to escort them to the premises where the game will take place; that their private possessions are locked away; that they'll have a comfortable place to shower and get back into street clothes; that they'll be paid promptly for their services; and that they'll be guarded from intrusion by unauthorized individuals after the game.

Administrative backing and respect.

When something goes awry during a game and the official is at fault, it is reasonable to expect that the school, league or organization will acknowledge the error. It is equally reasonable to expect the

same acknowledgement if something goes awry and the official is not at fault. Whether the acknowledgement is to the press, to the coach who feels he or she is wronged or any other interested party, it is the duty of those who govern the games to back up the officials when the officials have performed up to expectations.



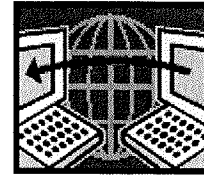
CONSIDER THE-SOURCE

Good officials can distinguish between stupid comments made by unknowledgeable sources and comments that have legitimate value. Consider the coach who offers you "sage" advice on officiating at the end of a game his or her team lost by a narrow margin. Chances are the comments are colored by emotions and should be regarded as unreliable. On the other hand, if a coach approaches you and calmly questions a specific rule interpretation, hear the request out. Communication breakdowns often originate from a basic misunderstanding of the rules. When both official and coach work off the same page, potentially explosive situations are less likely to occur.

IOA NEWS AND NOTES



The Official Word



◆ GOLF OUTING SET

The 2005 IOA Annual Charity Golf Outing has been scheduled for **Friday, July 29** at Twin Bridges Golf Course in Danville. The event is organized for officials, coaches, athletic directors, and friends. Proceeds support the IOA Scholarship Fund and selected local charities.

Contact Tournament Chairperson John Yantiss at 862-8773 (home) or 670-8127 (cell) if you know of potential hole sponsors or would like to assist with planning for the event.

Registration information will be published in the Spring Newsletter.

◆ NEWSLETTER GOING ELECTRONIC

Starting with the Spring issue of *The Official Word* the IOA newsletter will be sent via email to all IOA members with active addresses. This is being done to save money, speed up delivery, and make it easier to access reply forms.

The newsletter will still be mailed to those members requesting to get their news via the US Postal Service.

Starting with your 2005-2006 membership, make sure your email address is current with the IOA.

◆ USE THE WEB SITE

The IOA Web site is a state-of-the-art tool to support your participation as a member of Indiana's largest officials association. The site contains information about each sport (meetings, important dates, chairperson contact information). You can also find the IOA by-laws, board meeting minutes, and past issues of the newsletter.

- ◆ *Need an official to replace you for a given date?* Check the site.
- ◆ *What's the weather forecast?* Check the site.
- ◆ *Want to register your opinion?* Do it through the site.

IOA 2005-2006 Election Preview

One feature of the IOA Awards Banquet is the annual election of board members and officers. If you are not able to attend the banquet, you may request an absentee ballot from Bob Klein at 889-9681 (phone) or bkln3031@sbcglobal.net (email). Absentee ballots must be received by Bob Klein; 825 Bayside Drive; Greenwood, IN 46143 no later than March 19 to be counted. (See sample ballot below.)



2005-06 IOA Election Ballot

Sample Only

Place an **X** next to the person's name to indicate your vote.

Vice President (vote for one only)

- Mark Friend
- J.K. Wieder
- Steve Wyrick

Board Member (vote for two only)

- Mark Baltz
- Kevin Brown
- Kelly Dennis
- Gary Hamilton
- Jerry Wallace

RESERVATION FOR IOA AWARDS BANQUET

Detach and return by March 16 to: Bob Klein; 825 Bayside Drive; Greenwood, IN 46143

*Date: Monday, March 21, 2005
 Primo Banquet Hall (2615 E. National)
 5:30 p.m.—Social Time
 6:30 p.m.—Dinner*

NAME: _____

- I plan to attend (the cost of attending the banquet is included in your annual association dues).
- I will bring a guest. Please print guest's name: _____
 I am enclosing a \$15 check for my guest's dinner, payable to the IOA.
- I cannot attend the 2005 IOA Awards Banquet.

You will be recognized at the banquet if you received your first IHSAA tournament assignment, or advanced one level since last year's banquet. Please list your 2004-2005 achievement:

1st Sectional: _____ (sport) or **Advancement:** _____ (sport) _____ (level)

clip and return to Bob Klein March 16

Executive Secretary News

(Continued from page 1)

thanks. Mike Furnish and Don Nester have done a great job with their classes, with most of their participants joining the association.

Please check out the information about the annual banquet and return your reservation by March 16. No late reservations will be accepted. If you make a reservation and do not attend, you will be charged \$15 for the cost of the meal.

Your membership card for 2005-2006 is enclosed. Please fill this out completely and return to me with your dues by April 15th. Dues remain the same as last year.

If you are unable to attend the banquet, and would like an absentee ballot, please contact me by phone (889-9681) or email (bkin3031@sbcglobal.net).

If you advanced in any sports, such as from a sectional to a regional, please complete that section of the banquet reservation form so we can recognize you at the banquet.

Finally, if you would like to serve on a committee, contact either Jim Disney or me and we will see that it is done.

Directions to Primo Banquet Hall

