

2025 Officials Advisory Committee Recommendations

- T 1. **Recommend to change the Track and Field official starter uniform to a red shirt or red hat with the MSHSAA logo for the 2025-2026 school year. (7-0).**
Rationale: This allows the starter to be immediately recognized across the track. This is consistent with USATG and NCAA.
- Y 2. **Recommend MSHSAA review officials pay to ensure officials are adequately compensated for postseason pay. (7-0)**
Rationale: Officials are making less pay when working a postseason game than they make in the regular season. Many associations are working on increasing officials pay for the next couple of years.
- T 3. **Recommend MSHSAA provide access to MSHSAA postseason contests to individuals officials that officiated the games. (7-0).**
Rationale: This allows the official to review the film of their game and use as a learning tool to improve their officiating.
- N . **Recommend allowing all sport specific officials free admission into the championship via designated on-site verification for entrance. (7-0)**
Rationale: Allowing sport specific officials free admission to their sport specific championship would be beneficial for mentoring and a nice token of appreciation.

Staff recommendations are shown on the left of each item.

Y	Yes	The staff's recommendation is for the Board to approve the committee's recommendation.
Y-A	Yes as Amended	The staff's recommendation is to approve the committee's recommendation, as amended/modified by the staff; the original committee recommendation can be viewed in the committee minutes.
N	No	The staff's recommendation is for the Board to deny the committee's recommendation.
D	Discuss	The staff's recommendation is for the Board to discuss the committee's recommendation due to a variety of pros and cons associated with its potential approval.
T	Table	The staff's recommendation is for the Board to table the committee's recommendation for further study or for its referral to another committee.

**OFFICIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 2, 2025 – 10:00 A.M.**

Introduction –

Kenny Seifert welcomed everyone and had the attendees introduce themselves. Those in attendance were: Carter Montgomery - Northwest, Rick Grunden - Central, Mike Wilson - Southwest, Sarah Hackmann - At-Large Central, Jason Smith - Southeast, Mike Wood - South Central, Craig Miller - Northeast, and Darrell Pope - At-Large St. Louis. Non-voting members in attendance were Samantha Lavy-MSHSAA Assistant, and Kenny Seifert-MSHSAA Coordinator of Officials. Seifert conducted the meeting for Toni Hill, whom had a personal matter to attend to.

The financial form for mileage and addresses was passed around for verification and marked as correct for payment.

The role of the Advisory Committee was discussed. Seifert explained how recommendations were presented in MSHSAA staff meetings. If the staff approves the recommendations, the recommendations are then presented to the Board of Directors.

The 2024 Official Advisory Meeting minutes were approved, first by Mike Wood, second by Rick Grunden. Motion passed 7-0.

New Business –

A - Submitted by Darrell Pope - Consider recommending a NFHS Rules Proposal Change to add a restriction arc under the basket.

Pope talked about several reasons for implementing the restriction arc. First safety, with concussions it prevents kids from taking that block/charges. If they know the restriction circle is there that may reduce the number of those. It puts a black and white picture for the coaches when a call is made. Seifert said that this is nothing to vote on because it is a national federation rule and Seifert went into the process for submitting a rule proposal to the NFHS. Doug Fessler, executive of Basketball, and Seifert receive from the NFHS all of the basketball recommendations from our state and they discuss to which one they approve to be discussed at the NFHS. Seifert reached out to some women's college officials, when the restricted arc was put in for men and the women, the women quickly realized that four feet doesn't make a difference and then it went down to three feet. Seifert said that for two years now there has been no arc in women's college basketball. There is now an imaginary cylinder under the basket. In high school basketball a restricted arc would apply to large schools and small schools, with us having one rule book the rule would apply to girls or boys. Pope said that there is confusion with coaches and having inconsistencies between officials. Seifert said having an imaginary cylinder won't be hard to implement. Smith mentioned that not having the cost for painting an arc will be nice for schools. Seifert opened the floor for any recommendations. **No action taken.**

Wood asked Seifert since we are talking about basketball, where is MSHSAA at with the shot clock. Seifert said that it wasn't even on the ballot this spring. Our office provided

an allowance for tournaments to experiment with the shot clock. Seifert said that there is a correlation from big to small class. Smaller schools bigger concern is having consistent shot clock operators. Wood said that in the holiday tournament he worked the shot clock, there was maybe a handful of shot clock violations. The committee discussed the shot clock further. **No action taken.**

B - Submitted by John Hatfield - Consider a Change to the Official Uniform Utilizing a Red Official Shirt for the Starter.

Hatfield's reasoning was sent in as follows: As track and field officials, more often than not, we are working as a Starter during the season. As a Certified Master level Starter for NCAA and USATF, I am consistently uniformed in a red shirt and hat. These are provided either by the conference or USATF. The premise is that any meet official, coach, or athlete can immediately look across the track and recognize the Starter who most always the head track official. Wood spoke to a track official in his area and they are in favor of the red shirt and red hat. **Grunden motion to approve the track and field official red shirt or red hat with the MSHSAA logo for the 2025-26 school year, second Wood. Motion passed 7-0.**

C - Submitted by Mike Wood and Carter Montgomery - Consider Increase to Postseason Pay for Officials.

Wood said that the officials are making less pay when working a post season game than they make in the regular season. Many associations are working on increasing officials pay for the next couple of years. MSHSAA should want officials working post season to be the highest paid. Seifert said that there will be adjustments. After further discussion Seifert discussed the registration fees and there hasn't been a hike in those fees. **Wood recommends MSHSAA review officials pay to ensure they are adequately compensated for post season play, Grunden second. Motion passed 7-0.**

D - Submitted by Carter Montgomery - Consider Access to MSHSAA TV Postseason Game if Officiated.

Montgomery said that if you care about your craft, you are actively wanting to look at that film to review your game you officiated. Montgomery said that it would be a good learning tool. The regular season game he can watch his game for free, but postseason games are not free. Wood said that he received the same recommendation out of his area. Seifert said that he did have a sectional official that wanted to watch his game and Andrew Kauffman, MSHSAA Communication Director, was able send the official the video link. Seifert and Toni Hill discussed this and we should be able adjust our website our website so that it will automatically send the official a video link to the game they officiated. **Montgomery motioned that MSHSAA provides access to MSHSAA Postseason contests to individual officials that officiated the games, Pope second. Motion passed 7-0.**

E - Submitted by Carter Montgomery - Consider Allowing All Sport Specific Officials Free Admission into the Sport Specific Championship.

Montgomery would like to show his ID and ID number to watch sport specific championship. As officials they work hard all year, and it could be a light at the end of the tunnel to get to go to the championships. Pope said that it is good for mentoring. Seifert said that when he saw this recommendation he was concerned because if all officials get a digital ticket, he worries that those officials that won't attend will send the digital tickets out. Seifert said that he likes the idea of having a list of officials at the gate. Pope asked if it would be at other postseason levels, but the group agreed it would just be at championship level. **Montgomery recommends allowing all sports specific officials free admission into the championships via designated on-site verification for entrance, Grunden second. Motion passed 7-0.**

General –

Seifert said that our membership schools have been coming to MSHSAA, and basically there is momentum for schools to appeal ejections of players, only if there is 100% video evidence that what happened, didn't happen. Seifert had a football play last year where they threw out the wrong player, it was a misidentification of the number. MSHSAA schools want the ability to appeal that situation. Wood asked if the MSHSAA office has the ability to overturn those situations. Seifert said that he did overturn misidentification of number situations. Pope discussed that as an official we want to get the play correct. He doesn't want to sit or eject a player when no issue occurred. Seifert wanted to relay that this discussion is happening.

Closing –

In closing, outgoing member Jerry Michel (St. Louis), Rick Grunden (Central), and Sarah Hackmann (At-Large Central) were thanked and given a certificate for serving on the Officials Advisory Committee.

Jason Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting, second by Darrell Pope. Motion passed 7-0.

Meeting adjourned 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Kenny Seifert
Coordinator of Officials