

West Central Officials Association Code of Ethics 2006

The purposes of the West Central Officials Association Code of Ethics are briefly summarized through the following three provisions:

First, to provide our members a meaningful set of guidelines for their professional conduct and to provide them with agreed-upon standards of practice;

Second, to provide to other sports officials these same guidelines and standards of practice for their consideration;

Third, to provide to others (i.e. players, coaches, administrators, fans, media) criteria by which to judge our actions as "professionals."

WCOA has adopted this Code and strongly urges its members and officials in general to adhere to its principles. By doing so, notice is given that we recognize the need to preserve and encourage confidence in the professionalism of officiating. This confidence must first be fostered within the "community" of officials and then within the public generally.

WCOA believes the integrity of officiating rests on the integrity and ethical conduct of each individual official. This integrity and conduct are the very basis of the future and well being of organized sports and the effectiveness of this Association. The Association shall, by programs of education and other means, encourage acceptance and implementation of these Articles.

To these ends WCOA declares acceptance of this Code:

ARTICLE I

Sports officials must be free of obligation to any interest other than the impartial and fair judging of sports competitions. Without equivocation, game decisions that are slanted by personal bias are dishonest and unacceptable.

ARTICLE II

Sports officials recognize that anything that may lead to a conflict of interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided. Gifts, favors, special treatment, privileges, employment or a personal relationship with a school or team that can compromise the perceived impartiality of officiating must be avoided.

ARTICLE III

Sports officials have an obligation to treat other officials with professional dignity and courtesy and recognize that it is inappropriate to criticize other officials publicly.

ARTICLE IV

Sports officials have a responsibility to continuously seek self-improvement through study of the game, rules, mechanics and the techniques of game management. They have a responsibility to accurately represent their qualifications and abilities when requesting or accepting officiating assignments.

ARTICLE V

Sports officials shall protect the public (fans, administrators, coaches, players, et al.) from inappropriate conduct and shall attempt to eliminate from the officiating avocation/profession all practices that bring discredit to it.

ARTICLE VI

Sports officials shall not be party to actions designed to unfairly limit or restrain access to officiating, officiating assignments or association membership. This includes selection for positions of leadership based upon economic factors, race, creed, color, age, sex, physical handicap, country or national origin.

ARTICLE VII

Sports Officials are required to attend scheduled meetings to pass information vital to the Association, such as Rules, regulations, fees (both Game and Association), Clinics, dates of future Meetings, Scheduling, to promote camaraderie and the passing of other general information. The requirement to attend such meetings will affect the Booking commissioner's priorities while scheduling Varsity athletic competition and Post Season Games. Members who do not regularly attend meetings will not receive priority when booking such games under the following schedule

Members who attend at least 80% of all scheduled meetings, and also meet all State requirements will be the only members eligible for Post Season assignment.

Members who attend less than 80% of all scheduled meetings will lose 1 game assignments at the highest level of competition that member is eligible to officiate.

Game "No Shows" from any member will restrict members from Post Season Games, and a 1 game, Game Fee fine.