

Official's Role in Sportsmanship (with thanks to the AHSAA Sportsmanship manual):

Officials at interscholastic athletic events are participants in the educational development of high school students. As such, they must exercise a high level of self-discipline, independence and responsibility. Officials play a role in sportsmanship as well.

The official must administer the game while exhibiting the highest standard of conduct. An official leads by example. The official is a role model and a teacher.

The official should remain mindful that their conduct influences the respect that student-athletes, coaches and the public hold for them.

The official should uphold the honor and dignity of the avocation in all interaction with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public

The official must devote time, thought and study to the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to carry out these rules so that one may render effective and creditable service in a fair and unbiased manner.

Every member of the officiating profession carries a responsibility to act in a manner becoming a professional person. The conduct of any official influences the attitude of the public toward the profession in general as well as toward the official in particular.

Officials shall, while enforcing the rules of play, remain aware of the inherent risk of injury that competition poses to student-athletes. Where appropriate, they shall inform event management of conditions or situations that appear unreasonably hazardous.

Officials shall take reasonable steps to educate themselves in the recognition of emergency conditions that might arise during the course of competition.

An official must resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself. Under all circumstances, officials must avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve.

An official must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the avocation in all personal conduct and relations with the student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public to be a worthy example to the athletes under one's jurisdiction.

Always give the athlete the benefit of the doubt if you didn't specifically see an infraction occur

You Are Never:

- - so experienced, you've seen everything.
- - so smart, you can't learn something.
- - so good, you can't get better.

- - so sure, you can't miss a call.
- - so proud, you can't admit making a mistake.
- - so right, you can't listen/talk to players and coaches.
- - so superior, you can't mentor someone who wants your help.
- - so worthy, someone else should not get the "big game."
- - so perfect, you shouldn't seek help when it's needed.

Never Assume Anything

Always Prepare, Concentrate, Anticipate, and Hustle.

Remember – If you're not working hard, growing, and getting better, you are falling further behind.