

ST. LOUIS WRESTLING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION MENTOR PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The mentee will read the MHSAA *Officials Guidebook* and discuss it with the mentor, accompany the mentor to an MHSAA Rules Meeting, read the Rules Book, Casebook and Officials Manual, study signals, mechanics and proper positioning.

The mentor will discuss and assist the student in gathering proper official's uniform and equipment. The mentor will schedule discussion periods to study rules, signals, mechanics and positioning, explain and discuss elements of an official's contract, promote physical/mental readiness and punctuality. The mentor should introduce the mentee to officials and coaches and be present at all games officiated by the mentee when possible, participating either as an official or observer.

ENTERING THE ARENA

The mentee and the mentor will:

1. Attend contests often to observe and study officials.
2. Discover and discuss the ideal personality of the official.
3. Discuss and practice development of an impartial attitude.
4. Explain and practice professional style for an official when developing relationships with coaches.
5. Promote and practice a sense of humor.
6. Recognize a teachable moment in each officiating experience.
7. Arrive on time and follow the proper weigh-in procedures.

THE CONTEST

The mentee and mentor will:

1. Discuss entering/leaving a venue as a group.
2. Explain the place and value of a "no-call."
3. Promote and practice common sense decisions and the courage to make decisions.
4. Explain the need to rely on partner(s).
5. Discuss "over-officiating", what it is and how to avoid it.
6. Discuss the difference between Letter of the Rule and Spirit of the Rule.

THE SEASON

The mentee and the mentor will:

1. Discuss and practice methods for dealing with dissent from coaches, players and spectators.
2. Discuss and establish methods and techniques useful in handling a fracas/fight.
3. Identify and recognize contest elements that can and should be handled by officials.
4. Identify and practice techniques to maintain emotional control and to deal with specific pressure packed situations.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The mentor will:

1. Promote reading of rules books, casebooks, officials manuals and current literature.
2. Encourage and assist the mentee in self-evaluation.
3. Encourage the mentee to observe, talk with and "be around" veteran officials.
4. Review an evaluation and establish comfort in being evaluated.
5. Explain the fans are there to see the wrestlers compete not watch the official.

GROWTH AND ADVANCEMENT

The mentor will:

1. Critique the mentee during every contest.
2. Accentuate the positive . . . always.
3. Evaluate the mentee in writing using specified, detailed accounts and report to the Board of Directors.
4. Encourage the mentee to review their evaluations and ask questions.

This practice will keep discussions meaningful and useful.

MENTOR MOMENTS

The mentor will:

1. Prepare for the possibility that the mentee does not make the grade.
2. Write and discuss with the student official critiques about positive growth.
3. Phone the mentee regularly and maintain contact, be interested.
4. Officiate with or observe the mentee as often as possible.
5. Personally discuss weaknesses with the mentee's officiating.

Written discussion of weaknesses should be avoided until the end of the season.

Even then, be sensitive and positive.