



# OFFICIALS





# Officials

Officials are an integral part to the success of our athletic contest. Although, officials are independent contractors with the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA), they are held accountable for their actions just as the member schools are according to the Bylaws of the AHSAA. The AHSAA addresses officials in the AHSAA Handbook under Rule IV – Game Officials. Listed below are a few reminders in regard to expectations of officials and member schools.

1. Only officials who are registered with the AHSAA may be used by member schools as officials in football, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, wrestling and soccer. Some registered officials are required in track and field.
2. All member schools of the AHSAA are required to use in-state officials associations when they are available. It is the responsibility of each school to contract with local officials' associations to assign registered officials for each of its regular season contest.
3. **Private dressing rooms with hot and cold showers must be provided for officials. This includes regular season contest as well as playoffs.**
4. **The host school is responsible for the security of contest officials before, during and after the contest, including but not limited to providing a safe area for contest officials to park their vehicles.**
5. Electric clock operators (ECO) must be registered by the AHSAA through member schools or local officials' associations in order to serve as such for interscholastic contests. Note: For varsity football games, electric clock operators will be assigned from the officials' associations working the games.
6. An official of a given school may not officiate in any contest if his/her school competes with either school participating in the contest he/she officiates. An employee of a participating school may not officiate in any interscholastic contest in which his/her school is involved. Note: Swimming is excluded since judges are not certified by the AHSAA for this sport.
7. A varsity coach who is a member of an officials association which registers officials with the AHSAA may not use an official from that association in that coach's varsity game. This applies to all sanctioned AHSAA sports, except track.
8. The use of "Drones" for any athletic purpose inside the confines of a building is strictly prohibited at all times. The use of a "Drone" at an outdoor interscholastic contest may be used but must remain outside the field of play at all times. It also cannot be flown over an area where spectators (people) are gathering or sitting prior to or during an interscholastic contest. The host school of any interscholastic contest between member schools has the authority to prohibit the use of "Drones". The use of "Drones" may at anytime be prohibited by the contest officials if the contest officials determine that the "Drones" would cause an unreasonable risk or distraction.

Under state law, it is a crime to assault sporting event officials in the State of Alabama. Legislation passed in December 2001 makes it a specific crime to harass, menace or assault a sports official in the first, second and third degree if the crime is committed against a sports official that is performing official duties at a sports event. The definition of sports officials in this legislation includes administrators, coaches and officials in youth leagues, high schools and colleges. Under AHSAA rules, each case is judged on its own merits, but the usual penalty is a monetary fine plus probation, restrictive probation or suspension for the school. The school may be prohibited from playing contests when the individual (or individuals) responsible for the assault is present.