



# STUDENT LEGACY OFFICIAL PROGRAM

## 2023-24 Legacy/Mentor Pledge

The mentor/legacy pledge is to guide, educate, supervise, critique and assist the student officials in order that the student official can develop and progress toward a meaningful avocation as an official.

Thank you for your interest in the MHSAA Student Legacy Official Program. This program was conceived by officials, teachers of officiating classes and staff members of the MHSAA. Basic to the program is the belief that properly and adequately coaches from the outset, young people with an interest in officiating can develop as capable officials so that in the future they will be prepared to follow in the footsteps of their mentors; and ultimately, serve as mentors themselves. It is a goal of the program that student officials will learn the correct way to perform as an official. Designed training opportunities, closely monitored guidance and real game officiating in a controlled environment will best prepare young and inexperienced officials.

Each student official must be prepared to dedicate time to study, practice and learn officiating skills as well as officiate subvarsity contests. Learning to be an official requires work and dedication. Student official must understand the time commitment before they embark on this experience. The student official should contact and discuss this with a veteran official in their area to begin the Mentor/Legacy relationship. Officiating course instructors, principals and athletic directors may refer and assist potential candidates to Local Approved Associations to encourage the pairing of students with veteran officials willing to serve as a mentor.

**The mentor will be a leader** – one that will chart the course, assist the student in getting registered and in completing preliminary requirements, help arrange contests and introduce the student to the proper practices and procedures of officiating.

**The mentor will also be a teacher** – a person that seeks to find learning opportunities in every aspect of the student official’s trek. Part of this responsibility includes:

- Promoting the reading of rules books, casebooks, manuals and current literature
- Encouraging and assisting the student official in self-evaluation
- Encouraging the student official to observe, talk with and “be around” veteran officials
- Critiquing the student official during and after every contest

**The mentor will be a friend** – someone that will answer the tough questions, support the student official in difficult situations and encourage the student in times of disappointment or frustration. Mentors of student officials should always accentuate the positive and only offer critiques of their work in the light of encouraging positive growth. Improvement rather than perfection should be the goal. Mentors should be prepared that student officials will become discouraged and should also recognize the possibility that they may not be cut out for officiating. Phone the student official regularly and maintain contact. Be interested.

### STUDENT LEGACY OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

I acknowledge that I am a currently-enrolled high school student at least 14 years of age and qualified to participate in the Student Legacy Official Program. I will actively and enthusiastically pursue becoming a capable official.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MHSAA ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Sport(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Legacy Official (Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### MENTOR RESOLUTION

I acknowledge that I am the mentor official for the above-named Student Legacy official. I will actively and enthusiastically pursue helping him/her become the best official he/she can be, and commit to providing a positive example both inside and outside of officiating.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MHSAA ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Sport(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor Official (Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date