



Passion for the Sports

When I talk about officials, I often use the word passion. Moreover, when I think about passion I tend to think about emotions like enthusiasm, zeal, energy exuberance and intensity. All of these attributes might be true, but when you look at the word “passion” in any dictionary that includes origins, you will see that it comes from the Latin word for suffering. Passion derives suffering! Nearly every act of officiating requires suffering and often, for the official, it is the choice between one’s personal and familial needs along with the needs of the over 700 school communities and their athletes in Michigan. Being an official comes with costs.

Officiating is hard work. It is not easy despite what we, or others, might say in our attempts to get others to join the ranks of high school sports officiating. While we offer words of encouragement, tools and techniques, and practical applications with the hope of improving official’s skill and confidence, we fully recognize that nothing good is accomplished without making sacrifices. At times we will suffer, if only because of the trade-offs we have chosen to make between personal and family interests and the wants and needs of the athletic community. Because we are passionate about being officials, we are willing to pay the price and ask our families to do the same.

By making those sacrifices, we demonstrate that we are not in officiating for ourselves. We can only hope that our passion and sacrifices sends the message loud and clear, we have the best interests of the athletes at heart. Why else would we give up the things that we do in order to provide a safe and fair playing field for the student-athletes?

The most significant contributions officials make are not to their own financial bottom-line, but to the long term social and emotional development of athletes and coaches who adapt, prosper, and grow because of the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women in stripes to high school athletics. Kudos to you for what you do for educational athletics!

Tip for the Week

Wrestlers (Individually bracketed Tournaments) shall be permitted a maximum of five minutes to appear ready to compete at a specified mat. Failure to appear shall result in forfeit to the opponent. Rule 10.2.2.

Something to Consider

Officials have the courage to commit while others are waiting for better times, safer situations, or assured results.

Rules Review: From a starting position on the mat, Wrestler B is able to stand up and is about to escape, when Wrestler A locks both hands around the ankle of Wrestler B. Wrestler B then turns and attempts to control Wrestler A by grasping the leg.

Ruling: After it is obvious that neither wrestler will be able to improve position, the referee should declare a stalemate. This occurred when Wrestler A locked hands around the leg to prevent a score and neither is able to improve position.