

## **WMSOA POLICY**

*Adopted by Executive Committee ... 11/19/07*

### **CODE OF ETHICS**

- A. Members of WMSOA are expected to abide by the specific "Code of Ethics" for officials/referees for any organization for which they accept game assignments. The current codes for the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association (NISOA), National Federation of High Schools (NFHS), and Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) are specifically incorporated into this policy as attachments.*
  
- B. Members shall cultivate professional relationships with partners, players, coaches, administrators, and spectators. They shall refrain from comments to the media or in any public forum about a game and its participants. They shall refrain from comments or statements, except to simply clarify the interpretation of a Law or Rule of the game. Requests for detailed rule interpretations should be directed in writing to the WMSOA Executive Committee for a formal response.*
  
- C. Members shall be loyal to fellow officials and shall not knowingly promote the criticism or discrediting of them.*

## CODE OF ETHICS ATTACHMENTS

### Attachment 1

#### USSF Referee Administrative Handbook - Revised 2004 Policy

#### 531-11 - National Referee Development Program Part III -

#### Standards of Conduct

#### Subpart C - Code of Ethics for Referees

- 1) I will always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.
- 2) I will conduct myself honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of my position.
- 3) I will always honor an assignment or any other contractual obligation.
- 4) I will attend training meetings and clinics so as to know the Laws of the Game, their proper interpretation and their application.
- 5) I will always strive to achieve maximum team work with my fellow officials.
- 6) I will be loyal to my fellow officials and never knowingly promote criticism of them.
- 7) I will be in good physical condition.
- 8) I will control the players effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing fairness.
- 9) I will do my utmost to assist my fellow officials to better themselves and their work.
- 10) I will not make statements about any games except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
- 11) I will not discriminate against nor take advantage of any individual group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
- 12) I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization and its affiliates.

### Attachment 2

#### NISOA Referee Code of Ethics - Adopted July 1999

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website [www.nisoa.com](http://www.nisoa.com)

That I:

- 1) Shall always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer;
- 2) Will conduct myself professionally and maintain the dignity of my position;
- 3) Always honor a contractual obligation;
- 0) Endeavor to attend local chapter meetings and clinics to be more knowledgeable of the rules and how they shall be interpreted;
- 1) Will always carry my share of the load and strive to achieve maximum teamwork with my fellow officials;
- 6) Shall be loyal to my member officials and never knowingly permit or promote criticism of them;
- 7) Shall be in good physical condition and be in the right position at the right time;
- 8) Will control the players effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing firmness;
- 9) Shall do my utmost to assist my fellow official to better themselves;
- 10) Shall not make statements about any game except to clarify a rule interpretation;
- 11) Shall live up to the credo of the ideal official: "Who notices everything, but seldom notices self";
- 12) Consider it a privilege to be a member of NISOA and will uphold it at all times;
- 13) Shall not solicit or assign college soccer games without authorization of my local chapter, national association or college conference;
- 14) Shall not embarrass or discredit my fellow officials, local chapter or national association;
- 15) As a NISOA member and appointed games assignor, I shall service all intercollegiate educational institutions with only NISOA qualified, NISOA certified and NISOA registered members.

### Attachment 3

#### NFHS Soccer Rule Book - 2007-08

##### Officials Code of Ethics

Officials at an interscholastic athletic event are participants in the educational development of high school students. As such, they must exercise a high level of self-discipline, independence and responsibility. The purpose of this Code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all interscholastic officials.

Officials shall master both the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner.

Officials shall work with each other and their state associations in a constructive and cooperative manner.

Officials shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interaction with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.

Officials shall be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.

Officials shall remain mindful that their conduct influences the respect that student-athletes, coaches and the public hold for the profession.

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.

### Attachment 4

#### MHSAA 2007-08 Officials Guidebook

##### Code for Athletic Officials

- 1) Register with the MHSAA each year on a timely basis (by July 13) and attend all required meetings. Work no interscholastic contests with officials who do not hold current registration in the sport.
- 2) Join and actively participate in a local "Approved Association" for officials (see mhsaa.com).
- 3) Accept contracts for and officiate only contests for which you are qualified and experienced. Execute and honor contracts in a timely and ethical manner. Complete events and follow-up all obligations resulting from a contest.
- 4) Be prepared, physically and mentally, to officiate according to the principles and philosophy promoted by the MHSAA.
- 5) Refrain from use of tobacco or alcohol within sight of players and spectators and do not consume any alcohol before a contest on the day of the contest.
- 6) Cultivate professional relationships with partners, players, coaches, administrators and spectators. Refrain from comment to the media.
- 7) Commit to a personal lifestyle which avoids sexual misconduct, use of illicit drugs, and public abuse of alcohol and will not in other ways impinge upon your perception in the community to fulfill the obligations and standards of the MHSAA "Code for Athletic Officials."
- 8) Officiate according to the rules and manuals adopted for MHSAA competition. Admit and correct one's errors, hold to correct but unpopular decisions, and support the decisions of other officials.
- 9) Exercise self-control at all times. Guard against baiting or taunting which may generate a loss of poise or demeanor which can erode the professionalism expected of officials in even the most difficult circumstances.
- 10) Hold to and maintain the basic tenets of officiating which include honesty, integrity, neutrality, respect, sensitivity, professionalism, discretion and tactfulness.