

# ARTICLE 9: CONTEST OFFICIATING

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## 9.1 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

- 9.1.1** In order for a contest official to register with the LHSAA, the official shall meet the following registration requirements in the sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball, and wrestling:
- 9.1.1.1** Be a high school graduate or at least 21 years old.
  - 9.1.1.2** Register through an LHSAA-sanctioned officials' association.
  - 9.1.1.3** Meet written registration requirements adopted by the executive committee.
  - 9.1.1.4** Pay a registration fee to the LHSAA through his/her local officials' association.
  - 9.1.1.5** Attend an LHSAA pre-season sports-rule clinic.
  - 9.1.1.6** Take and pass an LHSAA-administered sports-rules test.
  - 9.1.1.7** Agree to follow and enforce LHSAA rules and regulations when serving as a contest official.
  - 9.1.1.8** The LHSAA shall allow an official below 70 years old to register and officiate on a field or on a court. Officials 70 or older may register but the school shall allow him/her to serve as a clock operator only.
  - 9.1.1.9** The LHSAA shall not allow a person to register with the LHSAA to officiate any athletic contest or event sponsored or sanctioned by the LHSAA if the official has been convicted of a felony under the laws of this state, any other state or the United States of America. The commissioner may make an exception to this rule if the person desiring to register with the LHSAA as an official can show that there has been more than five years passed since his/her sentence has ended, and that he/she is rehabilitated and is currently of good moral character.
- 9.1.2** If a registered official is granted a one-year leave of absence by the LHSAA in an LHSAA sport and officiates in that same sport for another high school association during the year for which the leave was granted, his/her leave of absence shall be negated. If said official desires to register with an LHSAA-sanctioned officials' association in the same sport the following season, he/she shall be reinstated as a "registered" official.

**9.1.3** Officials who have met all registration requirements with the LHSAA shall be issued an officials' identification card and shall be allowed to enter, at no charge, the LHSAA state championship event in the sport listed on the card upon presenting his/her official's card and his/her driver's license.

**9.1.3.1** Officials' cards shall be honored for the cardholder only.

**9.1.3.2** An official who allows his/her card to be misused shall be denied use of his/her card for one calendar year from the date of misuse. Cards are non-transferable.

## 9.2 COMPLIANCE WITH LHSAA RULES (OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION )

- 9.2.1** LHSAA approved officials' associations shall be organized in order to be sanctioned by the executive committee. **To be LHSAA-sanctioned an association shall:**
- 9.2.1.1** Register, classify and train their officials.
  - 9.2.1.2** Submit an adopted written constitution and by-laws to the LHSAA.
  - 9.2.1.3** Form an executive council of officials consisting of a president, vice president, secretary treasurer, and assignment secretary.

- 9.2.1.4 Obtain an assigning secretary for an officials' association chosen by the member schools of the area being served by the association to act as a liaison between the association, member schools and the LHSAA.
- 9.2.1.5 Secure a local member school principal to act as a liaison between the association, member schools serviced by the association and the LHSAA.
- 9.2.2 An LHSAA-sanctioned officials' association shall agree to comply with LHSAA rules and policies and member schools' contracts and agreements.
- 9.2.3 Members of LHSAA-sanctioned officials' associations shall comply with LHSAA rules and policies.
- 9.2.4 An LHSAA-sanctioned officials' association and its individual members shall comply with such specific LHSAA rules and policies as:
  - 9.2.4.1 Structured fees in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball, and wrestling
  - 9.2.4.2 Travel pay rate
  - 9.2.4.3 Officials' rating systems in football and basketball
  - 9.2.4.4 Established rules that allow a coach to screen officials through a "scratch" program
  - 9.2.4.5 Strict adherence to approved rules in the sport they officiate
- 9.2.5 Neither LHSAA-sanctioned officials' associations nor individual members shall discriminate against a member school.
- 9.2.6 LHSAA-sanctioned officials' associations shall not refuse to service a member school without the LHSAA Executive Committee's approval.
- 9.2.7 Members of LHSAA-sanctioned officials' associations shall act professionally at all times.
  - 9.2.7.1 Failure to comply with LHSAA rules and regulations may cause the officials' association to be held responsible for any LHSAA or member school's financial loss and to be penalized accordingly, including suspension.
  - 9.2.7.2 Failure by an individual official registered with an LHSAA-sanctioned association to comply with LHSAA rules and policies may result in the official being penalized to a degree in keeping with the seriousness of the infraction as outlined in Article 6 of the by-laws, "Penalty Code."

**9.3 SELECTION OF OFFICIALS**

**9.3.1 GENERAL**

- 9.3.1.1 During regular season non-district, district, and playoff games schools shall be required to use the services of an LHSAA-sanctioned officials' association of its choice in all sports.
  - 9.3.1.1.1** The choice of a particular officials' association shall be left to the school.
- 9.3.1.2 After a school enters into a written agreement with an officials' association in football, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, wrestling and/or soccer it shall fulfill the agreement for the remainder of the sports season unless the association agrees in writing to cancel the contract.
- 9.3.1.3 A host/sponsoring school shall ensure contest officials' security and welfare.
- 9.3.1.4 A school shall not use any contest officials from an LHSAA-sanctioned or independent officials' association in any sport that does not comply with LHSAA rules.
- 9.3.1.5 In emergency situations, if necessary, schools may mutually agree to use any available official; otherwise a school shall not be allowed to use an official who has a direct relationship with either team in the following ways:



- 9.3.3.4** Unless competing schools mutually agree, in all sports, schools shall use an officials' association that does not officiate the home contests of either school involved in the playoff contest.
- 9.3.3.5** If possible, schools shall use the services of "certified" or "approved" officials to officiate basketball and football playoff contests.
- 9.3.3.6** If schools cannot agree on an association to assign basketball or football playoff officials, they may refer the assignment to the LHSAA.
- 9.3.3.7** If the LHSAA is asked to assign playoff officials, the following stipulations shall apply:
  - 9.3.3.7.1** The home team shall notify the LHSAA that it verifies the request.
  - 9.3.3.7.2** A request shall be made at least five days in advance for a football game or two days in advance for a basketball game.
  - 9.3.3.7.3** A request shall be made during normal LHSAA office hours which are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., weekdays.
  - 9.3.3.7.4** Officials shall be from a neutral association.
  - 9.3.3.7.5** Neither school shall request that specific officials service a game nor that a specific association not be assigned to the game.
- 9.3.3.8** The LHSAA shall use the services of a neutral officials' association in football state championship final games, basketball state tournament games, volleyball state tournament matches, and girls' softball state tournament games.
  - 9.3.3.8.1** Except in an emergency situation, no basketball official shall be used to officiate a Boys' or Ladies' Top 28 State Tournament game in which a participating school is a member of a district served by that official's association for regular-season district games.
- 9.3.3.9** The LHSAA shall select officials for the state cross country meet, outdoor state track and field meet, wrestling state tournament, and soccer championship tournament.
- 9.3.3.10** The tournament director shall select and secure LHSAA sanctioned officials from a neutral officials' association(s), in tournament play, for the sports of baseball and soccer when applicable.
- 9.3.3.11** It shall be the participating schools' responsibility not the LHSAA's to secure officials for playoff games in the following sports:
  - 9.3.3.11.1** Baseball (*all rounds, except applicable tournaments*)
  - 9.3.3.11.2** Soccer (*all rounds, except applicable tournaments*)
  - 9.3.3.11.3** Softball (*bi-district and regional rounds*)
  - 9.3.3.11.4** Outdoor track and field (*regional meets*)
  - 9.3.3.11.5** Volleyball (*bi-district round*)
- 9.3.3.12** If schools fail to agree on officials in sports for which the LHSAA does not make officials' assignments, and consequently, a contest is not played by the established deadline, the schools shall be eliminated from the state playoffs.

**9.4 SCREENING**

- 9.4.1** Prior to the first regular season contest in baseball, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, football, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, softball, volleyball and wrestling, the head coach of said sport may scratch a maximum of three officials without regard to the official's rating under the following conditions:

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- 9.4.1.1 The head coach shall use a standard scratch form (*devised by the commissioner’s office*) to execute the scratch.
- 9.4.1.2 A scratch form shall be completed for each scratched official.
- 9.4.1.3 The coach shall state on the scratch form his/her reason(s) for scratching the official.
- 9.4.1.4 The scratch form shall be signed by both the head coach and his/her school principal.
- 9.4.1.5 The scratch form shall be sent by certified, return receipt mail to the assignment secretary postmarked no later than one week prior to the school’s first playing date.
- 9.4.1.6 The scratch shall not apply to invitational tournament games unless the school that scratched the official is the host school.
- 9.4.1.7 Legal scratches shall apply to regular-season and district-playoff "home" and "away" games played by the school whose coach scratched the official(s).
- 9.4.1.8 Even in an emergency, a school shall not be required to use a scratched official. If the assignment secretary assigns the scratched official he/she shall give prior notice to the coach who scratched the official.
- 9.4.1.9 Confidentiality between the head coach and the assignment secretary concerning the scratched official shall not be required. The assignment secretary shall reserve the right to show the completed scratch form to the scratched official.

9.4.2 After regular season play begins, any attempt to scratch an official shall be addressed on an individual basis, in writing, using the official scratch form. Additionally, a meeting of the head coach, the school principal and the assignment secretary shall be required.

**9.5 FEES**

**9.5.1 PAY SCALE**

9.5.1.1 The approved pay scales for all varsity contests in all sports are to be applied throughout the state. When contracting officiating services, schools shall not pay more than the approved fees.

9.5.1.2 Each local association shall negotiate officials’ fees with the local principals’ association for all invitational tournaments, scrimmages, jamborees, and sub-varsity games.

9.5.1.2.1 The negotiated fee shall not be more than the adopted game fee.

9.5.1.2.2 Once an agreed upon fee is negotiated, all schools that are members of the local association shall abide by the contracted price and pay the negotiated fee.

**9.5.1.3 BASEBALL OFFICIALS’ FEES as adopted by the LHSAA in all classes:**

Class	No. Officials	Games	Fee	Playoff Games	State Tournament
All	2	1 Varsity	\$110.00 ( <i>per crew</i> )	\$65.00 per official	\$70.00 per official
All	3 or More	1 Varsity	\$110.00 plus \$55.00 for each additional official over 2	\$65.00 per official	\$70.00 per official

9.5.1.3.1 Each official’s association shall determine the amount of pay each official shall receive based on scales the association has adopted.

**9.5.1.4 BASKETBALL OFFICIALS’ FEES** as adopted by the LHSAA in all classes:

**9.5.1.4.1** Regular Season - Varsity Game (2 person officiating crew)  
 Certified Rated Official ..... \$36.00 per official, per game  
 Approved Rated Official ..... \$34.00 per official, per game  
 Registered Rated Official ..... \$33.00 per official, per game

**9.5.1.4.2** Regular Season - Varsity Game (3 person officiating crew)  
 Certified Rated Official ..... \$31.00 per official, per game  
 Approved Rated Official ..... \$29.00 per official, per game  
 Registered Rated Official ..... \$28.00 per official, per game

**9.5.1.4.3** Playoff Games - Varsity Game (3 person officiating crew)  
 Certified Rated Official ..... \$60.00 per official, per game  
 Approved Rated Official ..... \$55.00 per official, per game  
 Registered Rated Official ..... \$50.00 per official, per game

**9.5.1.4.4** The LHSAA shall pay each official \$75.00 per game in the Ladies’ Top 28 Tournament and Boys’ Top 28 Tournament, plus travel pay.

**9.5.1.5 FOOTBALL OFFICIALS’ FEES** as adopted by LHSAA schools in all classes:

**9.5.1.5.1 Regular Season**  
 Certified Rated Official .....\$75.00 per official, per game  
 Approved Rated Official ..... \$60.00 per official, per game  
 Registered Rated Official .....\$55.00 per official, per game  
 Clock Operator .....\$40.00 per official, per game

**9.5.1.5.2 Playoff Games**  
 Certified Rated Official ..... \$85.00 per official, per game  
 Approved Rated Official ..... \$70.00 per official, per game  
 Registered Rated Official ..... \$65.00 per official, per game  
 Clock Operator ..... \$50.00 per official, per game

**9.5.1.5.3** As adopted in all games, the crew referee’s fee shall be increased by \$15.00.

**9.5.1.5.4** Officials working games in the Superdome Classic shall be paid \$100.00 per game and clock operators shall be paid \$75.00 per game, plus travel pay.

**9.5.1.6 SOCCER OFFICIALS’ FEES** as adopted by the LHSAA schools in all classes:

Division	No. Officials	Matches	Fee*	Playoff Games
All	1	1 Varsity	\$60.00 ( <i>per crew</i> )	N/A
All	2	1 Varsity	\$90.00 ( <i>per crew</i> )	N/A
All	3	1 Varsity	\$120.00 ( <i>per crew</i> )	N/A
All	4	1 Varsity	\$145.00 ( <i>per crew</i> )	\$170.00 ( <i>per crew</i> )

\*Fee is per officiating crew (*not per official*).

**9.5.1.6.1** Each official’s association shall determine the amount of pay each official shall receive based on their rating and/or scales the association has adopted.

**9.5.1.7 SOFTBALL OFFICIALS’ FEES** as adopted by LHSAA schools in all classes:

Class	No. Officials	Games	Fee	Playoff Games	State Tournament
All	2	1 Varsity	\$95.00 ( <i>per crew</i> )	Additional \$10.00 per official	\$60.00 per official
All	3 or More	1 Varsity	\$95.00 plus \$45.00 for each additional official over two	Additional \$10.00 per official	\$60.00 per official

**9.5.1.7.1** Each local official’s association shall determine the amount of pay each official shall receive based on scales the association has adopted.

**9.5.1.8 VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS’ FEES** as adopted by the LHSAA schools in all classes:

**9.5.1.8.1** Regular Season  
 Best 3 of 5 - \$55.00 per officiating crew  
 Best 2 of 3 - \$35.00 per officiating crew

**9.5.1.8.2** Playoffs  
 Best 3 of 5 - \$90.00 per officiating crew

**9.5.1.8.3** If only one official is used, the fee shall be one-half of the crew fees. In the event only one official is used the game shall count as played.

**9.5.1.8.4** Fee is per officiating crew (*not per official*). Each local volleyball official’s association shall determine the amount of pay each official shall receive based on their rating and/or scales the association has adopted.

**9.5.1.9 WRESTLING OFFICIALS’ FEES** as adopted by the LHSAA schools in all classes:

9.5.1.9.1	Type Meet	# Of Officials	Fee Per Official
	Dual Meet	1	\$50.00
	Tri-Meet/Quad-Meet	2	\$55.00

**9.5.1.9.2** Tournaments:  
 One-day Tournament: \$110.00 per official (*Refer to chart below to determine the required number of officials per tournament.*)  
 Two-day Tournament: \$160.00 per official (*Refer to chart*)

Min. No. of mats	No. of Officials*
2	4
3	5
4	6
5	8
6	10
7	11
8	12

\*Tournament director may use more officials and/or more mats but not less than the above chart indicates.

**9.5.2 TRAVEL FEES**

**9.5.2.1** Each association shall negotiate travel pay for all regular season games with the local principals’ association. If the officials’ association and the principals’ association cannot agree, a school shall pay a maximum of the current IRS rate as of June 1 each year, one car, one way for officials’ travel expenses. (*Rate for the 2007-2008 school year is \$.48.5 per mile round trip or \$0.97 per mile, one car, one way.*)

**9.5.2.1.1** **Exception:** In the sport of football, regular season or playoffs, member schools shall pay two cars for officials’ travel expenses for each game the officials are contracted to officiate. When a four-man crew is used in a football game, the host school shall only pay one car.

**9.5.2.2** For playoff games, schools shall pay a maximum of the current IRS rate as approved by the Executive Committee one car, one way for officials’ travel expenses.

**9.5.2.2.1** The basis for determining the mileage (point of origin) to be used shall be the address of the city hall and /or the main post office in which the association is located to the address of the school serviced.

**9.5.2.2.2** The Map Quest program located at [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) shall be used to calculate the mileage using the best route.

**9.5.2.3** As adopted in all classes and for all games, schools shall pay each official \$5.00 extra when travel is over 100 miles (*one way*), \$10.00 extra for each official when travel is over 200 miles (*one way*) and \$15.00 extra for each official when travel is over 300 miles (*one way*).

**9.6 POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS**

**9.6.1 DEFINITIONS**

**9.6.1.1** A "completed contest" is a contest that is played to completion according to the rules of play.

**9.6.1.2** A "suspended contest" is a contest that is interrupted due to inclement weather, darkness or artificial light failure and is to be continued at a later date at the point of interruption as if it was never stopped.

**9.6.1.3** A "cancelled contest" is a contest that has not been played for some reason and is not to be rescheduled.

**9.6.1.4** In all sports, if the assignment secretary or officials are not contacted within three hours prior to game time when a game/match is postponed or canceled for any reason and the officials travel to the game/match site, member schools shall pay one-half of the total fee plus travel expenses that would have been paid to the officials if the game had been played.

**9.6.1.5** In all sports, in the case of a suspended game, if participating schools’ principals or coaches cannot agree to call a suspended game/match a complete game, officials shall be paid the full fee plus mileage. If the game is completed at a later date (*from the point of interruption*), the officials shall be paid one-half the regular fee plus travel allowance.

**9.6.1.5.1** Assignment secretaries shall determine the division of fees to be paid to substitute officials for the rescheduled games.

**9.6.1.6** If a contest is suspended in any sport and must be continued because of a misinterpretation of an LHSAA rule by contest officials, the host school shall not be required to pay the officials additional fees when completing the contest.

**9.7 APPEALS**

**9.7.1** The LHSAA shall not honor a school’s protest regarding a contest official’s decision made when officiating and applying playing rules in a sport.

**9.8 OFFICIALS’ DRESSING ROOM**

**9.8.1** If a separate dressing room is provided for officials, the host school shall assure that only officials are allowed in the dressing room before, at half-time, or after a contest.

**9.9 BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL**

- 9.9.1 The LHSAA shall not sanction a baseball/softball officials' association unless it services at least eight LHSAA member schools. An exception to this rule can be made by the Commissioner if the area served has a limited number of schools that participate in baseball/softball. Any exception must be approved in writing.
- 9.9.2 Schools shall use at least two umpires in a baseball/softball game, however; the host school may choose to employ three or more umpires.
- 9.9.3 The umpire's shirt may be either the powder blue button or pullover style or the NFHS-approved navy blue pullover shirt.
  - 9.9.3.1 The LHSAA baseball/softball umpire's patch shall be attached to the left front chest of the shirt.
  - 9.9.3.2 Each umpires' association shall adopt the shirt style used by its members.

**9.10 BASKETBALL**

- 9.10.1 To be sanctioned by the LHSAA, a basketball officials' association shall service eight or more member high schools.
- 9.10.2 A school shall not use the services of the same official in more than four home varsity district basketball games at the same school in a season.
- 9.10.3 In contests in which two officials are used, one official shall serve as referee and the other as umpire. In contests in which three officials are used, one official shall serve as referee, one as Umpire 1, and one as Umpire 2.
- 9.10.4 The decision to pay for the services of two or three officials shall be negotiated between the officials' association and the local principals' association and/or the host school.
- 9.10.5 A three-man officiating crew shall be used in all district playoff contests and all state playoff contests.
  - 9.10.5.1 In the event only two officials are present at game time, the entire game shall be played using the services of only two officials and the outcome of the game shall count as played.
- 9.10.6 Schools shall use an adult to serve as the clock operator at all varsity basketball games.

**9.11 FOOTBALL**

- 9.11.1 The LHSAA shall affiliate with a football officials' organization known as the Louisiana High School Football Officials' Association. The following nine area organizations comprise the state association
  - Alexandria Area Football Officials' Association, Alexandria*
  - Baton Rouge Area Football Officials' Association, Baton Rouge*
  - Southeastern Louisiana Football Officials' Association, Hammond*
  - Lafayette Area Football Officials' Association, Lafayette*
  - Lake Charles Area Football Officials' Association, Lake Charles*
  - Northeast Louisiana Football Officials' Association, Monroe*
  - New Orleans Football Officials' Association, New Orleans*
  - Northwest Louisiana Football Officials' Association, Shreveport*
  - South Central Louisiana Football Officials' Association, Thibodaux*
- 9.11.2 To be sanctioned by the LHSAA, a football officials' association shall service ten or more member schools.
- 9.11.3 A school shall not use the services of the same official in more than three home varsity football games at the same school in a season.
- 9.11.4 It is recommended that each assignment secretary rotate all qualified officials among the five football classes during regular season game assignments.

- 9.11.5 A school shall use a football official as the official clock operator at varsity football games.
- 9.11.6 Each school may provide a properly trained adult to operate the 25-second clock at varsity football games.
- 9.11.7 In a football playoff game schools shall be required to use five on-the-field officials and a clock operator to service the game.
  - 9.11.7.1 Both schools may mutually agree to use six on-the-field officials and a clock operator in football playoff games prior to quarterfinal round of play but shall be required to pay fees only for a five-member crew and a clock operator.
  - 9.11.7.2 Beginning with the quarterfinal round of play, schools shall be required to use six on-the-field officials and a clock operator.

**9.12 SOCCER**

- 9.12.1 The home team may request the system of officials to be used for all regular season contests, excluding district playoff matches.
- 9.12.2 In matches above district competition schools shall use four officials.
- 9.12.3 Schools shall use an official attired in an official's jersey that is solid black with white trim.
  - 9.12.3.1 In the event of a color conflict between the officials and either team, the officials shall change to a jersey of a color distinct from both teams. *(The officials have adopted the colors yellow and fuchsia.)*

**9.13 VOLLEYBALL**

- 9.13.1 Schools shall use an official attired in an official's shirt that is solid white.
  - 9.13.1.1 The shirt shall have a collar.
  - 9.13.1.2 The shirt shall be a polo shirt.
  - 9.13.1.3 The LHSAA volleyball official's patch shall be attached to the left front chest of shirt.

**9.14 WRESTLING**

- 9.14.1 The National Federation Wrestling Official's Manual shall be the guidebook for officials.
- 9.14.2 An assistant referee may be used during competition and all procedures under Rule 3, Section 2 of the National Federation Wrestling Rules shall be strictly adhered to.