



Officials Code of Ethics 2021 / 2022

National Federation of State High School Associations
Colorado High School Activities Association
High School Soccer Officials

NFHS
CHSAA
HSSO

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 interactions with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.

Officials shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, and shall comport themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the profession.

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 will not use alcohol or other mind-altering substances prior to officiating the day of a game. Sobriety is an important part of official comportment, and referees must be aware of how substances (and substance abuse) will affect how their judgement is perceived.

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 to be hazardous.

Officials shall take reasonable steps to educate themselves in the recognition of emergency conditions that might arise during the course of competition.

Officials shall take precautions to avoid perceived conflicts of interest, in which a connection to participants (players, coaches, administrators) or schools may exist that could be seen as bias:

Without the prior approval of the head coach of each team, an official shall not serve as a referee on a game involving a team from a school which that official has attended within the previous three-year period, nor shall the official serve as a referee on a game from a school at which a child or step-child attends or has attended within the previous three-year period. The referee should block those schools in ArbiterSports, and/or notify the assignor of restrictions.