



## 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.**