

**GOPHER  
STATE  
OFFICIALS  
ASSOCIATION**



**BASKETBALL OFFICIALS INFORMATIONAL LETTER – Updated October 14, 2019**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!** The annual Gopher State Basketball meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14 at 6:00pm at the Brooklyn Park Activity Center. The clinic that Steve Makowske has led in previous years will be on Sunday, November 17 at the Brooklyn Center Youth Rec Center (Located at Brooklyn Center High School parking lot) at 5:00pm.

**GAME FEES** - Game fees have increased, lower level by quite a bit. Metro rates for 1 varsity game is \$79, Varsity/Lower Level combo is \$116, 1 lower level is \$61 and **2 lower level games is \$98**. Both Wright County and Mississippi 8 Conferences are slightly higher. A summary sheet is located at [www.gopherstateofficials.org](http://www.gopherstateofficials.org) under the Basketball section.

**SCRIMMAGES** - Gopher State Officials has several scrimmages at Hopkins, Wayzata, and Eden Prairie on Saturday, Nov 16 that need coverage. All three schools have moved to the same weekend. There are two shifts at Hopkins and Eden Prairie and a single shift at Wayzata. Officials will be paid \$25 per shift. These are posted on GotOfficials under self-assign. Please sign up for a shift. Moundwestonka just added a Boys scrimmage on Saturday, November 23. Shifts are 12:30-4:00pm and 4:00-7:30pm and pays \$100 per shift. This is also on self-assign.

**ASSIGNING UPDATE** - Bozo and I still have a long way to go assigning varsity games, especially girls. I have already started assigning lower level games, so please block off dates you are not available to work. As expected Tuesdays and Fridays (especially after January 1, except Feb 4 and Feb 11) are packed with games so please keep as many of those dates open as possible.

**DUES** - Dues this year are \$85 if they are paid before December 1, 2019. After that they become \$100. Pay your dues at the November 14 meeting or send your check (payable to Gopher State Officials) to Bozo (6307 61st Ave N, Crystal, MN 55428). Any officials still owing dues from previous seasons will not be assigned any games until dues are paid in full.

**MSHSL CERTIFIED?** - Even if you only work lower level games, please consider getting varsity certified thru the Minnesota State High School League. Gopher State Officials was requested to assign additional charter schools this year. The caliber of competition for many of these schools is B/JV levels. The official's pay is varsity rates (\$79 for single game). I can only assign officials to these games that are certified thru the MSHSL. If you have never been registered with the MSHSL, its only \$15 for the first year, and \$30 the second year. In addition to being eligible to work varsity games, you get a rule book and insurance. Give me a call if you want more information.

**PATIENCE PLEASE!!** - It's my understanding that other associations have already started assigning games. Don't panic!!!! Gopher State Officials has been approached by additional conferences and schools to assign their basketball games for 2019-2020, meaning Gopher will have more games to

assign than last year. Please do not accept any Tuesday and Friday games (especially after January 1) from another association until Gopher State has assigned games. We're not as concerned if you decide you need to accept some "off-night" games from other associations (or Tuesdays and Fridays in November/December). PLEASE NOTE: OFFICIALS WHO ACCEPT GOPHER STATE OFFICIALS GAMES ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS WILL BE GIVEN PREFERENCE FOR MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY(INCLUDING TOURNAMENTS) GAMES, AND PLAY-OFF ASSIGNMENTS. This means if an official chooses to work for other associations on Tuesdays and Fridays (after January 1), he/she should not plan on receiving assignments for other days from Gopher State Officials.

It's imperative that every official expecting to receive assignments through Gopher State this upcoming basketball season complete and return the fillable Basketball Officials Information Form. The form is available on the Gopher State Officials website ([www.gopherstateofficials.org](http://www.gopherstateofficials.org)). It's important that you answer every question. **Please be as complete as possible.** The more detailed information you provide me (ie. experience, preferred partner(s), willingness to travel, etc.) the better chance I have of preparing a schedule that fits your expectations. Completed forms can be returned to [rickdeg@comcast.net](mailto:rickdeg@comcast.net) (make sure to put your name in the subject line) or sent via US mail to the address listed on the bottom of the form. *If you are a returning official and don't have any changes from last year, just send me a quick email at [rickdeg@comcast.net](mailto:rickdeg@comcast.net).*

Gopher State Officials will continue to utilize GotOfficials for the 2019-2020 school year. GotOfficials will be the method in which officials will indicate availability, accept/reject assignments, contact schools and partners, receive informational notices, etc. You must have your User Name and Password to access the GotOfficials website ([www.gotofficials.com](http://www.gotofficials.com)). If you can't remember your username and/or password you can click on the "Forgot Password" link on the sign-in page. If you have previously created a GotOfficials account you MUST NOT create another account. Send me an email ([rickdeg@comcast.net](mailto:rickdeg@comcast.net)) if you need help. If you are new to GotOfficials, please go to the GotOfficials website and click on the "New User Register" link.

Please log on to GotOfficials to indicate what days you are not available to work (Under "My Availability" section). It is imperative that you keep your availability updated. Simply block/unblock dates as your availability changes. Since games typically don't start until at least 4:00pm, there is no need to block off mornings and early afternoons for each weekday on GotOfficials. (It's best to just leave dates completely open if you can work an afternoon or evening game). Also, review/update your contact information under "My Profile" and add a photo of yourself if you haven't already done so.

If you are new to Gopher State Officials you must also complete the Gopher State Officials Membership Application Form (available on our website).

The best way to get a hold of me with any questions is via email ([rickdeg@comcast.net](mailto:rickdeg@comcast.net)). I check for email messages several times each day. Check out our website ([www.gopherstateofficials.org](http://www.gopherstateofficials.org)) to access pertinent information including upcoming meetings, pay rates, training resources, etc.

*\*\*This letter is also available at [www.gopherstateofficials.org](http://www.gopherstateofficials.org)\*\**

Rick DeGardner  
504 Oak Creek Drive South  
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127  
Cell) 651-252-8197  
E-mail) [rickdeg@comcast.net](mailto:rickdeg@comcast.net)