

REGULATIONS GOVERNING OFFICIALS REGISTERED WITH TSSAA

PLEASE READ THESE GUIDELINES BEFORE CALLING THE STATE OFFICE WITH QUESTIONS
Information pertaining to officials can be found on our website-click on CONTEST OFFICIALS

1. Any person 18 years of age or over, of good character, and a high school graduate may apply for registration as a TSSAA official as an independent contractor. Please note that all officials must pass a background check. Failure to pass the background check, based on state law, cannot be appealed and registration payment will not be refunded. Criteria for this background check adheres to TN state law and includes, but is not limited to: Have not been arrested or convicted of a felony (including a conviction or plea of nolo contendere), nor been arrested for or convicted of the illegal possession of drugs and/or narcotics, nor have pending litigation.
2. Membership must be renewed each year at www.tssaa.org. Online payment of registration fee(s) is due each year, provided the applicant's record for the previous year is satisfactory.
3. An official who fails to report for a game or match that has been assigned - unless released by the opposing coaches or unable to report due to accident or other unavoidable cause - shall be subject to penalty by TSSAA, and shall be placed on probation. On second offense, the official's registration shall be suspended for twelve months.
4. It shall be the duty of a game official (Active or Inactive) to file immediately an online report with the state office if there is any unusual incident involving unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of players, coaches, cheerleaders, or fans.
5. All TSSAA registered officials must understand and follow the protocol regarding concussions.
6. The Executive Director shall have authority to suspend registration of an official who is guilty of unsportsmanlike or unethical conduct or who fails to file immediately required reports with the state office. Such decisions shall be subject to review by the TSSAA Board of Control upon appeal by the official.
7. An official is prohibited from working in an athletic contest in which a member of his/her immediate family - son, daughter, brother, sister, mother, father, husband, or wife - is playing or is serving as a coach for either team. If an official is a teacher, the official is prohibited from working in an athletic contest if one of the teams represents the school in which the official is employed as a teacher unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director. All varsity assignments must be assigned by a recognized and approved TSSAA Local Association.
8. An official may register as **inactive**. An inactive official may officiate and B-team/J.V and middle school (TMSAA) games/matches only. A registered **inactive** official is not required to meet regulations in rules 10 and 11 as listed below. *You must inform the state office if you wish to be on inactive status (each year).
9. **The online registration opens each year on June 1st.** It is the duty of the official to register in a timely manner each year. To complete registration: Go to www.tssaa.org; click on **Contest Officials**; then click on **Registration** link. Please read the instructions before completing the registration and online payment.

The **nonrefundable/nontransferable** registration fee for the first sport is \$70 and \$60 for each additional sport. This payment is made online as part of the registration process.

10. **BASKETBALL**

Any Post Season Basketball Tournament: A basketball official must complete a TSSAA sponsored basketball official's camp once every three years or have been a TSSAA registered official for at least 20 years.

11. **FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, SOCCER, WRESTLING, BASEBALL, SOFTBALL**

An official who does not attend at least **one** state sponsored rules meeting and **three** local interpretation meetings will be placed on the probationary list for the following school year. If an official does not make the meeting requirements during the year they are on probation, then registration will be suspended for the following school year. Therefore, a failure to make the meeting requirements for TWO CONSECUTIVE years will result in registration suspension for the third year.

REMINDERS: Please Read!

- *****IMPORTANT INFORMATION***** to complete your registration with TSSAA and be eligible for game assignment at any level, ALL officials MUST complete the online registration, payment, and pass the required background check.
- **Books & Materials:**
You will receive books and materials as the sport season approaches (Example: If you register for football and softball, you will receive football material before football season, but you will not receive softball material until closer to the softball season in the spring). All information/links pertaining to official's information can be found on our website. Click on CONTEST OFFICIALS to see the links. Please take time to visit this page and familiarize yourself with the various links.
- You are responsible for contacting the local association to receive local meeting information and local association requirements. The list of local associations for each sport can be found on our website – click on **Contest Officials**, then click link for **Officials Associations**.
- If questions, contact Kim Alley by email: go@tssaa.org

TSSAA, P.O. Box 319, 3333 Lebanon Rd., Hermitage, TN 37076

NoteRegistration does not guarantee game assignments.**