

# 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 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](http://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 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 B-team/J.V. games/ matches only. A registered inactive official shall not officiate TSSAA varsity games/matches nor any TMSAA games (other than b-team). 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 1<sup>st</sup>**. It is the duty of the official to register in a timely manner each year. To complete registration: Go to [www.tssaa.org](http://www.tssaa.org); click on **Officials**; then click on **Registration** link. Complete 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.

**Note\*\*Registration does not guarantee game assignments.**

#### 10. **FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL**

- (a) An official who does not attend at least **one** state sponsored rules meeting and **three** local interpretation meetings in football and basketball will be placed on the probationary list for a period of one year in the sport(s) in which he/she fails to meet requirements.
- (b) An official on probation who fails to comply with Regulation 10 (a) while he/she is on probation shall have registration suspended for a period of one year in the sport(s) involved.
- (c) **Any Post Season Basketball Tournament:** A basketball official must complete a TSSAA sponsored basketball official's camp once every three years.  
**State Tournament:** A basketball official must have attended a TSSAA Invitational Basketball Camp or have previously worked a state tournament to be eligible to be selected. (This requirement is in addition to having attended a TSSAA sponsored basketball official's camp once every three years.)

#### 11. **VOLLEYBALL, SOCCER, WRESTLING, BASEBALL, AND SOFTBALL**

- (a) An official who does not attend at least **one** state sponsored and **three** local interpretation meetings in volleyball, soccer, wrestling, baseball, and softball will be placed on the probationary list for a period of one year in the sport(s) in which he/she fails to meet requirements.
- (b) An official on probation who fails to comply with Regulation 11 (a) while he/she is on probation shall have registration suspended for a period of one year in the sport(s) involved.

#### **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). You will not be eligible to officiate until you have 1) completed the online registration, 2) completed payment, 3) passed background check.
- **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 **Officials**, then click link for **Officials Associations**.
- If questions, contact Mrs. Terry Hillier by email: [go@tssaa.org](mailto:go@tssaa.org) .

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