



Guidelines for Athletic Directors and Coaches for Rating Game Officials

MHSAA Handbook, Regulation II, Section 7 (B) requires schools to rate officials who officiate contests involving their teams in sports for which ratings are maintained. Ratings must be submitted online at MHSAA.com. These guidelines are provided to assist member school athletic directors and coaches in rating officials.

Varsity Rating Definitions

"1"- Excellent — Very good, first class, surpasses all others. Typically, the quality of performance required to officiate tournament contests in the advanced rounds.

"2"- Above Average — Better than the mean, high quality, better than the accepted level of performance. Typically, the quality of performance required to officiate mid and lower level tournament contests.

"3"- Satisfactory — Adequate, average, a solid performance. Typically, the quality of performance required to officiate seasonal and lower level tournament contests.

"4"- Below Average — Deficient, lacking the skills and/or knowledge to earn a higher rating. Typically, an official who would benefit from training and education.

"5"- Unsatisfactory — Not desirable, definite improvement required. Typically, a performance that lacks accepted mechanics, has limited knowledge of the rules, demonstrates weak people skills. Requires written narrative from the school that is shared with the official to facilitate a professional exchange of information for improvement.

Things to Consider Before Entering Online Ratings

- Each official should start out a contest with a "2" rating. His or her work during the contest could either move that rating up (excellent hustle, people skills or critical correct call) or down (lack of hustle, poor people skills, inconsistent judgment, etc). If the game has no real issues of any kind, the official most likely deserves to stay at the "2" rating level where he/she started.
- Do not rate officials immediately following the event. Allow time to "cool down" after the game or match, and allow other games to be played before rating those officials so you have a means of comparison before submitting those ratings. Video review can often bring objectivity in assessing the true performance of the officials.
- Ratings are the starting point for all tournament officiating selection committees; ratings submitted by schools are **critically important** for officials when deciding who does, and who does not, receive officiating invitations for MHSAA tournament events. Ratings need to be objectively submitted by schools after stepping back and considering where the official being rated "fits" when being compared with all other officials observed in that sport.
- A coach that threatens an official with the rating process or a poor rating during a game or contest should expect to be penalized immediately. Threats of this nature, even in the heat of the battle, are unacceptable and inappropriate.
- Don't rate an official based on one call or game situation. A rating should be submitted for each official based on his or her body of work for the entire contest. If one crew member has had a poor game in your opinion, rate that official accordingly but do not punish other crew members if they had nothing to do with those negative situations.
- Thank you for assistance in this very important process for MHSAA registered officials!