

based on the level of the competition. Game fees vary from conference to conference with higher rates paid for varsity contests and tournaments. Some schools and conferences may also pay you for your travel expenses in addition to the contest fee. Depending on the sport, level of contest and conference, pay ranges anywhere from \$25 to \$150 per event.

What's the biggest adjustment I may need to make?

It is important to understand that the basic ingredient of officiating is that of being a decision maker, and sometimes people do not like decisions that do not go their way. Once you clear this hurdle and realize that people will criticize you because you make necessary decisions, rather than because you are a bad person, you are on your way. It is not easy, but we hope you will give it a try!

Take the First Step

To get started, you just need to complete a license application and mail it to our office with some type of documentation verifying military service. You can get the application off the WIAA website wiaawi.org or by calling or emailing us at 715-344-8580 or refs@wiaawi.org. We're anxious to hear from you!



Officials play a very significant role in the success of interscholastic athletic programs. If you are ready to accept the challenge and move into this realm, we welcome you. If you can't join our ranks now, perhaps you will be able to sometime in the near future.



It's your call to make!



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From Serving Our Country



To Helping Our Schools



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Thank You for Serving Our Country

The WIAA is offering current and former military personnel the opportunity to license as a WIAA sport official by waiving the basic licensing fee and the sport fee for two years. This offer is extended to those current and former military personnel who are licensing as a WIAA sport official for the first time.

Regardless of the branch of service, the training, discipline and core values ingrained in military personnel are the same qualities demanded of sport officials. Because of these qualities, we believe that men and women with military experience would fit well into interscholastic sport officiating and in this small way, the WIAA wants to acknowledge those who serve and say "thank you".

Welcome to Sports Officiating

The WIAA welcomes your interest in officiating. We have attempted to answer some of the most commonly asked questions about officiating in this pamphlet.

I wasn't a star athlete, should I bother with trying to officiate?

It certainly is not necessary to have been an outstanding athlete to be a good official. It does help to have participated in the sport you wish to officiate and to have a basic understanding of the rules of the game.

What does it take to become a good official?

It takes excellent judgement, poise under pressure, self-control, a very thorough knowledge of the rules of the sport, a love of athletics and kids, physical ability, self-confidence, the dedication and determination necessary to work hard, and personal integrity. Athletes and coaches look upon each contest as the most important event happening in their lives at that moment. Officials must view each contest the same way and react accordingly. This avocation is not for everyone, but you may find this to be some of the most rewarding work you will ever experience.



How do I get games?

This varies greatly from sport to sport. Officials need to write or call their local schools and conference commissioners and let them know they are licensed and interested in officiating. It is also important to remember that in some sports (i.e. basketball, football) it will take considerably longer to be contracted for varsity games. There are many officials associations around the state (Green Bay; Indianhead in Eau Claire; Milwaukee; Wisconsin Valley in Wisconsin Rapids; State Line in Evansville, just to name a few) that will help new and veteran officials improve so they can advance to upper level games. A listing of all 82 associations throughout the state, with contact information, is available on the WIAA website. Conference commissioners play an important role in the assigning of officials to regular season contests. A listing of all conference commissioners and contact information is available on the WIAA website.



What are the benefits of officiating?

Individuals may look at this in different ways, but officials will often tell you they:

Want to give something back to the sport they enjoy.

Want to stay involved in sport(s).

Enjoy the challenge of being in a pressure-packed situation.

Learn how to make fair and firm decisions and to accept criticism.

Want the physical exercise.

Enjoy working with kids and enjoy the opportunity to meet people and make new friends and contacts.

Want to earn a little extra money.



Where and how do I get:

Rules Books - Rules books will be provided at no cost for the first two years.

Insurance - The WIAA provides an accident medical and general liability insurance program for licensed officials.

Uniforms - Uniforms may be purchased at any local sporting goods store or ordered from an officials supply house. Some of these suppliers may be offering military discounts. As a member of an officials association there is the possibility of getting equipment handed down from retiring officials.

Officiating Fees - Member schools and/or conferences have established officiating fees