



## **NCAA Officiating Best Practices**

### **Fall 2024**

#### Introduction:

Without officials, NCAA competition cannot occur. The NCAA has developed this document as a guide for the NCAA membership regarding the expectations for the treatment of sports officials on campus. This should not be considered an exhaustive list of requirements for institutions, but as a starting point of minimum expectations to provide a positive experience on campus for game officials.

#### Host Institution Expectations:

1. Campus Hospitality – Campus hospitality begins when an official is assigned to the contest. Game officials should be afforded the following considerations:
  - a. Provide officials with advance information regarding all aspects of upcoming contest (parking, facility entrances, dressing/locker room location, special recognition/presentations during the contest, who will be their point of contact on-site, etc.) at least 24 hours in advance.
  - b. Host shall have a designated game administrator to greet officials for that event upon arrival and always have access to that individual.
  - c. Officials should have access to a private and secure dressing/locker room and shall be escorted to and from the locker room prior to the contest, at intermission(s) and at the conclusion of the contest.
  - d. During and after the competition, officials shall have access to, at minimum, water and towels. If possible, host should provide light refreshments.
  - e. Notify all affected officials of any scheduling changes at least 24 hours in advance, when possible.
  - f. In situations where a game is cancelled or changed, honor the payment of officials who have left their residence with the intention of working an NCAA contest.
  - g. Game administrator shall ensure that all scorer's table and booth personnel are competent, trained, equipped, on time, and understand they are game officials and not fans.
  - h. Game personnel are prohibited from using personal electronic devices during play.
2. Sportsmanship/Behavioral Expectations – Sportsmanship and behavior is a priority for the NCAA. Institutions must understand the priority and put measures into place to promote an atmosphere of appropriate behavior.
  - a. Institutions shall promote and maintain a safe and respectful environment in which crowd control and security at the venue are not a concern for the officials. This may include, but would not be limited to, game administrators escorting the officials from their locker room / vehicles to the competition facility before and after the game and during any breaks, being available at all times during competition for officials to communicate with, and immediately addressing fan conduct that is personal and/or threatening towards officials and participants.
  - b. Institutions should note that conferences may have regulations governing sportsmanlike conduct beyond the NCAA playing rules. Any incident of unsporting conduct should be reported to the Conference office and to the Coordinator of Officials.

#### NCAA Sportsmanship Statement:

- The NCAA, (CONFERENCE) and (HOST INSTITUTION) promote good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches and spectators. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Profanity, racist or sexist comments, or other intimidating actions, directed at officials, student-athletes, coaches, team representatives, officials or anyone else in attendance will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site of competition. We encourage you to cheer for your team during today's competition. We appreciate your cooperation in creating a safe, positive and inclusive game environment for everyone.

Institutional Athletic Training Guidance:

1. Officials need to contact the host head athletic trainer at least 3 days prior to game day to request any athletic training services. Together they will determine the best time and location for the athletic trainer and official to meet.
2. Officials need to provide a physician, athletic trainer, or physical therapist note if treatment is requested. This note needs to include parameters for any electrical modality needed (ultrasound, e-stim, etc.).
3. If hot pads are used, they must be utilized in the athletic training room or returned to the athletic training room from the locker room.
4. Officials need to bring their own supplies if they need any reoccurring taping. If they are injured during the competition, the host athletic trainer will provide the supplies.
5. Officials can ask to be evaluated by athletic trainers if they were injured in competition. However, treatment and taping of the athletes is the first priority of the athletic trainer, so any appropriate time for this evaluation will need to be established.
6. Officials will be provided with water in the locker room and during competition. They will be provided ice bags after the competition in the locker room, if needed.