

OFFICIAL'S CODE OF ETHICS

Schools have entrusted officials to assist them in the educational development of their youth through athletics. The proper operation of such a process requires that officials be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people they serve.

In recognition of these expectations, it shall be the responsibility of an official to follow the directions provided in the following Official's Code of Ethics. Violation of the Code of Ethics will be a violation of CKFOA and KHSAA Bylaws and may result in a sanction to the offending party.

AN OFFICIAL SHALL:

- **Place the welfare of the individual athlete above all other considerations.**
- Maintain confidence and control from start of an assignment to finish.
- Devote time, thought and study to the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to carry out these rules so that one may render effective and creditable service in a fair and unbiased manner.
- Work with fellow officials and the KHSAA in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate of points or rules at issue.
- Resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself.
- Under all circumstances avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve.
- Constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the avocation in all personal conduct and relations with the student athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public and to be a worthy example to the athletes under one's jurisdiction.
- Be prepared both physically and mentally, dress according to expectations, and maintain a proper appearance that is befitting the importance of the contest.
- Remember and recognize that it is important to honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss.
- Do not make statements to the news media critical of any school administrator, school, team, coach, and player. This also includes another game official or the KHSAA.
- Do not smoke or use any form of tobacco on or in the vicinity of the playing area, nor drink any alcoholic beverages or use any drugs on the day of the contest.
- Carry a responsibility to act in a manner becoming to a professional person. The conduct of any official influences the attitudes of the public toward the profession in general as well as toward the official in particular.
- **WHEN OBSERVING A GAME AS A FAN, DO NOT PUBLICLY CRITICIZE OR DEMEAN OFFICIALS AS THEY OFFICIATE AN ATHLETIC CONTEST.**