

South Dakota Sports Officials Council Mentoring Program

To: All Officials

Topic: Recruitment and Mentoring of New Officials

This letter is to help explain the program that the All Sports Officials Advisory Council has implemented to help **recruit and retain new officials** for high school athletics.

Purpose: to recruit and retain new officials for high school athletics. This program also provides new officials the opportunity to receive guidance from experienced officials in learning proper techniques, officiating skills, implementation of the rules, etc. while receiving compensation.

Definitions:

- **Mentee (new official):** a registered official with 0-5 years of experience (may mentor up to 3 dates per season)
- **Mentor:** an official who is currently certified with the SDHSAA
- **Level of Contests:** High school ONLY
 - Lower level—Freshman, Sophomore or Junior Varsity
 - Higher level—Varsity

Requirements:

1. The new official must be registered with the SDHSAA office.
2. The new official can work a lower level contest (grades 9-12).
3. The new official may observe a certified official while that official works a contest and receive \$50.00.
 - a. Note: new official may only receive compensation for one of the above per date.
4. The new official may be mentored up to three dates per season.
5. Certified officials mentoring the new official and giving written and verbal feedback regarding their performance, will receive \$50.00 provided they were not contracted (hired) and receiving compensation for working in that same contest. A copy of the written evaluation must be sent along with the payment voucher.
6. A form/voucher must be filled out and signed by the mentoring official and sent to the SDHSAA to receive compensation.

There is a copy of contest report (if applicable) and the mentor voucher form available on the SDHSAA website. Please make additional copies as needed. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Marsha Karst at marsha.karst@sdhsaa.com or 605-224-9261.

If you know of anyone that may be interested in becoming a licensed official, please have him/her contact the SDHSAA office at 605-224-9261. WE NEED OFFICIALS STATEWIDE!