

CODE OF ETHICS

NEW HAMPSHIRE FOOTBALL OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

(Revised May, 2008)

The code of conduct for football officials is intended to guide the conduct of officials in the service they render to schools, players and coaches, sponsoring organizations and the public.

1. The NHFOA's mission is to provide the best possible officiating service in every football game administered by its officials.
2. An official shall support the NHFOA in its mission. Officials must be competent, must be aware of the expectations of the client, and must know when to seek assistance, as well as take every opportunity to learn and develop his or her skills.
3. An official shall devote time, thought and study to the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to carry out these rules to enable them to provide effective, high quality service in a fair and unbiased manner.
4. An official shall work with fellow officials and the state association in a spirit of harmony and cooperation, notwithstanding any differences of opinion that may arise during debate of game issues or rules interpretations.
5. An official shall be prepared for each game both physically and mentally, shall abide by the NHFOA's uniform and travel dress code policies, shall maintain a proper appearance that is befitting the importance of the game and shall arrive on time for all assignments.
6. An official shall constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the avocation in all personal conduct and relations with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public, in order to set a worthy example to the clients.
7. An official shall not use his or her position as an official for personal benefit, other than the benefits enjoyed from officiating. Under all circumstances, officials must avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the schools and athletes they serve.
8. An official shall honor all officiating contracts and obligations regardless of possible personal inconvenience or financial loss.
9. An official shall refrain from using tobacco products at the contest site or on school property.
10. An official shall not officiate any game after having had any alcoholic drink that day.
11. An official shall not officiate any game after using any illegal substance.
12. An official shall not criticize or second guess another official's judgment when communicating with a coach, player, team or representative of a team. If a player or coach asks a question, the official should listen carefully and then give a definitive and decisive answer.

13. An official shall avoid undue fraternization and conversation with coaches and players before, during or after a game, including during intermission. While some conversation is permissible, an official must use good judgment in limiting such conversation to avoid any appearance of favoritism.
14. An official shall treat all other officials, players, coaches and organizations with respect. An official shall provide the same quality service to all clients.
15. An official shall use discretion in disseminating information about the NHFOA, and has the obligation to understand what type of information is confidential and should not be disclosed.
16. An official should avoid social contact with coaches or representatives of teams who are potential clients.
17. In order to avoid any appearance of impropriety, an official shall report all potential conflicts of interest to the Commissioner. Potential conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to, situations where a direct family member or close personal friend is a player or coach on a client team or is employed by a school served by the NHFOA.