



Guidelines for Required Local Approved Association Membership

LOCAL APPROVED ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP MANDATORY FOR SOME SPORTS

Since 1987, the MHSAA has worked to advance the profile and purpose of local officials associations. Local Approved officials associations and the MHSAA share a vision to recruit, educate, train, mentor and evaluate officials in those sports offered by the MHSAA.

Progressively by sport, since 2005-06, all officials were required to be members in good standing of an approved officials association in order to receive tournament assignments in **baseball, girls basketball, boys basketball, football, boys and girls soccer, softball, volleyball and wrestling**. This requirement, in addition to the three historical qualifications observed by the MHSAA, will serve to qualify officials for tournament invitations. Historically, the MHSAA has required rules meeting attendance in the sport, accumulating 16 or more varsity ratings in the sport, and recording a rating of 3.0 or better to be considered for tournament invitations.

In order to be eligible to officiate in an MHSAA tournament series event, officials shall meet the following general conditions.

1. Attend a current rules meeting for the sport in question.
2. Obtain Approved status with a minimum of 16 ratings for the sport in question.
3. Achieve a 3-year rating score of 3.0 or better (1.0 is best).
4. Be a member, in good standing, of a Local Approved Association as determined by the MHSAA.
5. Submission of a social security number through the online registration process.

Note: Greater or lesser requirements may be established for items 2 and 3 for specific sports.

In "good standing" means that the official is an active member of a local approved association, and is current in all requirements of that association. Good standing must include at a minimum, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Payment of appropriate association dues.
2. Attendance at 50% or more association meetings.
3. Completion of any required training or certification.
4. Not be delinquent in dues payment or subject to any association discipline.
5. Officiate the minimum number of varsity games as required by the MHSAA.

MHSAA LOCAL APPROVED OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION WAIVER PROCESS

In the event an official is not a member of a Local Approved Association, a letter requesting a waiver shall be submitted to the MHSAA Officials Department. In the letter the official shall cite clearly the reasons membership in good standing in an MHSAA Local Approved Association does not exist. The request must be received by the MHSAA or postmarked prior to the first allowable game date for the sport in question. The MHSAA will review each request and determine the status of the official. The categories available to consideration by the MHSAA representative are:

- A. Residence in a remote area of Michigan which is not in proximity to the meeting place for the Local Approved Association within the area.
- B. Residence in an MHSAA zone without a Local Approved Association.
- C. Other extenuating circumstances which provide compelling reason for the official to not belong to or be a member in good standing of a Local Approved Association.

If the waiver is approved by the MHSAA representative, it must be with the provision that the official has maintained status as an annually certified member official, met certification requirements of a national association (USSF, etc.) serving the sport in consideration or provided evidence of completion of a National Federation Officials Education program in the sport under consideration within the previous 12 months. In the absence of these two items, the official may provide evidence of competency and professionalism through other means established by or agreeable to the MHSAA.

The MHSAA representative may waive the requirement, with or without additional conditions, or deny the request for waiver. Waivers or waivers with conditions are applicable to the current season and do not apply to another sport or another school year.