



Louisiana High School Officials Association
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Date: May 12, 2015

News

For Release: Immediately

Release

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Louisiana High School Officials Association Initiates Officials' Contract Process

METAIRIE, La. – The Louisiana High School Officials Association (LHSOA) has initiated a contract process that will require all Louisiana high schools that use the services of LHSOA officials to sign contracts for those services. The contract, with an initial term of one year, will outline the agreement between schools and local officials' associations supplying officials for varsity contests. As part of the new contract process, the regional representatives that make up the LHSOA Executive Committee, developed an Officials Fee Schedule (Appendix A). This schedule sets forth officials' fees for all varsity contests. All Louisiana high schools that use LHSOA officials were notified of the new process by email on May 7, 2015. Additionally, all materials were sent to each school via U.S. Postal mail.

The contract process was developed by the LHSOA in response to a long history of action and inaction on behalf of Louisiana high school leadership that has affected high school officials in the state. Most recently, at the Annual LHSAA Convention, very modest fee increases approved for basketball and volleyball officials through a process established by the LHSAA Executive Committee, failed by wide margins on votes by high school principals. In addition, at that same convention, high school principals voted to effectively decrease pay in the 2015-2016 school year for baseball and softball umpires. Officials have received two modest fee increases over the past twenty-five years. As independent contractors, high school officials are responsible for their officiating-related expenses, all of which have increased materially. The new contract process will create a mechanism whereby officials will have the opportunity to provide services and will do so at a fair cost to the schools receiving those services.

“Over the entire history of the current construct where high school principals have oversight for officials’ fees, there has never been an officials’ fee increase approved at a regular meeting of principals,” said LHSOA President Paul LaRosa. “Many of our officials are required to take annual proctored tests and to attend mandatory training clinics. These requirements are more stringent than standards in every other state in the country. These higher standards came with promises that our officials would have a seat at the table where issues, including officiating fees, would be addressed. These promises have resulted in no benefit to our officials as evidenced by votes at the recent annual convention. Our new process is intended to give our officials the opportunity to realize the fair treatment they deserve as independent contractors responsible to deliver high quality services.”

The new contract process will become effective for the 2015-2016 school year with football officials being the first officiating associations to execute contracts with member schools. The LHSOA has worked diligently to establish the details of the contract process and to communicate those details in a timely manner, recognizing schools’ budget processes and end-of-school activities.

The Louisiana High School Officials Association is a non-profit organization established in 2009 with the primary focus of improving high school officiating across the seven sports it represents including baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball and wrestling. Through its Executive Committee, made up of regional representatives from all sports across the state of Louisiana, the LHSOA works to achieve improvements in high school officiating. These efforts focus on support for training programs, creating forums for dialogue among its more than 4,000 officials, and by establishing high standards of conduct for all its members.