

LHSOA Proposal – Officiating Fees

Background:

The existing authority that establishes high school officials’ fees in Louisiana resides in the LHSAA Handbook. Revisions in these fees are therefore a product of the process to revise/update the Handbook and that process is accomplished almost exclusively through amendments considered at the LHSAA Annual Meeting typically held in January. The historical results yielded from this process in regard to officials’ fees is that virtually no changes to fees are ever approved. The failure of the Principals Association to fairly review and periodically adjust officials’ fees has been repeated even after cooperative efforts between LHSAA and LHSOA leadership yielded compromised proposals. The consequence of this historical failure has resulted in fees paid to LHSOA officials to lag, and in some instances materially lag the high school officials’ fees being paid in other states in NFHS Region 3, which encompasses Louisiana. The below details comparative data supporting this lag:

Sport	Average Sec. 3 Fees	Current Louisiana Fees(1)	Louisiana Fees as a Percentage of Sec. 3 Fees @ the Average
Baseball	\$ 78.78	\$75.00	95%
Basketball	70.64	50.00(2)	70%
Football	107.35	90.00	84%
Soccer	183.50(3)	155.00(3)	84%
Softball	70.07	65.00	93%
Volleyball	64.85	50.00	77%
Wrestling	78.58	60.00(4)	76%

- (1)Amounts reflect “Certified” for sports w/multi-tiered officials
- (2)Fee reflects per official pay for 3-person officiating crew
- (3)Fee reflects per crew pay for 3-person officiating crew
- (4)Fee reflects per official pay for dual meet

The above data confirms that high school officials pay in Louisiana lags the average officials’ pay across Section 3 for each of our seven sports. In addition, the standards as previously established by the Principals Association in Louisiana for high school officials to achieve and maintain “certified” status in their respective sport meet and in nearly every state comparison, **exceed the standards** currently established in other Region 3 state associations. As such, the current construct requires our officials to dedicate more time and effort to prepare but compensates them less than the average across Section 3.

In order to remedy this situation to both retain existing officials and to recruit new officials, the LHSOA proposes that the current authority detailed in Section 8 of the LHSAA Handbook be revised in favor of a new process as described below.

2021 Officials Fee Proposal

The existing Sections 8.8.3 – 8.8.9 would be replaced by the following new section 8.8.3.

Officials' Fees for Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Wrestling will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis and compared to fees paid across Section 3 states. The base Louisiana fee used for comparison for each sport will be as follows:

Baseball	Certified Umpire
Basketball	Certified Official, 3-person crew
Football	Certified Official
Soccer	Official, 3-person crew
Softball	Certified Umpire
Volleyball	Official, best 3 of 5 match
Wrestling	Official, one official dual meet

The above Louisiana's officials' fees for each sport will be adjusted to the average Section 3 pay based on the most current data available, rounded to the nearest dollar. In each case, any adjustments will be effective for the subsequent school year. In no event will the adjustment for any sport exceed \$10.00 per official. Additional provisions include:

- For sports with multi-tiered officials, i.e., Certified and Registered, and/or Electric Clock Operators (ECO), the **percentage change** to the above base fees will be applied to all classifications of officials, including ECOs
- For sports with varied crew complements, i.e., 2-person vs 3-person crews, the **percentage change** to the above base fees will be applied to all officials of all crew complements
- For sports with fees adjusted for playoff and/or championship competition, the **percentage change** to the base fee would be applied to playoff and championship fees as well

The bi-annual review process will be conducted not later than March 31 of each "review" year with the initial review year established as 2021. Responsibility for collection of Section 3 fee data and the subsequent review, analysis and calculation of adjustments required, if any, will be conducted jointly by the office of the LHSAA Assistant Executive Director, Director of Officials and representatives of the LHSOA Executive Committee. Data supporting any required fee adjustments will be made available to the LHSAA Executive Committee prior to the committee's November meeting.

Based on the above revised fee structure, and assuming no changes to current Section 3 data, effective with the 2022 School Year, the following reflects the calculation of 2022 fees to be adopted:

Sport	Average Sec. 3 Fees	Current Base Louisiana Fees	Calculated Adjustment	Actual Adjustment (based on \$10.00 Max)	2022 Revised Fee	% Change (rounded)
Baseball	\$ 78.78	\$75.00	\$ 3.78	\$ 4.00	\$ 79.00	5%
Basketball	70.64	50.00	20.64	10.00	60.00	20%
Football	107.35	90.00	17.35	10.00	100.00	11%
Soccer	183.50	155.00	28.50	29.00(1)	184.00	19%
Softball	70.07	65.00	5.07	5.00	70.00	8%
Volleyball	64.85	50.00	14.85	10.00	60.00	20%
Wrestling	78.58	60.00	18.58	10.00	70.00	17%

(1) Soccer base fee reflects 3-person crew so per official adjustment does not exceed \$10.00 per official

As reflected above, even after adjustments in 2022, officials' fees for four of our seven high school sports will lag comparative average fees for all other Section 3 states.

Using the percentage change methodology detailed above, the following additional revised fees would be established for each sport:

Sport	Revised Base Fee % Change	Revised Fee – all others
Baseball	5%	Registered Umpire - \$68.00 Playoffs – Certified Umpire - \$84.00 Registered Umpire – 74.00 State Tournament – All Umpires - \$105.00
Basketball	20%	Registered Official – 3 person crew- \$48.00 Certified Official – 2 person crew- \$72.00 Registered Official – 2 person crew- \$54.00 ECO – \$42.00 Playoffs – All Court Officials - \$90.00 State Tournament – All Court Officials - \$120.00 ECO - \$72.00
Football	11%	Registered Official - \$72.00 ECO - \$50.00 Playoffs – Certified Official - \$117.00 Registered Official - \$83.00 Championship Games – All Field Officials - \$128.00 ECO - \$89.00
Soccer	19%	Official – 1 person crew - \$101.00 Official – 2 person crew - \$142.00 Official – 4 person crew - \$262.00
Softball	8%	Registered Umpire - \$54.00 Playoffs All Umpires - \$86.00 State Tournament – All Umpires - \$92.00
Volleyball	20%	Playoffs – \$84.00 State Tournament – \$96.00
Wrestling	17%	Tri-meet - \$76.00 One Day Tournament - \$146.00 Two Day Tournament - \$205.00 Dual Meet Tournament - \$53.00/dual