
COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



They Make Us Great



We cannot do this alone. Officials at every stage of their careers and at every level of this avocation have a person or people in their corners who help them to be successful. This article serves as a reminder to our officials about making sure to thank and recognize their “teams” but also serves as a thank you from the NMAA and NMOA to the individuals who serve as a backbone, allowing officials to be able serve the student-athletes across the state of New Mexico. The teams behind us can be our spouse or significant other, our children, our parents and our friends but can also include our extended families and understanding and flexible employers. These people comprise our teams, our fan clubs and our support. Without them, we do not get to do what we love. Without them, kids do not get to play the sports they love.

The old adage that “behind every great man is a great woman” holds true in officiating and you can substitute “man” with “official” and “woman” with “support system.” It seems like behind some of the greatest officials is a great spouse or partner who has had the role of holding down the fort while the official is traveling to road games, attending camps and clinics, going to local association meetings or having a post-game meal with the crew. The role of the official’s significant other cannot go unrecognized.

Officials’ significant others know how to make sure that gear is washed and ready to go when the official has games five nights in a row. They know that you can dry the jersey in the dryer *almost* all the way but you probably want to take it out and hang it before it’s all the way dry so that it looks just so. They understand that they might have to be the only ones picking up the kids and making sure they are fed once the season begins. They understand that they may not see the officials in their lives on a regular basis for six months out of the year but they put the official’s passion above their own personal needs. They understand that summer vacations may be in conjunction with an officials’ camp somewhere. They are the foundation to the official and are integral in the lives of officials who truly succeed at the highest levels.

The great officials understand this and they are the first to attribute their success to the special somebodies in their lives. The great officials don’t take a whole lot of credit, rather they give their applause to and share their awards with the people who have “had their backs” throughout their careers. When we take the opportunity to recognize officials, the great ones gladly and without hesitation give that recognition to the individuals who selflessly partnered with them or supported them in their officiating adventures. Those individuals are the ones who stayed at home, took care of business and held everything together so that the official could pursue his or her officiating dreams. While officials certainly do not receive the recognition they deserve, their significant others and families receive even less and it is deserved just as much.

When you talk to the legends of this profession, you know they are people who have their priorities in order. They understand the importance of balancing officiating, work, family and friends, and they never take any aspect of their lives for granted. When you are married to or seriously involved with an official, you have to understand and really respect what that person does and the tremendous time commitment it involves. On the other side of that, the official has to respect the contribution that his/her significant other is making in order to make the relationship work and has to make a concerted effort to continually make the special someone in his or her life feel cherished, important and appreciated. Without this symbiotic relationship, an official cannot achieve greatness.

All of us involved in the officiating world, as administrators, assignors, supervisors, observers or active officials, often have to work crazy hours and are subject to phone calls, text messages and emails at any time of the day or night. Our families have to tolerate a lot of absenteeism, hostile crowds (for those who are brave enough to go and watch the officials you love), missed birthdays and anniversaries, late dinners and weekends alone. We must always take the time to thank our families, friends, employers and loved ones for allowing us to do this thing we do. We must take the time to say good morning and good night when travel takes us away so that the people who love us know that even though we are doing WHAT we love, the first and last thought of every day is about WHO we love.

To all of the husbands, wives, partners, boyfriends, girlfriends, sons, daughters, parents and other family members out there who are proudly behind someone in the officiating world, I extend to you a very large and long overdue "thank you." To the employers who allow officials time off to go serve as guardians of fair play across the state, we express the same appreciation to you. The officials in your life could not be great without you and, as an Association, we could not thrive without you either.

Warm regards,



"You can't achieve anything entirely by yourself. There's a support system that is a basic requirement of human existence. To be happy and successful on earth, you just have to have people that you rely on."

-Michael Schur-



Important Dates (August-December, 2020)



September 2020

- September 7, 2020** – NMAA Office Closed (Labor Day)
- September 8, 2020** – Volleyball Officials' Registrations Due/Exams Open*
- September 19, 2020** – 14th Annual Referee Educational Forum (Basketball Officials – Online)
- September 21, 2020** – Wrestling Officials' Webinar #6 (at 6:00 PM)
- September 28, 2020** – NMAA Volleyball District Clinic Online*

October 2020

- October 1, 2020** – Spirit Officials Registration Due/Exams Open*
- October 10, 2020** – Cross Country, Golf, Volleyball Competition Begins*
- October 17, 2020** – Spirit Coaches/Officials Clinic (Live - Tentatively)*
- October 19-23, 2020** – Volleyball Coaches Appreciation Week*
- October 26-30, 2020** – Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week*
- October 28, 2020** – NMOA Executive Board Meeting (Zoom)
- October 30, 2020** – Volleyball Officials Exam Closes*

November 2020

- November 16, 2020** – Spirit Officials Exam Closes*
- November 25-27, 2020** – NMAA Office Closed (Thanksgiving Break)

December 2020

- December 4-5, 2020** – NMAA State Volleyball Quarterfinals and NMAA State Cross Country
- December 8-12, 2020** – NMAA State Volleyball Semifinals and Finals
- December 15, 2020** – Basketball, Swimming & Diving Officials' Registration Due/Basketball Exams Open*
- December 18-19, 2020** – NMOA Baseball & Softball State Clinic (Online)
- December 21, 2020 – January 1, 2021** – NMAA Office Closed (Winter Break)
- December 23, 2020** – NMOA Swimming & Diving Officials Clinic (Online – 5:30 PM)
- December 23, 2020** – NMAA Basketball, Swimming & Diving District Clinics (Online – 5:30 PM & 7:00 PM)

**Subject to change*

