

Become a PIAA Basketball Official for the 2019-2020 Season

The number of active basketball officials in the Lancaster-Lebanon League has reached a critical number. Recently we had a good amount of officials going inactive or retiring which has brought us to this breaking point. This is an epidemic not only in basketball and the LL League but nationwide. The national data shows that there is a shortage of high school official in almost every sport. In some communities the shortage is critical and high school games are being either postponed or cancelled.

Becoming a high school official is the easiest call you'll ever make. High school officials protect the integrity of the game our kids love to play by demonstrating qualities like honesty, objectivity, consistency, courage and common sense. As veteran officials continue to retire, new officials have an opportunity to make a huge difference in the lives of hundreds of young people everyday. For every "bad" story of parent/player/coach interaction with officials there are thousands of stories that go untold.

Consider the many benefits of becoming a high school official:

- You'll be a role model for the youth in your community
- It's a great way to stay in good physical condition
- Hours are flexible
- You'll earn extra income
- You'll stay connected to a sport you love
- You'll expand your network of friends and have fun!

It's not too late for you to get certified, trained and scheduled for the 2019-2020 season! Below are some Frequently Asked Questions:

- **When is the season?** While there are games all year long, the PIAA season is November-February.
- **What would I officiate?** The Lancaster Lebanon Basketball Officials Association (LLBBO) officiates all PIAA games in Lancaster & Lebanon counties. We also cover youth leagues, adult leagues & CYO Basketball. Typically new officials' PIAA schedule will begin with a majority of Junior High games mixed with some JV games.
- **What do I need to do to become an official?** First is to register to take the PIAA Exam. Upon passing the test you will be asked to join a chapter. The Lancaster-Lebanon Chapter offers training opportunities throughout the summer & fall to help prepare you for the season.
- **What time are the games?** Typically PIAA games follow the following schedule:
 - 4:00pm 9th Jr. High Varsity 5:00pm Jr. High JV, 6:00pm JV and 7:30pm Varsity
 - Other leagues usually begin after 6pm during the week & all day Saturday & Sunday
- **How much do I work?** Short answer it depends on your availability. We have an online system that allows us to list our availability. If you're available you will get PIAA games!

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- **How much does an official make?** PIAA Games are \$59 for Jr High Varsity, \$52 for Jr High JV & \$64 for a JV game. Youth & Adult leagues are typically between \$25-\$35 per game.
- **What costs are associated?** There are some initial start up costs including purchasing a uniform, completing background checks (if you don't have them), chapter dues & PIAA dues.
- **Do I have to have played basketball to be an official?** While it helps it is not a necessity. As a chapter we offer a larger amount of training opportunities along with pairing you up with a mentor to guide you through your first two years.
- **Do you still have questions?** Not a problem...visit our website at lbbo.org or email Jay Gallagher at jaygall42@gmail.com with your questions.

The PIAA has an excellent page with information on becoming an official, that can be found at:

<http://www.piaa.org/officials/become/default.aspx>

There is still time to get a schedule for 2019-2020 and begin the rewarding journey as a High School basketball official! If you're interested in taking the next steps please contact Jay Gallagher at jaygall42@gmail.com.