

2025-2026 Basketball

Preparing for Success

Presented by Tri City Area Officials
Association

Agenda

- Tournament Eligibility Review
- Why Great Pre-Game Conferences Matter
- Working the Principles: Areas of Contention
- Discussion
- Officiate Michigan Day

MHSAA Tournament Assignments

- District or Regional Assignment
 - **2.7 minimum Three Year Avg Rating**
- Quarterfinal or Semi-Final Assignment
 - Pass Rules Exam 80%+
 - **3.0 minimum Three Year Avg Rating**
- Final
 - Pass Rules Exam 80%+
 - **3.5 minimum Three Year Avg Rating**

Rating Categories

- Judgement
- Presence and Demeanor
- Attitude and Effort
- Administration and Communication

Improvement Categories

- **Accuracy**
- Composure and Approachability
- **Consistency**
- Contest Management
- Fraternization
- Professionalism
- **Rules Knowledge and Application**
- Dependability and Punctuality
- Focus
- Mobility

Why Pre Game Matters

- Every game is the big game for these teams
- Basketball is a game of possessions
- You've seen enough JV games
- “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”
— Scott Helmka (or Ben Franklin)

Working the Principles

Areas of Contention

- Monty McCutchen Pre Game
- Crew consistency – and match philosophy
- Create a flow
- Open the discussion for crew discussion

Working the Principles Areas of Contention

- On-Ball on the Perimeter
 - Expect and reward good defense
 - Tone setting whistles on “Absolutes”
 - Examples of absolutes?
 - Crew commitment to closely guarded counts
 - **Establish crew off ball discipline**
- Rule: 4-23 Guarding

Working the Principles Areas of Contention

- Screens
 - Position for angles and widen view for screen development, and officiate the defense
 - Back screens and side screen
 - Pick-and-roll screens
- Rule: 4-40 Screen

Working the Principles

Areas of Contention

- Bumping Cutters
 - Identify if/when the defense impedes player
 - Identify if/when the defense interrupts the rhythm, speed, or balance of the player
 - Consistency of the crew allowing freedom of movement
- Rule: 4-27 Incidental Contact
- Rule: 4-24 Hands and Arms, Legal/Illegal Use

Working the Principles

Areas of Contention

- Rebounding Coverage
 - Penalize illegal push from the boxed-out player
 - Displacement on illegal box outs
 - Discuss “possession consequence” judgement
 - Fouls 80ft away from own basket
- Rules: 4-37 Rebounding and 4-45 Verticality

Working the Principles

Areas of Contention

- Patience & No-Calls on Drives/Plays at the Rim
 - Slow whistles and play to Start, Develop, Finish
 - Crew consistency for “and 1” fouls
 - Call the illegal, pass on the marginal
 - Defenders legal guarding position
- Rule: 4-6: Basket Interference
- Rule: 4-7 Blocking, Charging
- Rule: 4-22 Goaltending
- Rule: 4-41 Shooting, Try, Tap

Working the Principles

Areas of Contention

- Crew Pre Game Commitment
 - We're going to take care of these principles and enforce them properly
 - The teams will adjust, and flow will develop
 - The game will then open-up and the skills of the players will rise to the level of the contest

Officiate Michigan Day

- July 25, 2026
- Grand Rapids
- Registration Opens March of 2026