



Amarillo Football Chapter Texas Association of Sports Officials

Becoming a New High School Football Officials Frequently Asked Questions

1. What do I have to do to join?

Becoming a new football official starts with registering with the Texas Association of Sports Officials (TASO) at www.taso.org. This registration is completed online and there is a \$45 non-refundable application fee. Note: This application fee also covers your dues for your initial/first season as a football official. The purpose of registration is to allow the State office the opportunity to run appropriate background checks and certify your membership per TASO guidelines. Instructions for registration can be found on our chapter website at www.amarefs.org. As a new official please remember to select the option for New Members and select football as the sport and Amarillo as the chapter.

Are you, or, have you ever been a TASO member in any sport ☐ Yes ☐ No



Welcome, this is where you will renew and apply for TASO membership. Please select the sport for which you are applying or renewing your membership.

Volleyball Soccer Football Basketball

2. How much money will I make?

Varsity games pay between \$60 - \$110/game, sometimes more. Sub-varsity games pay \$55 per game. As a new official the bulk of your games will be sub-varsity assignments where you will be assigned anywhere between a one and three game set. Sub-varsity games are played Monday thru Thursday, and some Saturday's. Varsity is played on Thursday and Friday. You are also paid mileage if you are the driver to out of town assignments. Ultimately how much you make depends on the number of games you are willing to allow yourself to officiate.

3. How much will I spend on expenses?

All officials must have the proper uniform and equipment such as shirts, pants, shoes, hat, and game accessories (whistle, flag, etc.). The cost of your uniform will run approximately \$200 and is driven by the number of items you purchase. Locally, StripesPlus in Amarillo has the equipment and will provide a starter package. There are vendors online that can be utilized as well.

4. What will be my preparation for success?

In Texas we officiate all games by the NCAA rules along with specified UIL exceptions that are associated with high school football. You will be provided a rule book upon joining. Beginning in the middle to late July we meet each Monday evening along with a rules clinic held around the first Saturday of August. It is critical to attend as many meetings as possible with the Saturday rules meeting being mandatory. All officials must pass an online true/false exam prior to being assigned games. Additionally, all officials, especially new officials, also work numerous scrimmages in August which allows you to get on the field experience before being assigned a game. Lastly, a 3, 4 and 5 person mechanics manual is available once you join and should be reviewed and studied regularly.

5. How many games will I be assigned?

Games are assigned based on your proven ability on the field. As a new official most of your games will range from 7th grade to JV. These are known as Sub-varsity games. When you are ready and show progress it is probable you will receive Varsity assignments. The more sub-varsity games you can work the better. There are plenty of games to be worked with good money to earn.

6. How do I know I have an assignment?

We utilize a scheduling software for all assignments. You will receive email notifications of an assignment. Sub-varsity assignments are usually posted two or three weeks in advance. Varsity assignments are posted four weeks in advance. Game assignments are always changing so there is always the possibility you will receive a one day notice of an assignment or change to an assignment. It is critical to have access to email and phone on a regular basis during the season as well as communicate in advance with fellow officials.

7. What days are games played and when should I be available?

Sub-varsity games are played on Monday thru Thursday and some Saturday's will start anytime between 4pm and 6pm. You should arrive to a sub-varsity games no less than 15 minutes prior to kickoff, preferably 30 minutes. Varsity games are played on Thursday and Friday. Varsity games start around 7pm and you are to arrive at the game no less than an hour before kickoff. Since we cover games throughout the Texas Panhandle you must factor in travel time to games.

In Summary

Officiating High School football can be very rewarding and provides you with an opportunity to work with the young athletes and provide a valuable service to the schools. It takes time, dedication and the responsibility to become the best official possible. Please visit www.amarefs.org for additional information.