

Fruit Belt Officials Association

Constitution and By-Laws

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the Association shall be “The Fruit Belt Officials Association.”

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The Fruit Belt Officials Association is an organization serving high school athletic officials in southwest Michigan. Our members referee and umpire the following sports: football, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, baseball and softball. The mission of our group is as follows:

- A. To provide training.
- B. To provide a forum for regular rules and mechanics study.
- C. To promote the positive image of officials in our community.
- D. To promote members’ growth by engaging speakers of interest.
- E. To further our avocation by recruiting, training, and integrating new officials.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I Membership in this Association shall be of two kinds: active and associate.

SECTION II **ACTIVE MEMBERS** shall:

- A. Be an MHSAA registered official.
- B. Pay the yearly dues as determined by Article IV, below.
- C. Not miss more than one of the three general meetings without prior notification to the secretary or trainer for the sport involved.
- D. Attend at least 80% of the rules discussion meetings in each of the sports for which they are participating. Excused absences will be accepted if they are requested in advance from the secretary or trainer.
- E. Remain “Members in Good Standing” by being in compliance with all provisions of Section II.

SECTION III **ASSOCIATED MEMBERS** shall:

- A. Consist of coaches and athletic directors, who are not also registered officials.
- B. Not be required to attend meetings or pay dues.

SECTION IV Be it understood that in the event an **ACTIVE MEMBER** fails to qualify in **ALL** of the above listed requirements, they shall no longer:

- A. Be a member of the association.
- B. Be a member in good standing.

SECTION V In the event an **ACTIVE MEMBER** of the association becomes delinquent in the payment of annual dues (as outlined in Article IV, Section II below) he/she shall:

- A. Forfeit his/her right to membership in the association.
- B. Be stricken from the roster of “Members in Good Standing.”
- C. In order to be re-admitted to membership, all delinquent membership dues and fees must be paid—and a confirming vote obtained from the board of directors.

ARTICLE IV DUES

SECTION I The fiscal year of this association shall begin June 1st of each year.

SECTION II AMOUNT AND COLLECTION OF DUES

- A. The annual dues shall be determined by the board of directors—subject to confirmation by a majority of members present at a general membership meeting.
- B. Dues are to be paid one year in advance.
- C. Dues are considered delinquent after June 1 of each year. The first notice of delinquency shall be sent to each member (on the previous year’s roll) prior to the first general meeting of the next school year.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND DUTIES

SECTION I OFFICERS

- A. The elected officers of this association shall consist of: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and two Trustees.

SECTION II DUTIES

- A. The President shall:
 - 1. Preside at all general meetings.
 - 2. Secure a meeting place.
 - 3. Appoint any committees as deemed necessary for the most efficient operation of the affairs of the association.
 - 4. Be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- B. The Vice President shall:

1. Perform all the duties of the President in case of the absence of the President.
- C. The Recording Secretary shall:
1. Record the minutes of each meeting of the association.
 2. Carry on all necessary correspondence.
- D. The Treasurer shall:
1. Collect dues and any financial assessments called for by the board of directors, as approved by the general membership.
 2. Keep a receipt book as a record of all monies received.
 3. Be responsible for the safe keeping of all association funds.
 4. Make expenditures from the treasury only when ordered to do so by the Board of Directors.
 5. Keep a cash book containing an itemized account of all monies received and all expenditures.
 6. Shall, upon the election of a successor, turn over an audited report to his successor. All monies shall be transferred to his successor at the time his term of office expires.
- E. The Trustees shall:
1. Attend all board meetings, general meetings, and rules meetings of the sport(s) they officiate.
 2. Represent members' concerns and forward members' recommendations to the board.
 3. Accept those responsibilities delegated to them by the president in keeping with the purpose of the association.
 4. Foster the welfare of officials of all sports in which the association is active.
 5. Be open to accept feedback and input from the membership regarding association activities and initiatives.
 6. Serve as role models for the members of the association, pursuing his/her own personal path of officiating self-improvement.
 7. Monitor the activity of the sports trainers, forwarding reports of praise and/or concerns to the board.
 8. Assist to carry out the purpose of the association.
 9. Serve as the Constitution Committee responsible to regularly review the bylaws for association compliance, forwarding their and members' recommendations for amendments and revisions, if any, to the board.
- F. The Sports Trainers shall:
1. Serve for a term of one year and are eligible for reappointment with no term limits.

2. Be appointed or reappointed annually by the board upon an annual review which shall be conducted by the board following the spring general meeting.
3. Be accountable to the board to maintain a training program in accord with the responsibilities expressed in the most current MHSAA "Officials' Guidebook".
4. Give an account at each general meeting of previous training held and upcoming training planned. In the case that attendance is not possible due to schedule, valid excuse shall be communicated to the president prior and another representative of that sport appointed by the trainer to issue the report.
5. Organize and schedule at least three rules meetings for baseball, basketball, football, softball, volleyball and wrestling member officials each year.
6. Prepare and distribute educational, training aids, and recommended officiating procedures to members.
7. Record unusual game situations encountered by members and ascertain correct rulings, utilizing the state association as a resource if necessary.

SECTION III

The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers provided for in Article V Section I, above plus two Trustees appointed by the president. The initiative and operations of this association shall rest solely and entirely with the Board of Directors.

SECTION IV

Any member of the association may hold office if they are members in good standing, provided they have been a member of the association for a period of one year or longer.

SECTION V

It shall be the responsibility of THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS to review all reports of questionable conduct by any member which has been reported to the association by an official representative of a school. The board may take whatever action it deems necessary in order to maintain the integrity and ethical standards of the association.

ARTICLE VI

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION I

Every other year, the President shall appoint a nominating committee at the second general meeting. This committee shall present a list of candidates for the four elected officers and two elected Trustees at large at the last general meeting of the year. Additional names may be submitted as candidates for any office from the floor.

SECTION II

ELECTIONS

- A. The biennial election of officers shall take place at the last general meeting of the year.

- B. The election shall be by secret ballot, and every person must cast his own ballot personally at said meeting.
- C. The candidate receiving the majority of all votes cast for the said office shall be declared the winner.
- D. Duly elected officers shall take office each year on April 1st following the election.
- E. Any vacancy created by circumstance shall be filled by an appointment for the unexpired term by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

SECTION I During the fiscal year, three general meetings shall be held preceding each major seasonal sport, as follows:

- A. September
- B. November
- C. March or April

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

SECTION I All proposed amendments to this constitution shall be presented at a regular general membership meeting. At the next succeeding general membership meeting, the amendment shall be effective, if approved by a majority vote of the membership present at said meeting.