

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
UTAH AREA SPORTS



Guidelines for Training Officials

You are responsible, as the officials' coordinator, to encourage stakes to call and set apart sports officials who serve under the leadership and guidance of the priesthood. You are also responsible to assist in the training of these officials. You may carry out such training yourself or you may arrange for other qualified instructors to conduct the training. This training should include thorough theoretical and practical instruction. Officials trained in this way will merit the respect of all participants.

Observe the following guidelines for training officials:

1. Encourage all officials to attend clinics to train and prepare for officiating assignments.
2. Have qualified people conduct the clinics; well trained, experienced officials from the Division or Area; or the local sports officials associations may help.
3. Begin the clinics with fundamentals for officiating for all sports in the Church.
4. Make sure that officials thoroughly understand all of the rules for the activity they will officiate.
5. Use appropriate visual aids and instructional materials from sports associations, recreation departments, and libraries in your training program.
6. Hold clinics before the sports season begins and continue them during the season, emphasizing actual game situations and proper technique. School or community programs may also offer opportunity for quality training.
7. See that all officials learn how to encourage good sportsmanship.
8. Make sure that all officials are trained according to current officiating techniques and guidelines.

Role and Responsibility of an official:

The officials who are officiating any game are responsible for managing players and coaches according to the rules; and administering warranted penalties with respect and dignity. All Church sports activities should reflect consideration for others. The official's behavior should be exemplary, and his/her performance should demonstrate impartial, appropriate enforcement of the rules.

The official should be businesslike in performing his/her duties. The official should use the correct visual and verbal signals as found in the rules to inform the players, coaches and spectators of infractions called. However, the official should not be the center of attention nor dominate the flow of the game.

The official should interpret the rules consistently. Officials should watch teams warming up to note such things as illegal serves and pitches; or illegal equipment. Whenever possible,

officials should identify infractions before they occur. Only when the official actually sees a violation should it be called.

Because the main purpose of the game is to have fun, the official can contribute by being pleasant yet firm when executing calls. The official should *always* communicate with the players and coaches in a businesslike manner. He/She should be competent enough with the rules of the sport that the appropriate penalties can be imposed correctly and immediately.

An official in Church activities is more than a referee or umpire. He/She is quick to react to prevent inappropriate behavior. A Church official should ensure that the gospel is exemplified and fostered in sports. While the official alone cannot ensure proper behavior, he/she must manage the game and encourage behavior that is compatible with the principles of the gospel.

Rules

The rules for any sport can be obtained from the Area sports office or from the Area clinic held before each sports season. The various sports associations should also have rule books available for purchase. Area and Division Sports Directors will know which rules are being used and in most cases will have them for you at their clinics. Any changes or new rules will be covered by Area and Division leaders as well as any clarification of the rules the Church will use. Information on the rules is also available online at the Church sports web site. (www.utahareasports.org)

Equipment, facilities and safety

Review the equipment and safety requirements of each sport. Ensure that each prospective official has the protective gear/equipment, rule book and official's shirt they need to properly serve in their callings. A complete uniform as required by the official's manual in the sport being officiated is not necessary, but is recommended.

Clinics

Well-organized officials training clinics are imperative for a successful program. Encourage officials to attend Area clinics, Division Clinics and the Region clinics that you will arrange. Community classes are held in some of the school adult programs as well as training sponsored by the various sports associations. Council officials that the world of sports is ever changing and that on going training is required at all levels of sports officiating. In officiating the term "over qualified" does not exist.

It is not required that officials coordinators teach these clinics. Experienced instructors are available through the Division and Area. A specialist has been called in each sport that will provide the instructors for your clinics. It is your responsibility to plan, schedule and make the arrangements for such clinics to be held in your region, and make contacts as needed.

Schedules for the clinic could be one night a week for three or four weeks or two or three nights in a week, depending on how much training the prospective officials need. Begin your clinics before the sport season starts and continue clinics during the season, emphasizing actual game situations and proper techniques.

Information to be presented in the clinic should include the following:

1. The role and responsibility of an official
 - a. philosophy of sports in the Church
 - b. managing players/coaches
 - c. spectator behavior
 - d. sportsmanship
 - e. honor calls
 - f. professional attitude
 - g. consistency of rule interpretation
2. Equipment, facilities, and safety
 - a. attire
 - b. equipment
3. Officiating techniques
 - a. signals
 - b. official duties
 - c. managing the flow of the game
 - d. official position; mechanics and court or field coverage
 - e. definition of skills and terminology
 - f. rules governing play, equipment, etc.
 - g. scoring
 - h. timing
 - i. protests

Practical experience during actual activity situations will help the official gain confidence and learn to handle the game appropriately.