



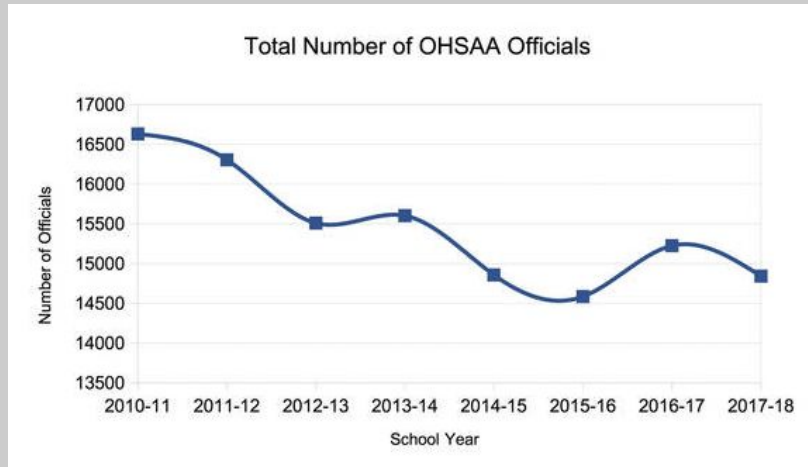
24 in 24

Officiating Initiative of OAC & Defense Soap

Identifying the Problem

Overall National & Ohio officiating decline

- ◆ Aging out
- ◆ Retention of young officials
- ◆ Increased forms of criticism (social media)



Declining number of officials

Connecticut was one of nine states whose registered officials declined over the past school year. Indiana's official data was not available. The number of registered officials has declined in 31 states since 2018-19.

State	2018-'19	2019-'20	2020-'21	2021-'22	Loss/ Gain '20-'22
Colorado	4,538	4,308	4,281	3,916	-365
Connecticut	4,106	4,854	4,793	4,085	-708
Georgia	8,901	8,712	8,050	7,907	-143
Illinois	16,021	17,623	15,429	15,159	-270
Ohio	20,608	20,439	19,158	18,748	-410
Oklahoma	4,593	4,176	4,367	4,338	-29
Pennsylvania	17,195	15,780	14,087	14,077	-10
Tennessee	6,029	6,018	5,678	5,490	-188

A Plan to Address the Problem

Recruitment

- High School/Collegiate Wrestlers
 - Still active in sport
 - Still have passion for sport
- Former Coaches
 - Still a part of the sport
 - Less of a time commitment
 - Grasp of rules, positioning, & anticipation of moves

Association Role

- Mentors
 - Provides buffer from coaches/fans
 - Provides confidence to call matches
 - Evaluate skills, development, suggestions



24 in 24 Goal

Train, certify and mentor more than 24 officials that are among our less experienced officials in the 2023-2024 season and **RETAIN** those new officials.

- Facilitate finding less experienced officials & interested mentors
 - Individuals will be directed to local associations, for certification & mentoring
 - OAC will provide an Officials Shirt, Flip Disc, & Wristbands
 - OAC will assist them in finding events to officiate & be mentored
 - Mentor and Mentee are paid at least \$30 per hour each
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How will this work?



EXAMPLE 1:

Veteran officials/mentors receive a contract for a dual meet with JV or Junior high matches

- Mentor contacts the AD to ask to add a young official in order to provide an opportunity for mentoring
- AD is provided with the contact email of the OAC representative to approve the reimbursement
- Work with the AD to offer the young official a contract



How will this work?



EXAMPLE 2:

- Young official receives a contract
- Contacts his mentor or association leaders, who will contact the AD to be added to the event
- Mentor does not actively officiate
 - Critiques, Evaluates, & Develops skills
 - Provide confidence
 - Works with coaches to support younger official
- AD contacts the OAC for approval & reimbursement of the expense to contract the Mentor.



Example Email

Good Morning,

Thanks for offering me a contract to officiate. I would be happy to accept.

I do, however, have one item to discuss. Would Shelby add a young official to the contract so that we can get our younger officials mentored by veteran officials? This would help expand the training opportunities of our young officials.

I have cc'ed the leaders of the Ohio Athletic Committee, who have initiated a program to help us expand our recruitment and retention of young officials with the purpose of gaining opportunities for training and mentoring so that our numbers do not continue to dwindle. The OAC is offering to reimburse the cost of the young official provided training opportunities are provided with mentors.

If this is something you would be open to, and Mr. Opfer and Mr. Baxter approve the expense, Shelby will have provided a young official an opportunity to learn under two veteran officials and helped to preserve opportunities for athletes to compete for years to come.

Thank you for your time.

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More Information

