

THE STATE OF SPORTS OFFICIATING 2020

From a survey of 19,000 sports officials nationwide from 15 states:

A CRISIS IS BREWING

Older officials are not being replaced quickly enough by younger officials

45%

of officials report they have less than 6 years remaining in their career

50%

of officials are 55 years or older

12%

of officials are under 34 years old

FOR THE LOVE, SHOW ME RESPECT



70% rank LOVE OF SPORTS as the #1 reason for officiating

— BUT —



55% rank **verbal abuse** from fans, coaches and parents as the **#1 reason** why officials quit

— AND —



59% don't feel respected by parents and fans



42% feel that institutions do not address poor fan behavior during games

66%

believe their area does have enough officials to work contests

63%

believe officials at their level need more training

Sports with Most Perceived Shortage of Officials:

Soccer 77%

Field Hockey 75%

Lacrosse 73%

Baseball 73%

Sports with Most Perceived Need for Training:

Water Polo 72%

Field Hockey 71%

Lacrosse 70%

WHY PEOPLE OFFICIATE

OFFICIALS RANKED THESE IN THEIR TOP 2 REASONS:



Love of sports

70%



Stay in shape

26%



Make money

25%



Give back to community

22%



To be part of officiating community

17%



Mentor others

13%



Socialization

11%



To be in charge

8%

WHY OFFICIALS LEAVE

OFFICIALS RANKED THESE IN THEIR TOP 2 REASONS:



Verbal abuse from parents/fans

60%



Verbal abuse from coaches

50%



Pay

22%



Bad contest assignments

15%



Poor treatment by institutions

11%



Travel too far

15%



Uniforms/supplies too expensive

14%



Lack of mentorship

7%



Not enough training

6%



Required camps

5%

SHOW ME THE MONEY

\$

66%

Believe officials are not fairly compensated

96%

of that group believe there should be at least a 10% pay increase

63%

See non-cash compensation methods as useful (cheaper uniforms, camps, training, memberships)

39%

ranked **MORE PAY** as #1 thing that can be done to improve recruitment and retention of referees

UNCLEAR ASSIGNMENT

Assigners play a significant role in the officiating experience



38%

Don't find the assignment process to be clear



58%

of officials not working the contests they want find the process unclear

24%

believe the #1 factor determining assignment of games is whether the assignor likes or dislikes them

33%

believe they will not get a good game assignment unless they attend specific camps; and 33% believe those camps are not worth the money

36%

do not have a person to which they can voice concerns

31%

do not find the assignment process to be fair

29%

feel assignors don't care about their development and success as an official

GAMEDAY

LEAST KNOWLEDGEABLE FANS BY SPORT



MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE FANS BY SPORT



83%

Felt they travel a reasonable amount of distance or time to their games, but officials in Field hockey, Water Polo, Lacrosse, Gymnastics had to travel more inconvenient distances

80%

Believe fans do not know the rules to the sport

65%

Believe more rules education for fans would help REDUCE verbal abuse of officials

55%

Say codes of conduct can work to promote good fan behavior

50%

Believe venue signage promoting positive treatment of officials can help reduce abuse

TOP 2 AMENITIES REQUESTED ON SITE BY OFFICIALS:



Security



Private room to change



IUPUI

SPORTS INNOVATION INSTITUTE
School of Health & Human Sciences