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Zach Harig - Fox 17

March 1 at 7:56 PM ·

The average age of an official is over 53 years old & that's mainly because of parent behavior towards officials. TJ Restau & Brad Brunet of the West Michigan Officials Association help address the issue in tonight's FOX 17 sports sizzle.

Full Story: <https://www.fox17online.com/.../parent-behavior-causes-refere...>



-2:57

79

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**Cameron Rodgers** Thank you Zach, for bringing light to the situation. Officials need more support like you.

2d · Edited

4

2 Replies



**Jeff Risdon** I'm going back into officiating once my kids are done playing. At which point I'll be 55, d'oh. One of the reasons I stopped earlier in life was getting assigned to bad crews and working with guys who had no recourse for terrible performance, that would stop me from doing it again too. Was more a problem in football than basketball.

1d

7

1 Reply



**Greg Austin** This framing is disastrous. If I am considering joining your group, what does this piece tell me?

Here is the takeaway for any rational individual: This job sucks, we can't seem to get any new recruits, and the ones we get all quit.

1d · Edited

2

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**Zach Harig - Fox 17** Greg Austin we're addressing the positives about officiating at a future date. This was simply about parent behavior at games right now. The topic had to be

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**Troy D. Tanner** Thank you. The same thing is happening in football.

2d 1
- 

**Roger Weigel** Unfortunately, what this shortage has done has caused officiating to be framed in a negative way instead of concentrating on the positives about the job like:  
Professionalism, friendships, teamwork, challenges, physical fitness, satisfaction, constantly striving to improve, camaraderie, integrity, etc.... See More

15m
- 

**Derrick Owens** We just had these guys last game! Solid guys and good officials

22h 1
- 

**Art Kssak** It was great in Illinois average age is now 60

2d 1
- 

**Chris Smith** This has been going on for years. I concur with the guy's in the video about starting with holding parents accountable for their actions with disciplinary action by the schools administration. On the officials side we need a recruiting blitz along with mentorship

16h
- 

**Joey Williamson** I think districts need to come up with an Athletic Handbook on what the expectations are of students and parents. In that handbook there should be a section that parents have to read and sign so they understand what's appropriate and what's not. If they don't sign, the student doesn't play. If they violate what's in the handbook, they are banned permanently from attending.

22h 2
- 

**James Jones** There is good and bad in everything and the bad ones make it bad for the good ones. Some are there for the check, I've even seen the discrimination and politics, just go out there and be fair and do the best job you can and remember you can't please everyone. At the end of the day its about the athletes on the floor call it right and leave it on the floor and you won't have to run to the door if you know what I mean!

1d 2
- 

**Derrick Braxton** Umpires/officials have to be able to learn how to ignore verbal insults and not take words personal. And yes I've umpired for years before anyone asks.  
  
And also, parents have to get over themselves and settle the F\*ck down. Leagues should start having security at all game sites to prevent the physical incidents. But you can't try and police words, gotta be able to tune that stuff out

2d · Edited 1

1 Reply
- 

**Justin Cassley** There is huge issue across the country. I have no issue with football or baseball officials here in Ohio. We have a lot of good officiating in those sports. Then comes basketball season: The officials for high school basketball are another thing. ... See More

19h 1
- 

**David Drake** It's circular: many officials are terrible, many parents



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don't know how to handle it. So why would they get into a profession that has constant criticism.

1d



**Sandy Budd** The officials call it like they see it Mr Baldwin, if you can do better become an official. You do the job.

2d



**Jon Ainsworth** So who keeps the officials in check? If the Mhsaa paid more you would have better officials.

1d · Edited

1

7 Replies



**Brian Okoniewski** Parents, coaches and players aren't the only reasons officials leave or quit. It's having to deal with assigners. Some not all play favorites. Don't give you relevant games or games that are closer to home.

1d

6



**Kyle Gilstad** Zach Harig-How much of the changing of girls basketball season has made this issue worse? 10 years ago when girls hoops was in the fall you ref maybe 2 or 3 nights a week in the fall, then in the winter you'd ref 2 or 3 nights doing boys hoops. Now with the seasons at the same time an official can work up to 5 or 6 times a week and just get flat out burned out

1d



**Roger Weigel** Here's a thought. If a parent is removed from a game, the parent and his/her child is removed and both also miss the next game.

1d · Edited

2 Replies



**Joe Corkran** Pay officials more.

1d

1 Reply



**George R. France II** PLEASE SHARE THIS WITH YOUR FELLOW ASSOCIATIONS, COMMISSIONERS, & BOARD MEMBERS !!!!!

23h



**Jason Linemann** This is a huge issue here in Georgia as well.

1d



**Bill Glidden** Stop allowing parents at games

18h

2 Replies



**Terry Lee Middleton** Well said...

14h

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