

KenBarrick_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Barrick, Ken

Position: FAV

FW: Senate Bill 1034

Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Tue 2/25/2020 9:52 AM

To: Moton-Jackson, Clate <CMoton-Jackson00@student.coppin.edu>

Favorable

-----Original Message-----

From: toodive4@comcast.net [mailto:toodive4@comcast.net]

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 7:20 AM

To: Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Cc: Mike <sfclubmike@comcast.net>

Subject: Senate Bill 1034

Dear Representatives,

I send this email in support of Senate Bill 1034.

The rise in violence against sports officials nationwide is alarming. The behavior points to a much deeper problem in our society which is not being addressed. While I myself continue to officiate, many are not. Many are leaving the profession and many who would have become the next generation of officials are staying away.

I'm a realist. While I don't believe this bill will do anything to stop assaults on officials, it may at least increase punishment of those in our society who are unable to control themselves.

Respectfully,

Ken Barrick
Mason Dixon Umpire Association
Baltimores Best Umpire Association

Sent from my iPad - **Ken Barrick**

TCCAMERON_fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Cameron, T.C.

Position: FAV

I am a survivor of sports official assault.

On April 24, 2006, I was cornered between the field and my dressing room by 35 college baseball players, most screaming wildly — some carrying metal bats — and a parent who had run 300 feet from his seat to obstruct me from reaching the front door and safety of my dressing room.

My crime was a serious one: I had correctly called a rundown play that had allowed the winning run to score, therefore clinching a small college conference championship. Of course, none of that mattered in the moment. It wasn't until four days later when someone thought to access a security camera video feed from an adjacent building to confirm my call: the runner had clearly touched third base on his way home.

I literally had to fight my way off the field. I feared for my life. Police officers didn't charge me with assault, but gave the parent who cornered me and placed his hands on me an escort to the county line.

I tell this terrifying tale to tell you this: I'm more concerned about assault today than I ever was in 2006, at Bethel College in Mishawaka, Indiana.

Today, there's at least one parent or coach at every football or basketball game I officiate who goes from unfiltered to unglued as fast as a Corvette goes from 0 to 60, while modeling behavior that was considered obscene 15 years ago. Today, it's commonplace.

I'm here today because our society has turned a blind eye to these transgressions for too long. We make no attempt to speak to our fellow parents and fans. We shake our heads, turn the other cheek, get in our car and go on our way.

There's a price to pay for doing nothing, and Maryland, as one of 24 states with no legal protections in place for sports officials, can no longer afford to do nothing.

I'm advocating for the passage of State Bill 1034 because officials are voting against officiating youth and high school sports with their feet. It won't be officials who walk away who will pay the price of doing nothing — it'll be the children, the high school athletes and the communities where you bought your home, and send your children to schools.

This is the truest cost of doing nothing. Fewer officials means fewer opportunities, fewer games or no games at all. In Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Queen Anne's counties last season, high school football games were played with fewer referees than contracted for. A handful of games had to be rescheduled on the basis of next-day availability of officials.

In Washington, D.C., IAABO Board 12 doesn't tell schools when to schedule basketball games, but they close out dates when they run out of referees. By not being able to staff all games, some schools choose to play on other nights. Some don't play at all.

The National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) offer these sobering snapshots from a 2017 poll:

- In 1990 the average age of a rookie official was between 20 and 25 years old
- Today the average age of a rookie high school official is 43
- The average age of an official is 53.

Most of our local officiating associations are operating at a 3-to-1 deficit. For every new official we recruit and train to proficiency as a varsity-level official in a three-year window, we lose three experienced college or varsity-level officials. Just Us Sports Officiating in Washington, D.C. reports a 1-of-7 retention rate among new officials from Year One to Year Two, and that's without considering the departure of experienced officials. Most of these negative metrics are tied directly to a significant uptick in unsportsmanlike behaviors at youth and high school contests.

We've also placed ridiculous expectations upon youth and high school officials. As an example, most coaches, parents and fans see two kinds of baseball umpires: the highly-

trained, highly-skilled Major League official making between \$250,000 and \$300,000 a year, and a teenager or adult earning between \$25-75 a game is working a youth or high school baseball or softball game.

It would be absurd to expect that official to be as proficient as an MLB umpire. Yet at game after game I attended when my sons played, I heard insults and threats every day, and then heard this behavior justified with phrases like, *“It’s part of the game!”* and *“You have to be thick-skinned!”*

If your employer took \$5 from a few hundred strangers who hurled insults at you and threatened your safety, would you look for a new job? This is the cost of doing nothing. It's no longer enough to say, "Enough!" We have to do something to address the unsportsmanlike behavior driving officials out of youth and high school-level sports.

In urging passage of SB 1034, it is not my hope ensnarl a few in the clutches of the state’s criminal justice system. Instead, it’s my hope that passage of this bill will deliver three key messages:

- The State of Maryland recognizes and supports the contributions of the thousands of local youth and high school sports official who facilitate youth and high school sports

- The Maryland sports official is protected from thoughtless and unnecessary threats of violence
- The behaviors that are commonplace at too many youth and high school events are not acceptable and will no longer go unchecked.

Sports play an important role in our children's upbringing and the identity of our communities. We can no longer take the availability of sports officials for granted. SB 1034 supports the hopeful child watching his brother or her sister play today. It offers protection to officials to ensure the opportunities

Please pass SB 1034. It's a good call for us all.

— T.C. Cameron has lived in the Annapolis area since 2009 and is a former sports reporter at the Capital-Gazette newspaper. A former college and current high school official, Cameron officiated Washington, DC's state championship games in basketball and football in 2019. He's a member of IAABO Board 12 and Just Us Sports Officiating.

TimothyChristian_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Christian, Timothy

Position: FAV

FW: SB - 1034, Mr. Clate Jackson

SB 1034 - Favorable

Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Tue 3/10/2020 11:37 AM

To: Moton-Jackson, Clate <CMoton-Jackson00@student.coppin.edu>

From: Timothy Christian [mailto:christiantj@verizon.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 11:35 AM

To: Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Subject: SB - 1034, Mr. Clate Jackson

Senator Patterson -

As an umpire working for three associations in Maryland, I am writing to express my support of Senate Bill 1034. Although I have not personally dealt with physical threats from coaches or spectators, many of my colleagues have fallen victim to assault. I believe this bill is essential legislation that could help to further ensure the safety and well-being of my fellow sports officials. Thank you for your sponsorship of this important legislation; I will look forward to the passage of SB - 1034.

Sincerely,

Timothy D. Christian
Towson, MD

RobertDickson_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Dickson, Robert

Position: FAV

FW: Senate bill 1034

Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Wed 2/26/2020 4:51 PM

To: Moton-Jackson, Clate <CMoton-Jackson00@student.coppin.edu>

Favorable

From: bobbyd251@aol.com [mailto:bobbyd251@aol.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 3:20 PM

To: Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Subject: Senate bill 1034

I'm sending my support for the senate bill 1034 protecting sports officials.

Robert N. Dickson

AveekGangopadhyay_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Gangopadhyay, Aveek

Position: FAV

⏪ Reply all ▾ 🗑 Delete 🚫 Junk Block ...

FW: SB 1034

Favorable

ⓘ Flag for follow up.

PS

Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.s
tate.md.us>

Wed 3/11/2020 10:25 AM
Moton-Jackson, Clate ✓

👍 ↶ ⏪ → ...

From: aveek ganguly [mailto:aveek321@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2020 9:34 PM

To: Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>; Klausmeier, Katherine Senator <Katherine.Klausmeier@senate.state.md.us>

Subject: SB 1034

Hello

Hope you are doing fine.

I am a sport official in MD and officiate Cricket games in MD, VA, and DC area mostly and occasionally travel in other states too.

I support SB-1034 bill - Criminal Law- Felony Second Degree Assault- Sports Official.

If required/needed I am willing to come on Hearing day 3/12 and provide my testimony in support of the bill. I have incidents to share from some matches in MD. If my presence / testimony can be of any help to this bill please let me know the detail of where can I come for the same.

Thanks

-

Aveek Gangopadhyay
Rockville, MD

AveekGanguly2_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Gangopadhyay, Aveek

Position: FAV

Bill Number # SB-1034
In Favor of the Bill

Testimony

I am a cricket official, registered under USA Cricket Umpire Association and USA Cricket and member of National Association of Sports Officials. I have been umpiring since 2011 and most of time I umpire in DC, MD, VA region.

Sports officials are there to officiate sports, as per respective laws and rules of the sports, to maintain safety and fairness of the participating players in utmost honesty and unbiased way. However, sometime sports officials do face physical assaults, threats, intimidating and racial slur.

I will share a personnel incident that I faced while umpiring a final game in Washington Cricket League, in Hyattsville, MD. Said incident occurred on September 23, 2017. During the match, one of the team, not being happy with one of the decisions charged towards me and pushed me physically and used abusive and racial slurs. Sadly, the offending team has a history of such behavior. In the absence of any strong law in Maryland, players/teams keep repeating their rowdy and aggressive behavior knowing they would get away easily without facing any charges. These Leagues and associations at most can suspended/ban and/or give some financial fines to the offending players and teams. But due to lack of law, people doing physical assaults get away without facing any charges which otherwise is a criminal offense. This give them encouragement to repeat their horrible behavior.

These types of incidents represent bad image of ay sports, make it unsafe, and discourage others to take up sports or officiating roles, special for amateur players, kids and parents of kids. I am very sure this bill will bring a layer of safety for sports officials, participating players, supporting staff and spectators. I would like to tell that I support this bill fully.

Thank you for the consideration and introducing this bill, SB-1034.

Thank you
Aveek Gangopadhyay
Rockville, MD

JoeGebhart_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Gebhart, Joe

Position: FAV

FW: (SB-1034)

Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Fri 2/28/2020 1:29 PM

To: Moton-Jackson, Clate <CMoton-Jackson00@student.coppin.edu>

Favorable

From: joegebhart@aol.com [mailto:joegebhart@aol.com]

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 12:35 PM

To: Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Subject: (SB-1034)

As a 30 year member of the Bayside High School Football Officials, and 15 years as a College Referee I have run into a number of times with parents, fans and players have followed me to my car, threatened me and my crew and nothing seems to be done. There is a major shortage in this state for officials and some protection for them might help people consider becoming one.

One particular problem occurred at a Salvation Army Boys Club 10-12 year old players, where a high school state final playoff crew volunteered their time to work a game and was chased to their cars by parents. That crew was one of the highest rated crews in the state playoffs.

Working a Semi-Pro game I ejected a player for fighting and he told me he would meet me in the parking lot.

There needs to be some sort of law to have people think twice before going after officials. Delaware has laws protecting officials and Maryland should also.

Joe Gebhart
Salisbury
410-251-0959

-----Original Message-----

From: joegebhart <joegebhart@aol.com>

To: Bob.Cannon <Bob.Cannon@perdue.com>

Sent: Fri, Feb 28, 2020 11:57 am

FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 26, 2020

Maryland does not have strong laws in place supporting sports officials who are victims of menacing harassment or assault. To correct this, Maryland State Senators Klausmeier and Patterson will be introducing Bill #1034 for a hearing in the first week of March.

Clate Jackson, Senator Patterson's Legislative Aide and basketball referee with IAABO for the last 18 years, is the architect of the new bill. He explained the details the new legislation as follows:

DETAILS OF BILL #1034

The offense of assault against a sports official will remain a misdemeanor under second degree assault (CL 3-203) but will carry a 10 YEAR penalty, 2,500 fine. It also allows officers to arrest the person EVEN if it occurs outside of his or her presence, a distinction the general public does not enjoy. This arrest issue was

BobHefferon_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Hefferon, Bob

Position: FAV

FW: (SB-1034) and to Mr. Jackson (CLATE)

Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Thu 2/27/2020 10:11 AM

To: Moton-Jackson, Clate <CMoton-Jackson00@student.coppin.edu>

Favorable

From: Bob Hefferon [mailto:bobhefferon@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 9:37 AM

To: Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Subject: (SB-1034) and to Mr. Jackson (CLATE)

Please protect officials for the ever growing anger that is out there directed towards us !!!!

Bob Hefferon
MBFO (NFHS)
410-599-3738

25 APPENDIX F_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Jackson, C

Position: FAV

SB1034

Favorable Appendix F

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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

55 Comments 261 Shares

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Most Relevant



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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Author

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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- 

Tracy 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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Yesterday at 8:50 PM

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1

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Yesterday at 8:50 PM

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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

Most Relevant is selected, so some comments may have been filtered out.

See more of Zach Harig - Fox 17 on Facebook

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DwayneMarcus_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Marcus, Dwayne

Position: FAV

Favorable

JUST US SPORTS OFFICIALS (JUSO) SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF MARYLAND STATE BILL 1034

My name is Dwayne Marcus, Sr., and I am co-owner of Just Us Sports Officials, LLC (JUSO).

My officiating board is approved by the DC State Athletic Association (DCSAA) and I am a voting member on the National Federation of High School Associations' (NFHS) Football Rule Committee.

I'm a member of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Football Officials Association (MEACFOA) and an active high school official, too. While serving in all of these roles, I have been the victim of a myriad of forms of disrespect, threats of bodily harm, been physically accosted at the conclusion of a sporting contest, and have had to work with other officials in providing crisis and ongoing mental health supports for having been the victim(s) of similar forms of abuse.

Speaking for myself and JUSO, as well as my peers in officiating and assigning within Maryland, I wholeheartedly support the passage of State Bill 1034.

One of the primary reasons I got involved in sports officiating was to remain an active participant in the games I loved so much while being raised in a single-parent household in Washington, D.C. The ability to foster and develop new relationships with fellow officials, coaches and players while earning some extra part-time income was great, too.

However, I am taken aback by the increased ire of anger, frustration, and verbal abuse that I and my fellow officials have been experiencing over the last half-dozen years from parents, fans,

coaches and players. Having ascended to the role of assignor and rules interpreter, I hear and see this abuse, and the heightened level of fear and safety concerns that come with it, as the primary reason more people do not get involved in sports officiating.

Sadly, data pertaining to recruitment and retention confirms what I hear and see. Since our company's inception in 2012, JUSO has experienced a significant decline in the number of officials who express interest, register or re-register to become sports officials. Our retention rates are even more concerning: just one in every seven officials we recruit and assign in Year One return to take assignments in Year Two.

That's a 14 percent retention rate — few businesses endure a 14-percent retention rate within their core talent field and survive. This number is stunting our organization's growth and significantly impacting our ability to gain new contracts and retaining existing agreements in the DMV area. Coupled with a higher-than-usual number/percentage of officials leaving the avocation of sports officiating altogether, and a national shortage of sports officials, the state of Maryland and the region known as the DMV, stretching from Baltimore to DC and into northern Virginia, is beginning to suffer situations where games are staffed by fewer officials than contracted for and, in worst-case scenarios, postponements and cancellations.

That this legislation be approved by Maryland's esteemed legislators and signed into law by the Honorable Gov. Larry Hogan is not simply desired, but vital, to our industry's survival. Speaking as a leader within the officiating industry, there are currently no penalties in place for individuals who physically assault a sports official in the state of Maryland. As someone who lives in and

operates an officiating business in our great state, I want to see Maryland be proactive instead of reactive when it comes to protecting sports officials.

According to the National Association of Sports Officials, the average age of a new sports official was between 20 and 25 years old in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Today, that number is between 40 and 43 years old, and the average age of a sports official is 52.

The future of the avocation is highly dependent upon our ability to replace and replenish the number of officials who leave the avocation due to retirement, lack of family and career supports (unable to take off from work and/or access childcare), and, most notably, fear of safety for one's well-being.

I am gravely concerned that we in the industry of sports officiating will not be able to sustain and withstand the inability to recruit, train and develop an appropriate amount of quality sports officials to replace the number of officials who are leaving the avocation in a timely and sufficient manner to remain in business.

In advocating for the passage of State Bill 1034, I'm advocating not only for a deterrent for some of the rather disturbing behavior I and my colleagues in the sports officiating industry have experienced, but some assurance to the new officials we recruit that the state of Maryland recognizes the role sports officials play in providing opportunities for youth to play sports in their communities and in their high schools, as well as adults in recreational leagues, too.

Many of our communities in Maryland thrive in part because of the outstanding recreational and competitive sports programming available through neighborhood and school-based leagues. That vitality starts to slip away when we don't have enough officials on-hand to meet the escalating

demands in the youth, scholastic, and even adult sports recreation leagues in the state of Maryland.

I am available to testify at any hearing in support of State Bill 1034. My contact information is below in my signature, and I look forward to speaking with and working with you in the near future.

V/r,

Dwayne Marcus, Sr.

Co-Owner, JustUs Sports Officials, L.L.C.

DCSAA NFHS Football Rules Interpreter

Voting Member of the NFHS Football Rules Committee

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Football Official

2473 Athens Place

Waldorf, MD 20603

202-903-6798

www.justusofficials.net

DonMettee_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Mettee, Don

Position: FAV

FW: SB-1034 Clate

Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Mon 3/2/2020 12:35 PM

To: Moton-Jackson, Clate <CMoton-Jackson00@student.coppin.edu>

From: Don Mettee [mailto:dmettee@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 11:50 AM

To: Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Subject: SB-1034 Clate

Status: In Favor of Bill 1034

Senator Patterson; I am in full support of your SB-1034. I speak from over 40 years of experience as a sports official in Maryland of Youth, High School, Collegiate and Post Collegiate sports. I currently officiate Boys Football, Boy's Lacrosse and Track and Field in Maryland. I am a current member of Maryland High School Officiating Groups for each sport mentioned.

While the participants usually remain under control and respectful; the spectators and sometimes the coaching staff becomes confrontational. There will always be disagreements between officials and coaches and is an expected part of the officiating job. These disagreements usually start in the "heat of the game" and are over with the next start of play (whistle). Over the years, I have watched the confrontations become much more aggressive and continue during the duration and after the game has concluded. The confrontations are of particular concern with spectators harassing officials in parking areas at the conclusion of the contest.

Security for officials at most (non-collegiate) field locations is minimal or non-existent. We, as officials, need this bill as a level of deterrent and consequence for actions.

The bill 1034 will also help in relieving one of the "stressors" of newer officials who are more easily intimidated by the game personnel and crowd. By relieving one of the stressors, there would be an uptick in the retention of newer officials; which is badly needed in all sub collegiate sports.

Thank You for your sponsorship of SB 1034. I can be reached by reply to this email for any additional clarification desired.

Respectfully

Don Mettee
Official

AndreNoel_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Noel, Andre

Position: FAV

FW: SB-1034 (Clate) — Favorable

Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Mon 3/9/2020 11:48 AM

To: Moton-Jackson, Clate <CMoton-Jackson00@student.coppin.edu>

From: Andre Noel [mailto:andrenoel123@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2020 10:09 PM

To: Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>; Andre Noel <andrenoel123@gmail.com>

Subject: SB-1034 (Clate)

Greetings,

My name is Andre Noel, i have been officiating youth sports for 16 years and in that time, I have seen increase in verbal and physical assaults on game officials. The intense behavior by these fans at youth sporting events are making youth sporting events very dangerous. In June , 2019, I was working games in Snow Hill, Md, during the change of innings, a parent walked up to the back of the backstop and said to me " hey blue you ain't nothing, but a nigger bitch". He was upset at a reverse call the previous half inning. After that exchange with the parent, I could see the atmosphere has getting very volatile and decide to call the game. Once, I did that and start to leave the field, the parent and his son, who was a player from the offending started to follow me to my car with his aluminum bat in tow. I had to say locked in my car and on the phone with the dispatcher until patrol officers arrived. I was really scared, the man was out of control, then his son starting waving his bat.

I urge each senator to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Andre Noel

Baltimore Metro Umpires

David_Ostermeyer_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Ostermeyer, David

Position: FAV

FW: Bill # SB1034

Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Thu 2/27/2020 10:11 AM

To: Moton-Jackson, Clate <CMoton-Jackson00@student.coppin.edu>

Favorable

From: David Ostermeyer [mailto:hudemeyer1@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 9:04 AM

To: Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Subject: Bill # SB1034

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of subject bill. As an umpire in Maryland, I believe this bill will deter those who persist in their aggressive attitudes towards sports officials AND, where appropriate will hold them accountable for their actions.

Please pass my interest to your Senate colleagues. Fell free to contact me if I can be of any support.

Thank you.

David D. Ostermeyer
(Montgomery County, MD)
301-236-0812

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Position: FAV

State Legislation Aimed at Protecting Sports Officials from Assaults

The following states have legislation specifically defining assaults on sports officials as crimes or other legislation that could protect sports officials. Click on a state to see its legislation.

ALABAMA

Section 1. For purposes of this act, a “sports official”, is a person at a sports event who enforces the rules of the event, such as an umpire or referee, or a person who supervises the participants, such as a coach. A “sports event” includes any interscholastic or intramural athletic activity in a primary, middle, junior high, or high school, college, or university, any organized athletic activity sponsored by a community, business, or nonprofit organization, any athletic activity that is a professional or semiprofessional event, and any other organized athletic activity in the state.

Section 2. (a) A person commits the crime of harassment of a sports official if he or she commits the crime of harassment as provided for by Section 13A-11-8, Code of Alabama 1975, and the victim is a sports official performing official duties and the harassment is a result of the official performing his or her official duties. Harassment of a sports official is a Class B misdemeanor. (b) A person commits the crime of menacing a sports official if he or she commits the crime of menacing as provided for by Section 13A-6-23, Code of Alabama 1975, and the victim is a sports official performing official duties and the menacing is a result of the official performing his or her official duties. Menacing a sports official is a Class A misdemeanor. (c) A person commits the crime of assault of a sports official in the third degree if he or she commits the crime of assault in the third degree as provided for by Section 13A-6-22, Code of Alabama 1975, and the victim is a sports official performing official duties and the assault is a result of the official performing his or her official duties. Assault of a sports official in the third degree is a Class C felony. (d) A person commits the crime of assault of a sports official in the second degree if he or she commits the crime of assault in the second degree as provided for by Section 13A-6-21, Code of Alabama 1975, and the victim is a sports official performing official duties and the assault is a result of the official performing his or her official duties. Assault of a sports official in the second degree is a Class B felony. (e) A person commits the crime of assault of a sports official in the first degree if he or she commits the crime of assault in the first degree as provided for by Section 13A-6-20, Code of Alabama 1975, and the victim is a sports official performing official duties and the assault is a result of the official performing his or her official duties. Assault of a sports official in the first degree is a Class A felony.

Section 3. Although this bill would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds, the bill is excluded from further requirements and application under Amendment 621 because the bill defines a new crime or amends the definition of an existing crime.

Section 4. This act shall become effective on the first day of the third month following upon its passage and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Cod. Ann. Section 5-13-209 provides: Any person, with the purpose of causing physical injury to another person, who shall strike or otherwise physically abuse an athletic contest official immediately prior to, during, or immediately following an interscholastic, intercollegiate, or any other organized amateur or professional athletic contest in which the athletic contest official is participating shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

CALIFORNIA

California Penal Code Section 243.8 provides: (a) When a battery is committed against a sports official immediately prior to, during, or immediately following an interscholastic, intercollegiate, or any other organized amateur or professional athletic contest in which the sports official is participating, and the person who commits the offense knows or reasonably should know that the victim is engaged in the performance of his or her duties, the offense shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000), or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment. (b) For the purposes of this section, "sports official" means any individual who serves as a referee, umpire, linesman, or who serves in similar capacity but may be known by a different title or name and is duly registered by, or a member of a local, state, regional or national organization engaged in part in providing education and training to sports officials. (Adopted October 5, 1991)

DELAWARE

Section 1. Amend § 614, Title 11 of the Delaware Code, by striking the existing language and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

“§ 614. Abuse of a Sports Official; Class G Felony; Class A Misdemeanor.

(a) A person is guilty of Abuse of a Sports Official whenever the person intentionally or recklessly commits the following acts against a sports official who is acting in the lawful performance of duty:

Reckless Endangering in the Second Degree, as set forth in § 603 of this Chapter; or

Assault in the Third Degree, as set forth in § 611 of this Chapter; or

Terroristic Threatening, as set forth in § 621 of this Chapter; or

Criminal Mischief, as set forth in § 811 of this Chapter.

(b) For purposes of this Section, the words ‘sports official’ shall mean any person who serves as a registered, paid or volunteer referee, umpire, line judge or acts in any similar capacity during a sporting event. For purposes of this Section, the words, ‘lawful performance of duty’ means the time immediately prior to, during and/or immediately after the sporting event.(c) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this Section shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction for a second or subsequent offense under this Section, such person shall be guilty of a Class G felony. Notwithstanding Chapter 42 of this Title, such person shall be fined not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$2,350. In addition to the fines imposed by this subsection, any person who is guilty of Abuse of a Sports Official shall be prohibited from participating in and/or attending any organized sporting event for a period of not less than three (3) months nor more than twelve (12) months.(d) Except as provided in § 922 of Title 10, and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Court of Common Pleas shall have original jurisdiction to hear, try and finally determine any violation of this Section, and any other misdemeanor violation of any offense set forth in this Title which was allegedly committed during the same incident. Prosecution under this Section shall not preclude a separate charge, conviction and sentence for any other crime set forth in the Code.”

FLORIDA

Section 1. Section 784.081 Florida Statutes is amended to read: Assault or battery on specified officials or employees; reclassification of offenses.

(1) For purposes of this section, the term “sports official” means any person who serves as a referee, an umpire, or a linesman, and any person who serves in a similar capacity as a sports official who may be known by another title , which sports official is duly registered by or is a

member of a local, state, regional, or national organization that is engaged in part in providing education and training to sports officials.

(2) Whenever a person is charged with committing an assault or aggravated assault or a battery or aggravated battery upon a sports official when the person committing the offense knows or has reason to know the identity or position or employment of the victim, the offense for which the person is charged shall be reclassified as follows:

- a) In the case of aggravated battery, from a felony of the second degree to a felony of the first degree.
- b) In the case of aggravated assault, from felony of the third degree to a felony of the second degree.
- c) In the case of battery, from the misdemeanor of the first degree to a felony of the third degree.
- d) In the case of assault, from a misdemeanor of the second degree to a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(3) An assault, aggravated assault, battery or aggravated battery upon a sports official shall be reclassified pursuant to subsection (2) only if such offense is committed upon the sports official when he or she is actively participating as a sports official in an athletic contest or immediately following such a contest. Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2004.

GEORGIA

Statute 16-5-23 provides:

(a) A person commits the offense of simple battery when he or she either:

(1) Intentionally makes physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another; or

(2) Intentionally causes physical harm to another.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (c) through (g) (h) of this Code section, a person convicted of the offense of simple battery shall be punished as for a misdemeanor. (h) Any person who commits the offense of simple battery against a sports official while such sports official is officiating an amateur contest or while such sports official is on or exiting the property

where he or she will officiate or has completed officiating an amateur contest shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished for a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. For the purposes of this Code section, the term 'sports official' means any person who officiates, umpires, or referees an amateur contest at the collegiate, elementary or secondary school, or recreational level.

IDAHO

The Idaho legislature adopted Concurrent Resolution No. 32 in March 2001. The resolution read:
Be it resolved by the legislature of the state of Idaho:

WHEREAS, sports participation has become part of American life ingrained into the consciousness of society;

WHEREAS, sporting events have components essential to their survival including the players, coaches and fans. In addition, and in some sense most importantly, there must be officials to enforce the rules of the game and judge potential disputes between participants on the field;

WHEREAS, many officials volunteer their time or receive only minimal compensation. Many officials participate out of a sheer love of the game and to teach children who play the game the valuable lessons that can be learned through participating in sports. Those lessons include that of sportsmanship, working as a team and working within the rules of the game to achieve a common goal;

WHEREAS, sports officials act as on-field judges for their respective sports and as neutral participants who have no stake in the outcome of the game. Officials should be afforded protection from assaults and other negative reactions by participants, coaches and fans;

WHEREAS, increasingly, sports officials are subjected to verbal and even physical assault by disgruntled fans as well as certain coaches and players. That trend follows a growing trend in recent years that, at its foundation shows a lack of respect for authority figures,

WHEREAS, children are exposed to media displays of professional sports heroes and are compelled to emulate their heroes. Unfortunately, children may also try to emulate them when they act in a negative fashion. If professional athletes are not reprimanded for assaultive behavior against sports officials, that gives the impression that verbally and physically assaulting officials is socially acceptable;

WHEREAS, it is not enough that each state must wait for one of its sports officials to be seriously attacked or beaten before its government takes action to stop this practice. Players, coaches and fans should be deterred from assaulting officials by local authorities handing out more severe penalties. That would ensure that the fans, especially young children, realize that it is not acceptable to attack an official;

WHEREAS, the sports officials that give their time and energy to officiate games deserve our collective respect and must have complete confidence that they will be able to carry out their responsibilities in a safe environment. As a society, we must act on the belief that respect for authority, whether you agree with it or not, is critical to living, working and playing together. Sports needs to be a beacon, highlighting positive accomplishments and the need for sportsmanship and fair play. Although education continues to be important, recent trends point out the need for strong sanctions against those who engage in bad behavior at sporting events.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Fifty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, calling on all school districts, little league programs, high school, college and recreational programs, along with law enforcement and prosecutors, to do all they can to put an end to the increased threats and batteries on sports officials and to prosecute to the full extent of the law. (Adopted March 2001)

ILLINOIS

HB4023 Section 5. The Criminal Code of 1961 is amended by changing Section 12-2 as follows: (720 ILCS 5/12-2) (from Ch. 38, par. 12-2) Sec. 12-2. Aggravated assault. (a) A person commits an aggravated assault, when, in committing an assault, he:

(17) Knows the individual assaulted to be a sports official or coach at any level of competition and the act causing the assault to the sports official or coach within an athletic facility or an indoor or outdoor playing field or within the immediate vicinity of the athletic facility or an indoor or outdoor playing field at which the sports official or coach was an active participant in the athletic contest held at the athletic facility. For the purposes of this paragraph (17), "sports official" means a person at an athletic contest who enforces the rules of the contest, such as an umpire or referee; and "coach" means a person recognized as a coach by the sanctioning authority that conducted the athletic contest. b) Sentence. Aggravated assault as defined in paragraph (17) of subsection (a) of this Section is a Class A misdemeanor.

HB4120 Section 5. The Unified Code of Corrections is amended by changing Section 5-5-3 as follows: (730 ILCS 5/5-5-3) (from Ch. 38, par. 1005-5-3) Sec. 5-5-3. Disposition. a) Every person convicted of an offense shall be sentenced as provided in this Section. (11) The court

shall impose a minimum fine of \$1,000 for a first offense and \$2,000 for a second or subsequent upon a person convicted of or placed on supervision for battery when the individual harmed was a sports or coach at any level of competition and the act causing harm to the sports official or coach occurred within an athletic facility or within the immediate vicinity of the athletic facility at which the sports official or coach was an active participant of the athletic contest held at the athletic facility. For the purposes of this paragraph (11), "sports official" means a person at an athletic contest who enforces the rules of the contest, such as an umpire or referee; "athletic facility" means an indoor or outdoor playing field or recreational area where sports activities are conducted; and "coach" means a person recognized as a coach by the sanctioning authority that the sporting event.

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Section 1.KRS 508.025 reads: (c) intentionally causes or attempts to cause physical injury to a sports official: 1. Who was performing sports official duties at the time the physical injury or attempt to cause physical injury was perpetrated; or 2. After the sports official performs official duties at an athletic event, if the physical injury or attempt to cause physical injury occurs within the confines or the immediate vicinity of the athletic facility at which the athletic event occurred. Section 2. For the purposes of this section, "athletic contest official" means an independent contractor who serves as a referee, umpire, linesperson, timekeeper, coach, or any person who serves in a similar capacity but may be known by other titles and is duly registered as a member of a local, state, regional, or national organization which is engaged in part in providing education and training to "athletic contest officials." Note: Enactment of this bill provides and makes the assault of a sports official an offense in the third degree which is a Class D felony.

LOUISIANA

Louisiana Rev. Stat. Ann. Section 14-34-4 provides: (A)(1) Battery of a school athletic contest official is a battery committed without the consent of the victim when the offender has reasonable grounds to believe the victim is a school contest official. (2) For purposes of this section, "school athletic contest official" means any referee, umpire, coach, instructor, administrator, staff person, or school or school board employee of any public or private secondary school while actively engaged in conducting, supervising, refereeing, or officiating of a school sanctioned interscholastic athletic contest. (B)(1) Whoever commits the crime of battery of a school athletic contest official shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) and imprisoned not less than fifteen days nor more than six months without benefit of suspension of

sentence. (2) The court in its discretion, may suspend the imposition of sentence and place the offender on probation with the condition that he shall serve two days in jail or perform five days of community service work. Failure to successfully complete the community service work, as determined by the supervisor or the program to which he is assigned, may result in revocation of probation.

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Chapter 128C.08 Subdivision 2 states: "Any person who assaults a sports official in connection with an interscholastic athletic activity may be excluded from attending an activity for up to 12 months."

MONTANA

Montana Code Ann. Section 45-5-211 provides: (1) A person commits the offense of assault upon a sports official if, while a sports official is acting as an official at an athletic contest in any sport at any level of amateur or professional competition, the person: (a) purposely or knowingly causes bodily injury to the sports official; (b) negligently causes bodily injury to the sports official with a weapon; (c) purposely or knowingly makes physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the sports official; (d) purposely or knowingly causes reasonable apprehension of bodily injury in the sports official. (2) A person convicted of assault upon a sports official shall be fined an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or be imprisoned in the county jail for any term not to exceed six months, or both.

NEVADA

Assembly Bill No. 474—Committee on Judiciary

2. A person convicted of an assault shall be punished:

(a) If paragraph (c) or (d) of this subsection does not apply to the circumstances of the crime and the assault is not made with the use of a deadly weapon, or the present ability to use a deadly weapon, for a misdemeanor.

(b) If the assault is made with the use of a deadly weapon, or the present ability to use a deadly weapon, for a category B felony by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 6 years, or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both fine and imprisonment.

(c) If paragraph (d) of this subsection does not apply to the circumstances of the crime and if the assault is committed upon an officer, a provider of health care, a school employee, a taxicab driver or a transit operator who is performing his duty or upon a sports official based on the performance of his duties at a sporting event, and the person charged knew or should have known that the victim was an officer, a provider of health care, a school employee, a taxicab driver, [or] a transit operator [,] or a sports official, for a gross misdemeanor, unless the assault is made with the use of a deadly weapon, or the present ability to use a deadly weapon, then for a category B felony by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 6 years, or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both fine and imprisonment.

(d) If the assault is committed upon an officer, a provider of health care, a school employee, a taxicab driver or a transit operator who is performing his duty [,] or upon a sports official based on the performance of his duties at a sporting event by a probationer, a prisoner who is in lawful custody or confinement or a parolee, and the probationer, prisoner or parolee charged knew or should have known that the victim was an officer, a provider of health care, a school employee, a taxicab driver, [or] a transit operator [,] or a sports official, for a category D felony as provided in NRS 193.130, unless the assault is made with the use of a deadly weapon, or the present ability to use a deadly weapon, then for a category B felony by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 6 years, or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both fine and imprisonment.

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey Stat. Ann. Section 2C:44-1 (a) provides in part: In determining the appropriate sentence to be imposed on a person who has been convicted of an offense, the court shall consider the following aggravating circumstances: (8) The defendant committed offense against a police officer or other law enforcement officer, correctional employee or fireman, acting in the performance of his duties while in uniform or exhibiting evidence of his authority, the defendant committed the offense against a sports official, athletic coach or manager, acting in or immediately following the performance of his duties or because of the person's status as a sports official, coach or manager.

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico statutes provide: 1) “in the lawful discharge of his duties” means engaged in the performance of the duties of a sports official, beginning when the sports official arrives at a sports event and ending when a sports official returns to his residence or business following a sports event; and

(2) “sports official” means a person who:

(a) serves as a referee, umpire linesman, timer or scorer, or who serves in a similar capacity, while working, supervising or administering a sports event; and

(b) is registered as a member of a local, state, regional or national organization that is engaged in providing education and training to sports officials.

B. Assault upon a sports official consists of:

(1) an attempt to commit a battery upon the person of a sports official while he is in the lawful discharge of his duties; or

(2) any unlawful act, threat or menacing conduct that causes a sports official while he is in the lawful discharge of his duties to reasonably believe that he is in danger of receiving an immediate battery.

C. Whoever commits assault upon a sports official is guilty of a misdemeanor.

D. Aggravated assault upon a sports official consists of:

(1) unlawfully assaulting or striking at a sports official with a deadly weapon while he is in the lawful discharge of his duties;

(2) committing assault by threatening or menacing a sports official who is engaged in the lawful discharge of his duties by a person wearing a mask, hood, robe or other covering upon the face, head or body, or while disguised in any manner so as to conceal identity; or

(3) willfully and intentionally assaulting a sports official while he is in the lawful discharge of his duties with intent to commit any felony.

E. Whoever commits aggravated assault upon a sports official is guilty of a third degree felony.

F. Assault with intent to commit a violent felony upon a sports official consists of any person assaulting a sports official while he is in the lawful discharge of his duties with intent to kill the sports official.

G. Whoever commits assault with intent to commit a violent felony upon a sports official is guilty of a second degree felony.

H. Battery upon a sports official is the unlawful, intentional touching or application of force to the person of a sports official while he is in the lawful discharge of his duties, when done in a rude, insolent or angry manner.

I. Whoever commits battery upon a sports official is guilty of a fourth degree felony.

J. Aggravated battery upon a sports official consists of the unlawful touching or application of force to the person of a sports official with intent to injure that sports official while he is in the lawful discharge of his duties.

K. Whoever commits aggravated battery upon a sports official, inflicting an injury to the sports official that is not likely to cause death or great bodily harm, but does cause painful temporary disfigurement or temporary loss or impairment of the functions of any member or organ of the body, is guilty of a third degree felony.

L. Whoever commits aggravated battery upon a sports official, inflicting great bodily harm, or does so with a deadly weapon or in any manner whereby great bodily harm or death can be inflicted, is guilty of a second degree felony.

M. A person who assists or is assisted by one or more other persons to commit a battery upon any sports official while he is in the lawful discharge of his duties is guilty of a fourth degree felony.”

Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.—The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2001.

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina General Stat. Section 14-33(b)(9) provides in part: (b) Unless his conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment, any person who commits assault, assault and battery, or affray is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment for not more than two years, or both such fine and imprisonment if, in the course of the assault, assault and battery, or affray he: (9) Commits an assault and battery against a sports official when the sports official is discharging or attempting to discharge official duties at

a sports event, or immediately after the sports event at which the sports official discharged his duties. A "sports official" is a person at a sports event who enforces the rules of the event, such as an umpire or referee, or a person who supervises the participants, such as a coach. A "sports event" includes any interscholastic or intramural athletic activity in a primary, middle, junior high, or high school, college, or university, any organized athletic activity sponsored by a community, business, or nonprofit organization, any athletic activity that is a professional or semiprofessional event, and any other organized athletic activity in the State.

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, Section 650.1 provides: Every person who, without justifiable or excusable cause and with intent to do bodily harm, commits any assault, battery, assault and battery upon the person of a referee, umpire, timekeeper, coach, official, or any person having authority in connection with any amateur or professional athletic contest is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year or by a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) or both such fine and imprisonment.

OREGON

Oregon Statutes provide: (1) In addition to, and not in lieu of any other damages that may be claimed, a plaintiff who is a sports official shall receive liquidated damages in an amount not less than \$500 but not more than \$1,000 in any action in which the plaintiff establishes that:

- (a) The defendant intentionally subjected the plaintiff to offensive physical contact;
- (b) The defendant knew that the plaintiff was a sports official at the time the offensive physical contact was made;
- (c) The offensive physical contact is made while the plaintiff is within, or in the immediate vicinity of, a facility at which the plaintiff serves as a sports official for a sports event; and
- (d) The offensive physical contact is made while the plaintiff is serving as a sports official or within a brief period of time thereafter.

(2) The court shall award reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing plaintiff in an action in which liquidated damages are awarded under this section.

(3) An award of liquidated damages under this section is not subject to ORS 18.535, 18.537 or 18.540.

(4) As used in this section, 'sports official' means a person who:

(a) Serves as a referee, umpire, linesman or judge or performs similar functions under a different title; and

(b) Is a member of, or registered by, a local, state, regional or national organization that engages in providing education and training in sports officiating.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Cons. Stat. Ann. Section 2712 provides: (a) Offense defined. A person who violates section 2701 (relating to simple assault), where the victim is a sports official who was assaulted during a sports event or was assaulted as a result of his or her officials acts as a sports official, is guilty of assault on a sports official. (b) Grading. Assault on a sports official is a misdemeanor of the first degree. (c) Definitions. As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning given to them in this subsection: "Sports Event" –Any interscholastic athletic activity in a junior high, high school or college or university in this Commonwealth or any other organized athletic activity in this Commonwealth including a professional or semiprofessional event. "Sports Official" –A person at a sports event who enforces the rules of the event, such as an umpire or referee, or a person who supervises the participants, such as a coach. The term includes a trainer, team attendant, game manager, athletic director, assistant athletic director, president, dean, headmaster, principal and assistant principal of a school, college or university.

SOUTH CAROLINA

SECTION 22-3-560, Code of Laws South Carolina, relating to jurisdiction and procedure in magistrates courts in assault and battery and other breach of the peace offenses, so as to increase the magistrates courts' jurisdiction for all assault and battery offenses against sports officials and coaches to provide for a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or imprisonment for a term not exceeding sixty days, or both.

TEXAS

H.B. No. 716 AN ACT relating to the punishment for assaults committed against certain sports participants. Be it enacted by the legislature of the state of texas section 1. Sections 22.01(c) and (e), Penal Code, are amended to read as follows: (c) An offense under Subsection (a)(2) or (3) is a Class C misdemeanor, except that the [an] offense [under Subsection (a)(3)] is:(1) a Class A misdemeanor if the offense is [was] committed under Subsection (a)(3) against an elderly individual or disabled individual, as those terms are defined by Section 22.04; or(2) a Class B misdemeanor if the offense is committed by a person who is not a sports participant against a person the actor knows is a sports participant either:(A) while the participant is performing duties or responsibilities in the participant's capacity as a sports participant; or (B) in retaliation for or on account of the participant's performance of a duty or responsibility within the participant's capacity as a sports participant. e) In this section: (1) "Family" has the meaning assigned by Section 71.003, Family Code. (2) "Household" has the meaning assigned by Section 71.005, Family Code. (3) "Sports participant" means a person who participates in any official capacity with respect to an interscholastic, intercollegiate, or other organized amateur or professional athletic competition and includes an athlete, referee, umpire, linesman, coach, instructor, administrator, or staff member.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

State of Washington

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2003-4636

WHEREAS Sports participation has become an integral part of American life ingrained into the consciousness of society; and

WHEREAS Sporting events have components essential to their continued success, such as the players, coaches, and fans; and

WHEREAS Many sports officials volunteer their time or receive only minimal compensation and participate out of a sheer love of the game and to teach children who play the game the

valuable lessons that are learned through participating in sports, including sportsmanship, teamwork, and complying with the rules of the game to achieve a common goal; and

WHEREAS It is critical that there are a sufficient number of qualified sports officials to enforce the rules of the game and judge potential disputes between participants on the field; and

WHEREAS Sports officials act as on-field judges for their respective sports and as neutral participants who have no stake in the outcome of the game; and

WHEREAS Sports officials who give their time and energy to officiate games deserve our collective respect and must have our collective assistance in creating a safe and secure environment for our children to play; and

WHEREAS Young people observe both the good and bad behavior of their sports heroes, other athletes, coaches, and fans and often emulate that behavior in either a positive or negative manner; and

WHEREAS As a society, we must act on the belief that respect for authority is critical to living, working, and playing together in a civil society governed by the rule of law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the state of Washington express its appreciation to all those sports officials in recreational programs, who do all they can to promote sports as a beacon to highlight positive behavior and the need for good sportsmanship and fair play.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of Resolution 4636 adopted by the House of Representatives March 24, 2003.

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Section 61-2-15a provides: (a) If any person commits an assault as defined in subsection (b), section nine sect. 61-2-9(b) of this article, to the person of an athletic official during the time the official is acting as an athletic official, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50) nor more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100), and imprisoned in the county jail not less than twenty-four hours nor more than thirty days. (b) If any person commits a battery, as defined in subsection (c), section nine, sect. 61-2-9(c) of this article, against an athletic official during the time the official is acting as an athletic official, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than One Hundred Dollars(\$100), and imprisoned in the county jail not less than twenty-four hours nor more than thirty days. (c) For the purpose

of this section, “athletic official” means a person at a sports event who enforces the rules of that event, such as an umpire, referee, or a person who supervises the participants, such as a coach.

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Position: FAV

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  OF SPORTS OFFICIALS

PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE ON DECEMBER 17, 2019

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED TO ADVANCE ASSAULT LEGISLATION IN MARYLAND

FOR RELEASE DECEMBER 17, 2019

As many of you may be aware, a recent physical assault on a Maryland sports official was ultimately not prosecutable. This incident has also highlighted the fact that, unlike many other states, Maryland does not have strong laws in place supporting sports officials who are victims of menacing harassment or assault.

There is good news, however. This type of legislation is currently being drafted by Senator Klausmeier, and your voice is needed in support of this effort. Please consider contacting your state senator about this possible legislation that will go a long way toward ensuring the well-being of all sports officials in Maryland.

You can speak from your own experience or craft a message from this sample:

I'm calling/writing to ask you to co-sponsor or support the bill being drafted by Senator Klausmeier that will enhance penalties for those who harass or assault sports officials, in line with what more than 24 other states have already done.

I've seen firsthand the problems caused when we can't recruit and retain sports officials because of the increasingly difficult environments a handful of spectators have sometimes created at sporting events.

This type of bill won't be the end of bad behavior completely, but it would put a spotlight on a growing problem in Maryland and will only help bring awareness to the issue as well as support recruitment of officials.

Assault Bill/Harassment Bill Supporting Points

Courtesy of the National Association of Sports Officials (<https://www.naso.org/survey/>)

- *The average age of sports officials across the country is 53 years old*
- *Nearly 48% of male officials have felt unsafe or feared for their safety in connection to officiating.*
- *Nearly 45% of female officials have felt unsafe or feared for their safety in connection to officiating.*
- *57% of sports officials believe that sportsmanship is getting worse. Youth, adult recreation, and high school levels are identified as the worst sportsmanship levels.*
- *Parents (40%), coaches (30%) and fans (18%) cause the most sportsmanship problems.*
- *43% of officials and officiating leaders believe that most new officials quit within the first 1-3 years.*
- *13% of officials have been assaulted by either a fan, coach, or player.*
- *The average starting age for a sports official is now 40-45 years old. Thirty years ago, the average starting age for a sports official was 20-25 years old.*

You can find the senator from your district [HERE](#).

Sports cannot function without officials. Please consider the importance to our communities that youth sports carry, and remember how important your voice as a voter and as an official truly is in this effort to ensure the safety of all sports officials in Maryland.

Contact: Bill Topp

Chief Operating Officer/Executive Editor

Referee Magazine/National Association of Sports Officials

btopp@referee.com

The National Association of Sports Officials is the world's largest organization for sports officials at every level and all sports. More than 29,000 sports officials from around the world belong to NASO, enjoying member benefits and supporting an organization that advocates for sports officials and that helps them maintain the highest level of officiating skills.

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Uploaded by: SCHILPP, MICHAEL

Position: FAV

My name is Dave Collier. I umpire for 2 baseball groups and I am also a football official. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak here today on behalf of all sports officials in support of Senate Bill-1034. This is a bill that is desperately needed in the state of Maryland to protect sports officials. I would like to thank Senator Patterson and others for preparing this bill. We appreciate it.

As you may or may not know, all sporting officials for any sport from pee-wee to high school are all volunteers. We go through rigorous training both on the field and off to become sanctioned. We watch film, take tests and are critiqued by veterans of whatever sport we are officiating. But we are being verbally harassed and insulted by parents, coaches and sometimes even players. There are times when things boil over to physical altercations.

As an official that has personally been assaulted by a parent on the baseball field, I can tell you that, even though the police were called and video was shown, there was nothing that could be done to the parent responsible for this action. As of right now, Maryland is one of 29 states where there is no law that protects sports officials in these types of situations. In this day and age officials can never be sure that if they are approached after a game, or even sometimes during a game, if a weapon of some sort may be drawn against them. Who knows if this will ever happen? Even if it does happen there are no real consequences. It's no worse than simply being pushed down. There

really is nothing to deter this type of behavior. The more it is ignored, the more it will happen.

I am asking you to please pass Senate Bill 1034. It will make any kind of physical altercation with a sports official Misdemeanor of Assault in the Second Degree. This could, in some instances, save us from serious injury or maybe even loss of life.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

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Uploaded by: SCHILPP, MICHAEL

Position: FAV

My name is Michael Schilpp and I am the President of Baltimore Best umpires. On October 6th, 2019, one of my umpires, Mr. David Collier was physically assaulted by a parent/and a player during a baseball game. To date, this assault has not been prosecuted.

Baltimore City police were contacted and responded to scene of the assault. The parent/player fled before they could arrive. Detective Simpson from the Baltimore City Police Department confirmed this statement by the officer that under the "simple assault code", unless the Officer witnessed the assault – and without the name(s) there was nothing more he could do even though there was a video taken from the incident. If we could get the names of the assailants they would enforce the law.

These types of incidents are happening way too often to sports officials everywhere not just only in Maryland.

Maryland is 1 of 29 states that does not have a law that protects sports officials. I stand here today asking you to please pass this law that protects all of us. I have had the opportunity to meet with several Senators and they know my passion for this issue. Someone is going to get seriously hurt – more than they already have. We as sports officials do this for the love of the game, not to make someone win or lose. We are human and sometimes make mistakes. I ask, should that be a reason for us to be harassed/threatened / or assaulted? The answer is NO!

Since May of 2019, I have been made personally aware of 6 incidents where an official has been threatened or assaulted in the State of Maryland. All have been from various geographic areas in the State.

Baltimore City
Baltimore County
Frederick County
Washington County
Worcester County
Montgomery County

These types of incidents make recruiting and hiring of new officials almost impossible.

The National Association of Sports Officials report that new officials are quitting at an alarming rate of 43% within their first three years of officiating. You ask why? Because they are being harassed (followed to their vehicles)/threatened/ and even physically assaulted. For the more experienced umpires, this is forcing us to start fighting back or continue and take the abuse. BY fighting back, we expose ourselves to being charged with assault which does not seem fair. It has been suggested that sports officials carry pepper spray – I can say that this seems like a very bad idea. I see this as a potentially bigger problem than fighting back. Another solution would be all sports officials start quitting and let these parents start officiating games – we all know that will end in more serious violent issues.

The need to stop this persecution of sports officials in the State Of Maryland is right now! We must get protection against these individuals that believe it is ok to follow us to our vehicles after the game, threaten to be waiting for us in the parking lots after they are removed from games because of "their conduct" or the ones that just physically assault us.

Wisconsin and Ohio have now also taken up the task to change their laws to protect their sports officials. They are monitoring how the State of Maryland proceeds to get the law passed that will protect sports officials. I am currently working with NASO to keep them informed.

In closing, we all need to feel safe and know we have some recourse (protection) should an incident occur. Today in the State of Maryland - that does not exist.

By not passing this law, we will be allowing all coaches/parents/ and players the ability to continue to harass/threaten and assault sports officials in Maryland. The time to end these assaults on sports officials in Maryland is right NOW!

BBUA_fav_sb1034

Uploaded by: SCHILPP, MICHAEL

Position: FAV

UPSL playoff match abandoned after coach punches referee

By Nicholas Mendola | Dec 14, 2019, 5:05 PM EST

[Leave a comment](#)

A United Premier Soccer League playoff game was abandoned after a referee assault in Maryland on Saturday, the latest in a long line of referee abuse stories.

A player from Mass United had been shown a red card, and a member of the club's coaching staff punched the referee.

UPDATE: The league released a statement condemning the incident and vowing to stand with its referees.

The match between Mass United and World Class Premier FC (Maryland) was a Northeast Championship match, and would send a winner to the UPSL's national finals in Miami.

[**MORE: Premier League schedule**]

The match was tied at 1 around halftime when the referee stopped play after a foul led to a skirmish between players.

According to a source, the referee mistakenly removed a red card from his pocket when he meant to show a yellow. Before the referee could correct himself, an assistant coach punched him in the face. The game was abandoned and the win awarded to World Class Premier.

The UPSL is considered to be the fourth-tier of the American Soccer Pyramid and is sanctioned by the United States Adult Soccer Association.

EDIT: An earlier post said the UPSL was in the fifth-tier of the pyramid. The league was given higher sanctioning earlier this Fall.

Referees in Berlin protested increased incidents of violence earlier this year, while Franck Ribery and Neymar have both been suspended for making contact with officials. In 2014, an American referee was killed after a player punched him in the face after a red card incident. The player was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Here's how it looked from the local angle in Maryland, with **The Montgomery County Sentinel** reporter **Carlos Alfaro Rodriguez** on scene. He confirmed the incident with *ProSoccerTalk*.

The United Premier Soccer League (UPSL) issues the following statement:

The violent conduct incident which occurred during the UPSL Northeast Conference Championship Game on Saturday night, Dec. 14, 2019, is under investigation by both the league and local authorities. The UPSL is providing full cooperation, and the UPSL league office is collecting a detailed match report from the game referees and both teams before making any final determinations, or levying suspensions and/or fines.

The UPSL does not tolerate violent conduct and/or verbal abuse, and the person(s) involved will be held accountable by the club(s) and the league. The UPSL stands with its referees and will not allow for any referee abuse.

Yan Skwara
UPSL Commissioner

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Uploaded by: SCHILPP, MICHAEL

Position: FAV

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Special Report: Assaults on Sports Officials

Troy Cross

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SPECIAL REPORT: ASSAULTS ON SPORTS OFFICIALS*

I. INTRODUCTION

Sports participation has become a part of American life. Today, sporting events have become further ingrained into the consciousness of society due to the constant exposure they are given. For example: one-quarter of the USA TODAY newspaper is devoted to the sports section; ESPN has three different channels devoted entirely to sports; and sports talk radio stations can be found in every major American market. In essence, people no longer participate in sports merely for the pure enjoyment of the game. At almost every level sports have become a major business with large amounts of revenue involved. It is through this spectrum that sports participation must be viewed.

Similar to other businesses, sporting events have components essential to their survival. The most basic component would be the players or participants. There must be coaches in order to guide the players and lead them to their goals. Fans are also necessary at the higher levels of sports participation in order to pay for tickets and merchandise to help finance the salaries of the players, coaches, and other expenses associated with the sport. Finally, and in some sense most importantly, there must be officials to enforce the rules of the game and judge potential disputes between participants on the field.

Sports officials act as the on-field judges for their respective sports. They are brought in from the outside, as supposedly neutral participants who have no stake in the outcome of the game.

For purposes of comparison, in a court of law, justice is presumed to be blind, able to distinguish between two sides based only upon the facts provided in a particular case. A judge is then to render a decision based on the facts presented, coupled with his interpretation of the results under the law. Sports officials are similar to these legal judges. Sports officials are presumed to be blind to the differences of the two competing sides. The sports official renders his or her judgment based on what he or she views as occurring on the field of play, and his or her interpretation of the rules of the game. Usually, a decision made by an official during a game should be unreviewable.

* The author has been a registered basketball, baseball, and softball official in the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) since 1990, and a registered volleyball official since 1992. He has seen many different sporting contests from an official's viewpoint, but thankfully, he has not witnessed an official being assaulted first-hand.

When sports officials act in what could be called their "judging" capacity they should be afforded protection from assaults and other negative reactions by participants, coaches, and fans. Unfortunately, in most states, this does not seem to be the case. "Kill the Ump," has become more than just a taunt by some disgruntled fans. In fact, certain players, coaches, and fans have engaged in actions in which it seemed as if they were indeed trying to "Kill the Ump."

This phrase has led to a disturbing trend in the United States over the past few years. This trend at its foundation shows a lack of respect for the authority exemplified by a sports official. Of course, this lack of respect is symptomatic of a general lack of respect for many authority figures including; sports officials, police officers, and teachers.¹

Year after year, reports of attacks on sports officials are increasing.² In reaction to this problem, ejections of coaches and players have also increased. For example, "Texas has recorded 100 ejections of adult coaches from the games of players in grades seven to 12, twice last season's total. In Florida, 333 players were thrown out of high-school football games in 1996, up from 277 in 1995 and 212 in 1994."³

Ron Foxcroft, chairman of the National Association of Sports Officials (hereinafter "NASO"), has been officiating basketball games for the past thirty-three years, the last seventeen in the NCAA Division I ranks. Mr. Foxcroft is hoping to put a halt to the trend of assaults on officials.⁴ Foxcroft states, "I'm concerned about the lack of respect by society towards authority in general and towards sports officials in particular."⁵ Foxcroft also states that "[t]his year alone, [1997] we're tracking assaults on 13 officials who have suffered head injuries, broken jaws. It's disturbing and sordid because these are not isolated incidents. They're all too common, and it's creeping into Canada."⁶

II. THE PROBLEM AT THE AMATEUR LEVEL

Assaults on sports officials at the amateur level usually fall into three general categories: those committed by players; those committed by

1. Robert Lipsyte, *Officials Fear 'Kill The Ump' Is No Longer Joke*, SEATTLE TIMES, Feb. 9, 1997, at D5.

2. *Id.*

3. *Id.*

4. Kathryn Korchok, *Ref Blowing Whistle on Violence 'Lack of Respect by Society Toward Sports Officials'*, TORONTO STAR, Jan. 12, 1997, at C5.

5. *Id.*

6. *Id.*

coaches; and those committed by fans. The following is an overview of the problem in each of these three categories.

A. Assaults By Players

One of the newest and most frightening trends is that many officials are being assaulted by players. A look at the headlines of almost any major newspaper reveals situations where a player, or players, have assaulted an official. What follows is a brief description of several incidents which have made the news within the past three years:

- 1) On October 20, 1995, Ken Smotrys, a football official, was working a high school football game in California.⁷ Shortly after the second-half kickoff, he was punched by a player from one of the teams.⁸ Mr. Smotrys suffered swelling and a cut below his left eye.⁹
- 2) In January of 1996, a high school wrestler head-butted a wrestling official during a match in Washington.¹⁰ The official, Bob West, was unconscious for about thirty seconds.¹¹ West suffered from a headache and a sore neck.¹² The wrestler was charged with fourth

7. Bill Topp, *Incident in Black and White*, REFEREE, Feb., 1996, at 36.

8. *Id.* In this instance, the two schools competing were Beverly Hills High, with a mixture of minority and white players and Centennial High, a mostly black team. Ken Smotrys is a white official. There was a racial undertone to this incident which had begun before the game. The Centennial coach claimed that his players had been called names as they got off the bus, however, the officials could not do anything about this because their jurisdiction had not yet begun. *Id.*

The kickoff to start the second half began the incidents which lead to the assault. A Beverly Hills player had been tackled and was trying to get up when he was pushed back to the ground by Kumasi Simmons, a player from Centennial High. Smotrys ran over to break the play up and as he was running to the spot of the tackle he brushed into a different Centennial player, Vincent Brooks. Smotrys yelled at Simmons to stop it and get away from the pile. The two sides separated and went to their respective huddles. Seconds later, Simmons went over to where Smotrys had lined up for the next play and punched him. *Id.*

9. *Id.*

10. *Prep Wrestler Punished For Head-Butting Referee*, REFEREE, June 1996, at 19.

11. *Id.* Bob West, a 20 year veteran wrestling official, had penalized Chad Hildebrandt for head-butting his opponent in the first period. In the third period, after Hildebrandt had been pinned, he pushed his opponent. West got between the two and told them that that was enough. Hildebrandt then head-butted West. Hildebrandt was dismissed from the team and suspended from school because of the incident. *Id.*

Hildebrandt, who was 17 at the time of the incident, was charged with fourth degree assault and was to be prosecuted as a juvenile. West would have liked to have seen him charged with third degree assault which was a Class C felony and punishable by up to five years imprisonment and up to a \$10,000 fine. West also considered pursuing civil remedies against Hildebrandt. *Id.*

12. *Id.*

degree assault and faced a maximum penalty of two years probation and thirty days in jail.¹³

- 3) On August 15, 1995, Richard Wolff, a baseball umpire, was attacked by Lou Aceto, a seventeen-year-old baseball player, during the seventh inning of a championship playoff game.¹⁴ Aceto plead guilty to assault charges and was sentenced to six months of probation.¹⁵
- 4) Sammy Hancock, a softball umpire from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, was attacked and beaten after a game in which he had officiated.¹⁶ He was attacked by several players from the team from which he had ejected a player.¹⁷
- 5) On July 20, 1996, Eric Erickson, a football official, was working a semi-pro Mid-Continental Football League game when he was blind-sided by a linebacker.¹⁸ Erickson was taken to a hospital where he was treated for severe contusions, pulled neck muscles, and numbness in his arms and shoulders.¹⁹
- 6) On May 22, 1996, Steve Hughes, a basketball official, was knocked unconscious during a game by a seventeen-year-old basketball

13. *Id.*

14. *N.J. Teen Sentenced In Umpire Assault*, REFEREE, July 1996, at 14.

15. *Id.* According to Wolff's attorney, Aceto struck Wolff over a disputed call. Wolff had not been notified of Aceto's hearing and thus had no input in the sentencing because according to New Jersey law, the victim and his legal counsel are not notified in juvenile cases. Local umpires were outraged at the punishment and claimed that it was a mere "slap on the wrist." *Id.* In New Jersey, judges are allowed to consider imposing tougher sentences on people who commit assaults when a sports official is involved, however, this could not be imposed here because the offender was a juvenile. *Id.*

16. *Umpire Won't Let Attack Intimidate Him*, REFEREE, Nov. 1996, at 17.

17. *Id.* Hancock was assaulted by several members of the softball team which had to forfeit the game which he had been working. The team was required to forfeit the game when he ejected one player and the team did not have enough players to continue to play the game. *Id.*

Hancock was attacked as he was walking to his car after the game. The players followed him, surrounding him, and proceeding to beat and kick him. As a result, Hancock suffered a dislocated shoulder and cuts and bruises over most of his body. *Id.*

18. *Football Official Rammed By Player*, REFEREE, Nov. 1996, at 18.

19. *Id.* The game between Toledo and Southern Michigan had been characterized by cheap shots and trash talking. The Toledo team had been assessed 13 penalties for 136 yards, of which, 75 of the yards were for personal fouls. With about a minute left in the game, the Toledo bench was heard chanting, "Hit the Ref." So, a Toledo linebacker lowered his helmet and charged into Erickson at full speed. The whole incident was captured on videotape. *Id.*

The officials forfeited the game. League officials fined the team and expelled the player. Shortly after the incident, the team disbanded and is no longer a member of the league. Erickson initiated civil proceedings and the police began investigating but had yet to file any criminal charges. *Id.*

player.²⁰ Although the youth knocked Hughes unconscious, almost inciting a riot, he was only sentenced to four days of community service.²¹

- 7) In October 1996, an ex-Canadian Football League (hereinafter "CFL") player, punched Bob Lindley, a football official, in a Hamilton Touch Football Association game.²² The player, Less Browne, was sentenced to twelve months probation, 100 hours of community service, and must attend anger management counseling.²³
- 8) During a football game on October 25, 1996, Dennis Finck, a football official, was assaulted by Joshua Fleckenstein, an eighteen-year-old player.²⁴ Finck had ejected Fleckenstein for fighting with an opposing player.²⁵ Fleckenstein was originally charged with fourth degree misdemeanor assault, but the charges were dropped after he apologized to Finck and promised to complete twenty hours of community service and to undergo sixteen hours of anger management counseling.²⁶

20. *Ref Beaten; Judge's Sentence Draws Criticism*, REFEREE, Sept. 1996, at 12.

21. *Id.* During the last minute of the blowout game, Hughes and the player collided. The player pushed Hughes with his clenched fist and knocked him over. The player then stood over the top of Hughes, "trying to provoke something." *Id.* Hughes gave the player a technical foul. The player then became outraged and overturned the scorer's table. The gym director called the police and the player left the gym. *Id.*

The officials tried to finish the game. Unbeknownst to them, the player had returned to the gym. He blindsided Hughes, knocking him to the floor. Approximately 100 people poured onto the court and a melee ensued. Hughes was knocked unconscious. He also suffered from head and neck contusions and a swollen jaw. *Id.*

Hughes was unhappy with the punishment that the judge handed out and planned to pursue a civil suit against his attacker. *Id.*

22. *Ex-CFL Player Punches Ref In Touch Football Game*, REFEREE, Jan. 1997, at 16.

23. *Id.* The incident occurred as the teams were lining up for a conversion attempt. Browne went up to Lindley and told him that he wanted to talk to him after the game. Lindley said that he felt threatened and considered ejecting Browne. Instead, he told Browne's team captain to remove Browne from the game. (Lindley was trying to give Browne a break because if Browne would have been ejected, he would have had to miss the next game.) Browne reacted to this by charging Lindley and punching him. The hit dislodged Lindley's hearing aid and bruised his chin. *Id.*

24. *High School Player Sentenced For Ref Assault*, REFEREE, Feb. 1997, at 16.

25. *Id.* Fleckenstein attacked Finck after he had intervened to stop a fight between Fleckenstein and an opposing player. Fleckenstein punched Finck four or five times before another official could subdue Fleckenstein. Finck was not seriously injured, but he was afflicted with headaches for a few days after the incident. *Id.*

Finck stated that he was unhappy with the way that the school system was handling the incident. There were thoughts of declaring Fleckenstein permanently ineligible, but this would be meaningless as he was a senior and would not have any playing eligibility left. *Id.*

26. *Id.*

- 9) On November 8, 1996, Allan Bainter, a football official in New Mexico, was assaulted during a game by Gilbert Jefferson, an eighteen-year-old player who had been ejected for fighting (National Federation rules mandate that officials eject any player who fights.)²⁷ A grand jury dismissed felony charges against Jefferson but indicted him on misdemeanor aggravated assault charges.²⁸ These charges carried the possibility of up to one year in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000.²⁹
- 10) In February of 1996, hockey referee Brian Carragher was beaten by players on the hockey team of the University of Moncton Blue Eagles.³⁰ The incident occurred after a controversial goal ended the hockey game between the University of Moncton and the University of Prince Edward Island. Carragher was repeatedly punched in the head and body, and speared in the groin with a stick. After the Moncton goaltender started the assault, the assistant coach, Patrick Daviault, and several other players joined in the attack. Eventually, Daviault removed a metal mooring from the net and threw it into a pane of glass in front of the goal judge, shattering glass everywhere.³¹

27. *High School Football Ref Knocked Out*, REFEREE, Feb. 1997, at 14.

28. *Id.* During the game in which the incident occurred, Jefferson was penalized in the first half for swearing. He was then ejected, in the second half, for fighting. However, Jefferson was not ejected immediately after the fight, due to an oversight. Four or five plays later, the officials realized that he should have been ejected and told him that he would have to leave the game. *Id.*

Bainter went to Jefferson to inform him that he would have to leave. At that time, he needed to be restrained by his teammates and pulled off the field. On his way off the field, Jefferson took off his helmet and threw it. Bainter flagged him for an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, and Jefferson broke free from his teammates and charged Bainter. *Id.*

According to witnesses, Jefferson ran about 35 yards at full speed and hit Bainter between the shoulders flipping him over and landing him on his head. Bainter was out cold. Bainter said that he was in and out of consciousness for about 12 hours. He still suffers from spells of dizziness and headaches, and often forgets who people are. *Id.*

Jefferson claimed that he blacked out from anger and did not remember what he had done. Jefferson has since been suspended from Wingate High School, a Navajo boarding school run by the government. Albert Hale, president of the Navajo Nation has blamed the coaches, officials, and the school for the incident claiming that there was too much emphasis being placed on winning. However, Bainter believes that this is just another example of someone not wanting to take responsibility for his own actions. *Id.*

29. *Id.*

30. Curtis Stock, *Attack On Ref Doesn't Surprise Bears*, EDMONTON J., Feb. 28, 1996, at C3. The University of Moncton is located in Canada. The incident occurred after a controversial goal ended the hockey game between the University of Moncton and the University of Prince Edward Island. *Id.*

31. *Id.*

- 11) In a more recent case, a Des Moines Dragons forward (of the International Basketball Association), Rosell Ellis, charged forty feet across the basketball court in order to attack one of the basketball officials who were working the game between the Dragons and the Wisconsin Blast, on January 17, 1998.³² Ellis, who was fifth in the league in scoring at the time of the incident, fought through three teammates in order to put referee Bob Shavey in a full nelson after Shavey had called him for a second technical foul.³³ Ellis was finally pulled off of the referee by his coach, as security guards assisted, and was escorted to the locker room before the game resumed.³⁴ As a result of his actions Ellis received a three game suspension which was imposed by his team.³⁵

These stories present a mere sample of the disturbing trend. There are literally tens of thousands of sporting events (amateur and professional) which occur every year in the United States alone—one can only speculate as to in how many of these contests a sports official is assaulted.

Admittedly, in some of the examples, the offending players faced criminal charges—however, these charges are usually minimal. This lack of punishment may be because the authorities involved do not see the assaults as serious criminal actions. Moreover, in most cases, the perpetrators of these crimes were teenagers who did not have criminal records and, therefore, may have received lighter treatment.

Part of the problem stems from the lack of comprehensive and effective laws to take care of these types of situations. The existing criminal laws for assault and battery are only effective if they are known to the potential perpetrators and carry a large enough deterrent effect. This problem will be expanded upon later on in this report.

B. Assaults By Coaches

Equally as disturbing, although not as frequent, are assaults by coaches. A vast majority of the time, these assaults occur because the coach believes that the official has made an incorrect call which has hurt his team. And honestly, an official's decision can be incorrect, but that

32. Paul Nelson, *Ellis Issues Apologies: Dragons' Star Awaits Team, League Sanctions*, DES MOINES REG., Jan. 19, 1998, at 3.

33. *Id.*

34. *Id.*

35. Paul Nelson, *Dragons Suspend Ellis for 3 Games*, DES MOINES REG., Jan. 20, 1998, at 1.

does not justify a physical attack upon the official. In either instance, the coach may become upset and let his or her anger control his or her actions. What follows are examples of these assaults by coaches:

- 1) During a basketball game in early February of 1996, basketball officials, Brian Sizemore and David Wolfe were attacked and beaten by the coach and players from a teenage team.³⁶ The two officials had called off the game when the coach, James Pouncy, earned his second technical and an automatic expulsion from the game, and there appeared to be no one left to coach the team.³⁷

Minutes after being escorted from the gym, the coach 'came flying back at a dead sprint toward us,' Mr. Wolfe recalls. 'I tried to stop him. But he tackled Brian. I tried to get Mr. Pouncy off Brian. That's when I got hit in the head with a metal folding chair.' . . . Mr. Sizemore was kicked, punched and scratched, drilled in the head with a basketball and decked by a folding chair. He's a walking welt. . . It was worse for Mr. Wolfe. Four chipped teeth, one broken nose and a possible fractured jaw. 'I won't know for sure about the jaw,' he says through a stuffed nose, 'until I get my X-rays back.'³⁸

This attack occurred as about 100 people watched from the stands.³⁹ Only four individuals tried to help the officials.⁴⁰ Most people were afraid to get involved.

- 2) In Philadelphia on February 11, 1995, a basketball official, Anthony Holmes, was beaten by coach Harold Alexander after a game involving 12-year-old basketball players.⁴¹ Holmes is seeking compensation for his injuries and lost wages in a civil suit, and jail time for the coach who instigated the assault in a criminal trial.⁴²

It must be noted that no matter what an official's decision is, in most cases, half of the individuals involved will disagree with it. This is a re-

36. Cliff Radcliff, *Ref Beatings In Ky. Become Spectator Sport*, CINC. ENQ., Feb. 9, 1996, at B01.

37. *Id.*

38. *Id.*

39. *Id.*

40. *Id.*

41. *Basketball Ref Beaten; Criminal, Civil Charges Follow*, REFEREE, June 1996, at 18.

42. *Id.* The injuries that Holmes sustained during the attack included a concussion, a fracture near his eye, and ligament damage in his right shoulder. Holmes also said that players laughed at him and taunted him while he was being beaten. *Id.*

Holmes rejected a plea bargain because he wanted this case to go to trial. He stated that, "[a] message must be sent that these type of actions towards basketball officials will not be permitted." *Id.*

flection of the nature of sports. In a sporting event there are two sides in competition with one another. Referees are present in order to try to make this competition as fair as possible, and to make sure that the competition is played according to the rules of the game. However, referees are human, they are not infallible. They will make mistakes. In the end, "[t]he most valuable lessons offered by sports, however, might be learning that things aren't always 'right' and fair, that there's injustice lurking out there. . . In a world of increasing equivocation, sports mandates decisiveness, and that should be reassuring."⁴³

One is left to wonder what kind of example the coaches are setting for their players. These situations present coaches of youth sports who have gone too far. These coaches, who have been entrusted to show the next generation how to properly handle themselves on the field of competition, are teaching America's youth the wrong lesson.

This type of behavior may be spreading. Possibly, coaches watch or read about one attack on a sports official and see that nothing of consequence happens to the perpetrator. As a result they are less apt to control themselves in a similar situation. After all, they will be back coaching in a short period of time, while the official whom they attacked will probably never work another one of their games. In fact, that official may be afraid to ever work another game, or in the alternative, his efficiency in working a game may be altered because of his fear of being attacked again. Moreover, other sports officials will know which coach has attacked another sports official, which may affect the way in which they themselves officiate their games.

C. *Assaults By Fans*

Also joining in on the assaults are the fans. The fans may be the most difficult category to control. In theory, fans are beyond the control of teams and leagues. The only form of punishment that a team or league can impose on a fan is to not allow the fan to attend any future games. Unfortunately, this type of punishment is not always successful and only occurs after an official has been assaulted. Examples of these fan assaults include:

- 1) Following a Pop Warner football game on October 11, 1996, Bob Eakins, a football official, was attacked in a darkened parking lot after he had waited for more than a half an hour to collect his game

43. Barry Mano, *When 'Kill the Ump' Took On New Meaning*, N.Y. TIMES, July 28, 1991, at 22.

check.⁴⁴ He and his partner, Alan Fowler, were attacked by five fans.⁴⁵ Fowler stated that he recognized that some of the attackers were relatives of the coach who had been ejected from the game for using vulgar language.⁴⁶

- 2) On December 22, 1995, basketball official, Rick Gloe, was attacked after a game that he had worked in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.⁴⁷ He was attacked by an angry parent who was unhappy with the officiating throughout the game, while he was changing in the official's locker room.⁴⁸ The parent, Randy Wade, pushed his way through the other official and the athletic director in order to get to Gloe.⁴⁹
- 3) On February 8, 1996, basketball official Mike Van Lieshout was attacked by James Blask, the District Attorney for Lincoln County, Wisconsin, following a sophomore basketball game.⁵⁰ Blask was unhappy with many of the calls made by the officials during the game. In April of 1996, Blask was charged with disorderly conduct and obstruction of an officer for the attack which occurred on Van

44. *Youth Football Official Attacked, Then Charged With Assault*, REFEREE, Jan. 1997, at 15.

45. *Id.* Five men approached the officials in the parking lot after the game. One of the men pushed Eakins who put his hand up to fend off the attack. Then, another man punched him in the face, knocking him to the ground. He was kicked in the ribs while he was on the ground. He suffered neck injuries, bruised ribs, and a sore jaw. While he was in the hospital receiving treatment, the Carson City Sheriff's department issued him a municipal citation for fighting. *Id.*

46. *Id.*

47. *Invasion of Officials' Lockerroom Costs Fan*, REFEREE, July 1996, at 17.

48. *Id.* Gloe was in the shower when he heard someone yelling at his partner Tim Joly and Oshkosh School District athletic director Terry Wojahn. Gloe went out to see what was going on when he saw Wade trying to push his way in the door. Wade was also yelling and threatening the other two men. The door was slammed shut but, he was able to shove it back open. As the three men tried to remove him from the room, Wade threw a punch that hit Gloe in the face. They wrestled him out of the room and called 911. *Id.*

Wade was suspended from attending any Oshkosh North basketball games for six weeks. (He missed a total of 19 games because his daughter was a member of the girls' varsity team.) The District Attorney chose to punish Wade by putting him on a "deferred punishment program." For his actions, Wade was placed on two years probation; fined \$300; required to write a letter of apology to the referees, the athletic director, and the schools; and he was required to participate in anger management counseling. Also, if he is involved in another incident during the time of his probation, the charge for the December 22 incident will be upgraded to a felony and could mean a prison term. *Id.*

49. *Id.*

50. *D.A. Accused of Accosting Ref*, REFEREE, May 1996, at 14. Van Lieshout was trying to make his way to the dressing room after he had finished working the basketball game. Blask was walking alongside of him and berating him. Van Lieshout was walking a few feet in front of Blask, when according to witnesses, Blask squared up and shoved Van Lieshout hard with both hands into the wall. *Id.*

Lieshout.⁵¹ Blask was eventually removed from his office by the governor of the state of Wisconsin as a result of the incident.⁵²

- 4) On October 26, 1996, after a semipro football game in Massachusetts, Fred Simm, a football official, was punched by a fan as he was walking to his car.⁵³ Assault and battery charges were filed against the fan.⁵⁴ During the New England Football League game, Jackson and another man had been taunting Simm from the sidelines. "(The fans) stood on the sidelines yelling, 'We're going to get you — the guy in the middle with the mustache,'" Simm said. He thought that they were singling him out because he was the one marking off the penalties.⁵⁵

Fan assaults on officials can become the most dangerous type of assaults for officials to deal with. The danger is heightened because these assaults normally occur after the game is over away from other individuals and participants. Often these assaults occur in groups, where the official is assaulted by multiple attackers. If an assault occurs out of the view of anyone else, it is difficult to escape serious injury and to prove who the attackers were.

III. THE PROBLEM AT THE PROFESSIONAL LEVEL.

A. Introduction.

Americans, as a whole, watch many hours of television. They create heroes out of movie stars and sports figures. This is especially true with young children. By the time that they become adults, many children have watched numerous hours of television and have dreamed about being like their heroes. Often these children choose sports stars as their

51. *D.A. Charged For Ref Assault*, REFEREE, Sept. 1996, at 14. In addition to being charged with disorderly conduct, Blask was also charged with obstructing an officer. After the game, Blask had given false information to officers who were investigating the incident. *Id.*

52. *Governor Fires District Attorney After Ref Assault*, REFEREE, Nov. 1996, at 12. The governor fired Blask after an investigation conducted by Gordon Baldwin, a law professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The investigation's report recommended that Blask be relieved of his duties because of a "casual attitude toward, if not disregard of, the truth." *Id.*

Blask had continued to claim that the assault was accidental even when a reputable bystander saw it as deliberate. Blask was sentenced to probation for one year, ordered to make a public apology, and to receive counseling for aggressive behavior. He was also required to make a \$500 contribution to the Merrill High School's athletic program. *Id.*

53. *Fan Faces Trial For Punching Football Official*, REFEREE, Feb. 1997, at 18.

54. *Id.* After the game, Simm and one of his partners were walking to their car when Jackson and the other man approached them. "They hollered at us as we were walking away, Simm said. We just ignored them. But then one ran up and punched me." *Id.*

55. *Id.*

heroes. As the commercial says, they want to grow up and, "be like Mike."⁵⁶

The problem with emulating sports heroes is that people, especially young children, also try to emulate them when they act in a negative fashion. If the sports hero is not punished for his negative actions, publicly and severely, people believe that the sport heroes' negative actions are all right to emulate. Thus, verbally and physically bashing officials has become socially acceptable, because the public at large has seen a number of professionals get away with this type of behavior.

Mau Cason, a Chicago Public School League official, has witnessed a wide range of actions from coaches and players directed at officials. He blames some of the antics and problems which occur at the high school level on the actions of professional athletes.⁵⁷

The spotlight example set by basketball's Rodman and Nick Van Exel or baseball's Roberto Alomar or football's Bryan Cox is rapidly rolling down to the college, high school and even recreation league level. . .It undercuts his authority, and his ability to keep players corralled inside the rules of the game. It declares an open season on the 'zebras' of all sports baseball, football, basketball, soccer and wrestling. At all levels.

Beyond the boundaries of the playing field, this escalation of physical and verbal abuse speaks to the sunset of sportsmanship and civility, the celebration of violence and all-consuming victory, the intensification of unrealistic expectations and undue pressures that spell an end to a game being played for a game's sake.⁵⁸

B. Assaults on Officials

There have been several major incidents in the past few years in which an official has been assaulted by a professional athlete. These incidents have almost exclusively occurred within the National Basketball Association (hereinafter "NBA"). The incidents and penalties, or lack thereof, have been nationally broadcast time and again. It is clear that these incidents are having a profound influence upon the public in general. They show that it is all right to attack an official because if you do, you will only face a minor punishment.

56. This refers to one of the popular National Basketball Association (NBA) television commercials. In the commercial, which advertises Gatorade, NBA superstar Michael Jordan is shown playing basketball with the background singers singing "If I could be like Mike."

57. Jim Nesbitt, *Refs Try to Blow Whistle on Rising Tide of Anger*, STAR-LEDGER, Jan. 6, 1997, at 001.

58. *Id.*

- 1) On March 16, 1996, Dennis Rodman head-butted a referee after the referee had ejected Rodman from the Bulls' game with the New Jersey Nets.⁵⁹ For the incident, Rodman received a six-game suspension and a \$20,000 fine.⁶⁰
- 2) On April 9, 1996, after being ejected, Nick Van Exel began to leave the floor, changed his mind and rushed back toward the official who had just ejected him.⁶¹ Van Exel threw his forearm into the official's chest, knocking him onto the scorer's table.⁶² Van Exel received a seven game suspension, along with a \$ 1,000 fine for the ejection and a further \$ 25,000 fine.⁶³
- 3) Less than two weeks later, after publicly denouncing what his teammate, Nick Van Exel had done, Magic Johnson of the Los Angeles Lakers, shoved an NBA official during a game after a questionable non call.⁶⁴ For his actions, Johnson received a three-game suspension and a \$10,000 fine.⁶⁵
- 4) On December 19, 1996, Charles Barkley and Clyde Drexler of the Houston Rockets, assaulted referee Jack Nies.⁶⁶ Barkley was fined \$7,500 for poking Nies' nose and drawing blood during an argument in a loss to San Antonio. Drexler received a \$5,000 fine for bumping Nies. Both also received automatic \$1,000 fines for being ejected.⁶⁷ Barkley received a two game suspension while Drexler was suspended for one game.⁶⁸

Major League Baseball (MLB) and the National Football League (NFL) have not witnessed the same proportion of these types of problems.

The only recent example in these two leagues was in MLB and did not even involve a typical physical assault. On September 27, 1996, Roberto Alomar of the Baltimore Orioles spit in American League umpire

59. *NBA Refs Accosted In Separate Incidents*, REFEREE, June 1996, at 15.

60. *Id.*

61. Lowell Cohn, *NBA Should Take Its Cue From Soccer*, PRESS DEMOCRAT SANTA ROSA, CA, Apr. 11, 1996, at C1.

62. *Id.*

63. Frank Litsky, *Van Exel hit hard by NBA*, MILWAUKEE J. SENT., Apr. 11, 1996. As a result of his suspension Van Exel suffered a loss of \$ 161,000 in salary.

64. Jackie MacMullan, *First Rodman, Then Van Exel, Now Magic: Why All The Official Bashing?*, SPORTS ILL., Vol. 84 No. 16, Apr. 22, 1996, at 69.

65. *Id.*

66. *NBA Suspends Barkley, Drexler // Players Also Draw Fines*, STAR-TRIB., Dec. 21, 1996, at 02C.

67. *Id.*

68. *Id.*

John Hirschbeck's face while arguing a disputed called strike.⁶⁹ The umpire, John Hirschbeck, had thrown Alomar out of the game, but Alomar continued to dispute the called third strike.⁷⁰ Eventually, Alomar charged out of the dugout and needed to be restrained by his manager Davey Johnson.⁷¹

Alomar received a five game suspension from the American League for this incident, however, he appealed the suspension and was allowed to play the last two games of the season pending the appeal.⁷² The baseball umpires union's executive board was so upset over the incident that it voted to walkout on the opening day of the playoffs. The umpires wanted the suspension to take effect immediately.⁷³ Alomar's disciplinary hearing had originally been scheduled for the next season, but because of the umpires threatened strike, it was moved up to that week.⁷⁴ The umpires did not strike, but in response to this situation, they threatened a "no tolerance" stance, throughout the post-season, involving any altercations with players or managers.⁷⁵ Major League Baseball's response was to threaten the umpires with a lawsuit if they unilaterally changed the rules.⁷⁶

In the end, Alomar did get the five game suspension, but it did not take effect until the next season. He was free to participate in the playoffs.⁷⁷ After this incident occurred many sports officials were disgusted.⁷⁸

The suspensions and fines handed out by professional leagues are often of negligible effect. Fines that range in the thousands of dollars matter little to professional athletes whose yearly salaries are in the multi-million dollar range. Suspensions that range from five to ten games result in miniature in-season vacations for these athletes. These are not deterrents to stop athletes from attacking officials. In fact, they may encourage some athletes who are more than willing to incur these penalties in order to prove their point to the officials.

69. Lipsyte, *supra* note 1, at D5.

70. David Ginsburg, *Alomar's day ends well*, MILWAUKEE J. & SENT., Sept. 29, 1996, at 1.

71. *Id.*

72. *Id.*

73. Tom Haudricourt, *Umpires vote to walk out over Alomar; They plan to boycott playoffs after incident*, MILWAUKEE J. & SENT., Oct. 1, 1996, at 1.

74. Michael Bauman, *Baseball's image hurt once again*, MILWAUKEE J. & SENT., Oct. 2, 1996, at 1.

75. Tom Haudricourt, *Sports*, MILWAUKEE J. & SENT., Oct. 3, 1996, at 3.

76. *Id.*

77. Lipsyte, *supra* note 1, at D5.

78. *Id.*

IV. DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM

There are several alternatives available to try to stop these assaults on sports officials.

A. *State Laws That Protect Sports Officials*

Many states do have statutes in effect that can be used to punish the athlete, coach, or fan who assaults a sports official. Frequently, the assaults that have been described above went through the criminal courts. The problem is that these assaults keep occurring. The laws are not deterring individuals from committing assaults on sports officials. In many instances the punishments are small compared to the severity of the crimes. The following is a listing of the types of statutes that could apply at the state level.

- 1) In Wisconsin the battery law states that "[w]hoever causes bodily harm to another by an act done with intent to cause bodily harm to that person or another without the consent of the person so harmed is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor."⁷⁹ A Class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to nine months imprisonment and up to a \$10,000 fine or both.⁸⁰

Wisconsin has decided that physically assaulting certain individuals, merits a more severe punishment. Therefore, laws were enacted to protect these individuals, such as; law enforcement officers, fire fighters, parole agents, aftercare agents, witnesses, jurors, etc.⁸¹ Unfortunately, at this time the list does not include sports officials.

- 2) In Arkansas, the law that protects sports officials is simple and straightforward. It deals with abuse of athletic contest officials and makes it a Class A misdemeanor to strike or otherwise physically abuse a sports official.⁸²

79. WIS. STAT. ANN. § 940.19(1) (West 1995).

80. *Id.* at § 939.51.

81. *Id.* at § 940.20 (West 1995). The crime of committing a battery on one of these groups of individuals has been enhanced to a Class D or Class E felony in Wisconsin. The penalty for a Class D felony is up to five years imprisonment and up to a \$10,000 fine or both. The penalty for a Class E felony is up to two years imprisonment and up to a \$10,000 fine or both. The enhanced penalties provide for substantially more incarceration time. Also, if a person is convicted of a felony, in Wisconsin, he can no longer possess a firearm. *Id.* at § 941.29.

82. ARK. CODE ANN. § 5-13-209 (Michie 1995).

5-13-209 ABUSE OF ATHLETIC CONTEST OFFICIALS.

Any person, with the purpose of causing physical injury to another person, who shall strike or otherwise physically abuse an athletic contest official immediately prior to,

- 3) The state of California doubles the penalty for an assault committed upon a sports official. A regular assault, in California, is punishable by a one thousand dollar fine and six months in the county jail.⁸³ An assault committed against a sports official is punishable by a fine of two thousand dollars and one year in the county jail.⁸⁴
- 4) The Delaware law provides for a progressive punishment for those who are repeat offenders. Any person who is found guilty of assaulting a sports official for the first time, shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.⁸⁵ A second or subsequent conviction will result in the person being guilty of a Class G felony.⁸⁶
- 5) Louisiana's law protecting sports officials is more limited in its coverage. The law only covers athletic officials working interscholastic

during, or immediately following an interscholastic, intercollegiate, or any other organized amateur or professional athletic contest in which the athletic contest official is participating shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

Id.

83. CAL. PENAL CODE § 241 (West 1996).

84. *Id.* at § 243.8.

§ 243.8 BATTERY AGAINST SPORTS OFFICIAL; PUNISHMENT; DEFINITION

(a) When a battery is committed against a sports official immediately prior to, during, or immediately following an interscholastic, intercollegiate, or any other organized amateur or professional athletic contest in which the sports official is participating, and the person who commits the offense knows or reasonably should know that the victim is engaged in the performance of his or her duties, the offense shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars (\$2,000), or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

(b) For purposes of this section, 'sports official' means any individual who serves as a referee, umpire, linesman, or who serves in a similar capacity but may be known by a different title or name and is duly registered by, or a member of, a local, state, regional, or national organization engaged in part in providing education and training to sports officials.

Id.

85. DEL. CODE ANN. TIT. 11, § 614 (1996).

§ 614 ASSAULT ON A SPORTS OFFICIAL.

(a) Any person who intentionally causes physical injury to a sports official who is acting in the lawful performance of duty shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction for a 2nd or subsequent offense under this section, such person shall be guilty of a class G felony.

(b) For purposes of this section, the words 'sports official' shall mean any person who serves as a referee, umpire, line judge or in any similar capacity in supervising or administering a sports event, and who is registered as a member of a local, state, regional or national organization which provides training or educational opportunities for sports officials.

Id.

86. *Id.*

games and is silent as to officials working intercollegiate and professional contests.⁸⁷

- 6) The Montana law regarding assaults on sports officials includes sports officials at all levels amateur or professional.⁸⁸ There is also a section dealing with negligently assaulting an official, and a section devoted to putting an official in apprehension of bodily injury.⁸⁹
- 7) The New Jersey statute regarding assaults on officials is included with the statute on assaults of police officers, correctional employees, public servants, firemen, and sports coaches and managers.⁹⁰

87. LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 14:34.4 (West 1996).

§ 34.4. BATTERY OF A SCHOOL ATHLETIC CONTEST OFFICIAL

A. (1) Battery of a school athletic contest official is a battery committed without the consent of the victim when the offender has reasonable grounds to believe the victim is a school athletic contest official.

(2) For purposes of this Section, 'school athletic contest official' means any referee, umpire, coach, instructor, administrator, staff person, or school board employee of any public or private secondary school while actively engaged in the conducting, supervising, refereeing, or officiating of a school sanctioned interscholastic athletic contest.

B. (1) Whoever commits the crime of battery of a school athletic contest official shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars and imprisoned not less than fifteen days nor more than six months without benefit of suspension of sentence.

(2) The court, in its discretion, may suspend the imposition of the sentence and place the offender on probation with the condition that he shall serve two days in jail or perform five days of community service work. Failure to successfully complete the community service work, as determined by the supervisor of the program to which he is assigned, may result in revocation of probation.

Id.

88. MONT. CODE ANN. § 45-5-211 (1995).

45-5-211. ASSAULT UPON SPORTS OFFICIAL

(1) A person commits the offense of assault upon a sports official if, while a sports official is acting as an official at an athletic contest in any sport at any level of amateur or professional competition, the person:

- (a) purposely or knowingly causes bodily injury to the sports official;
- (b) negligently causes bodily injury to the sports official with a weapon;
- (c) purposely or knowingly makes physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the sports official; or
- (d) purposely or knowingly causes reasonable apprehension of bodily injury in the sports official.

(2) A person convicted of assault upon a sports official shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$1,000 or be imprisoned in the county jail for any term not to exceed 6 months, or both.

Id.

89. *Id.*

90. N.J. STAT. ANN. § 2C:44-1 (West 1996).

The person's status as a sports official is considered an aggravating circumstance by the court and is to be considered when imposing sentence on an offender who assaults a sports official.⁹¹

- 8) The North Carolina statute groups assaulting a sports official with misdemeanor assaults, batteries, and affrays, and provides a specific section dealing with assaulting a sports official.⁹² The statute covers sports officials who work every conceivable athletic event, because it includes a clause which states that, "[a] 'sports event' includes. . .any other organized athletic activity in the State."⁹³

2C:44-1. CRITERIA FOR WITHHOLDING OR IMPOSING SENTENCE OF IMPRISONMENT

a. In determining the appropriate sentence to be imposed on a person who has been convicted of an offense, the court shall consider the following aggravating circumstances:

...

(8) The defendant committed the offense against a police or other law enforcement officer, correctional employee or fireman, acting in the performance of his duties while in uniform or exhibiting evidence of his authority; the defendant committed the offense because of the status of the victim as a public servant; or the defendant committed the offense against a sports official, athletic coach or manager, acting in or immediately following the performance of his duties or because of the person's status as a sports official, coach or manager. . .

Id.

91. *Id.*

92. N.C. GEN. STAT. § 14-33 (1996).

§ 14-33 MISDEMEANOR ASSAULTS, BATTERIES, AND AFFRAYS, SIMPLE AND AGGRAVATED; PUNISHMENTS.

(a) Any person who commits a simple assault or a simple assault and battery or participates in a simple affray is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

(b) Unless his conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment, any person who commits any assault, assault and battery, or affray is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor if, in the course of the assault, assault and battery, or affray, he:

...

(9) Commits an assault and battery against a sports official when the sports official is discharging or attempting to discharge official duties at a sports event, or immediately after the sports event at which the sports official discharged official duties. A 'sports official' is a person at a sports event who enforces the rules of the event, such as an umpire or referee, or a person who supervises the participants, such as a coach. A 'sports event' includes any interscholastic or intramural athletic activity in a primary, middle, junior high, or high school, college, or university, any organized athletic activity sponsored by a community, business, or nonprofit organization, any athletic activity that is a professional or semiprofessional event, and any other organized athletic activity in the State.

Id.

93. *Id.*

- 9) The statute in Oklahoma provides for significantly more jail time for anyone convicted of assaulting a sports official than for anyone simply convicted of assaulting an ordinary person.⁹⁴ The jail time increases from 30 days (for anyone convicted of assault) to 90 days (for anyone convicted of assault and battery) to one year (for anyone convicted of assault and battery to a sports official).⁹⁵ The fine is the same for an assault and battery of a sports official and an ordinary person (\$1,000).⁹⁶
- 10) The Pennsylvania statute regarding assaults on sports officials defines sports event and sports official and states that anyone guilty of assaulting a sports official is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.⁹⁷

94. OKLA. STAT. ANN. TIT. 21, § 644 (1996).

§ 644. ASSAULT—ASSAULT AND BATTERY—DOMESTIC ABUSE

A. Assault shall be punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding thirty (30) days, or by a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or both such fine and imprisonment.

B. Assault and battery shall be punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding ninety (90) days, or by a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by both such imprisonment and fine.

Id.

§ 650.1. ATHLETIC CONTESTS—ASSAULT AND BATTERY UPON REFEREE, UMPIRE, ETC.

Every person who, without justifiable or excusable cause and with intent to do bodily harm, commits any assault, battery, assault and battery upon the person of a referee, umpire, timekeeper, coach, official, or any person having authority in connection with any amateur or professional athletic contest is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one (1) year or by a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Id.

95. *Id.*

96. *Id.*

97. PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. TIT. 18, § 2712 (West 1996).

§ 2712. ASSAULT ON SPORTS OFFICIAL

(A) OFFENSE DEFINED.—A person who violates section 2701 (relating to simple assault), where the victim is a sports official who was assaulted during a sports event or was assaulted as a result of his or her acts as a sports official, is guilty of assault on a sports official.

(B) GRADING.—ASSAULT on a sports official is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(C) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

'SPORTS EVENT.' Any interscholastic athletic activity in a junior high school, high school, college or university in this Commonwealth or any other organized athletic activity in the Commonwealth, including a professional or semiprofessional event.

'SPORTS OFFICIAL.' A person at a sports event who enforces the rules of the event, such as an umpire or referee, or a person who supervises the participants, such as a coach.

- 11) The West Virginia statute regarding assaults on officials allows for relatively small penalties as compared to the states previously discussed.⁹⁸ The statute penalizes an offender who assaults a sports official with a fine between \$50-\$100 and between one to thirty days in jail.⁹⁹ Anyone who commits a battery against a sports official is fined between \$100-\$500 and one to thirty days in jail.¹⁰⁰ The statute was enacted in 1966, but was current through 1996.¹⁰¹

This overview of the various state laws demonstrates that some states have considered the problem of assaults on sports officials and have decided to try to do something about it. Unfortunately, not enough states have enacted legislation to stop the spread of assaults on sports officials. Moreover, of the states that have enacted specific legislation to deal with the problem, not all of them deal with it severely enough.

The sad reality seems to be that the reason these laws were enacted was because there was a severe assault on a sports official in that state. This major incident gained a lot of publicity and public outrage then created enough pressure on the state legislators to force them to take action.

The term includes a trainer, team attendant, game manager, athletic director, assistant athletic director, president, dean, headmaster, principal and assistant principal of a school, college or university.

Id.

98. W. VA. CODE § 61-2-15a (1996).

§ 61-2-15a ASSAULT, BATTERY ON ATHLETIC OFFICIALS; PENALTIES.

(a) If any person commits an assault as defined in subsection (b), section nine [§ 61-2-9 (b)] of this article, to the person of an athletic official during the time the official is acting as an athletic official, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, and imprisoned in the county jail not less than twenty-four hours nor more than thirty days.

(b) If any person commits a battery, as defined in subsection (c), section nine [§ 61-2-9(c)] of this article, against an athletic official during the time the official is acting as an athletic official, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, and imprisoned in the county jail not less than twenty-four hours nor more than thirty days.

(c) For the purpose of this section, 'athletic official' means a person at a sports event who enforces the rules of that event, such as an umpire or referee, or a person who supervises the participants, such as a coach.

Id.

99. *Id.*

100. *Id.*

101. *Id.*

It is not enough that each state must wait for one of its sports officials to be seriously attacked or beaten before its government takes action to stop this practice. States must take pre-emptive strikes against those who would attack a sports official, to prevent these incidents from occurring in the first place.

B. Punishment in The Professional Leagues.

The NBA has encountered the most instances of assaults on sports officials. Therefore, a more thorough analysis of its collective bargaining agreement is helpful in order to determine what punishment may be available to discipline those who assault the officials.

The NBA Collective Bargaining Agreement (hereinafter "NBA-CBA") does not contain any provision which deals directly with players assaulting officials.¹⁰² However, the NBA-CBA does contain a section dealing with player conduct.¹⁰³ This section delineates the fines that a team may impose upon a player for that player's actions.¹⁰⁴ The provision also references the Uniform Player Contract (hereinafter "NBA-UPC"), which explains other actions that the player may be fined for.¹⁰⁵

There are two sections of the NBA-UPC which could be used to punish a player who assaults an official. The first is in paragraph sixteen of the NBA-UPC which deals with the termination of the players' contract.¹⁰⁶ Under this provision, a team may terminate a players' contract if the player:

(I) at any time, fail, refuse, or neglect to conform his personal conduct to standards of good citizenship, good moral character

102. NBA COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT, Sept. 18, 1995.

103. *Id.* Art. VI, § 1, at 38.

104. *Id.* What follows is the listing of fines that a team may impose upon a player, as explained in the NBA-CBA:

(a) By \$1,000 for each missed (training or Regular Season) day of practice (for the first two such missed practices), and by \$2,500 for each missed practice thereafter;

(b) By \$4,000 for each missed Exhibition Game;

(c) By 1/82nd of the player's Current Cash Compensation for each missed Regular Season or Playoff game;

(d) By \$1,000 for each missed promotional appearance required in accordance with Article II, Section 7(b) and paragraph 13 of the Uniform Player Contract;

(e) By \$10,000 for failing to attend the Rookie Transition Program; and

(f) By \$5,000 for failing to attend any other programs designated as mandatory by either the NBA or the Players Association (*e.g.*, HIV and substance abuse education programs), the designation of which by either party shall be subject to approval by the other, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

105. *Id.*

106. *Id.* at A-12.

(defined here to mean not engaging in acts of moral turpitude, whether or not such acts would constitute a crime) and good sportsmanship, to keep himself in first class physical condition or to obey the Team's training rules[.]¹⁰⁷

In using this provision, a team might find that an assault on an official was in violation of this clause and thus be justified in terminating that player's contract. Admittedly, as a result of the Latrell Sprewell situation, an actual termination may be impossible.¹⁰⁸

The other section which could be used to punish a player is paragraph thirty-five of the NBA Constitution (which is excerpted and added to the NBA-UPC).¹⁰⁹ Under this provision, the Commissioner of the NBA has the authority to suspend or fine any player who does any of the following:

(d) If in the opinion of the Commissioner any other act or conduct of a Player at or during an Exhibition, Regular Season, or Playoff game has been prejudicial to or against the best interests of the Association or the game of basketball, the Commissioner shall impose upon such Player a fine not exceeding \$25,000, or may order for a time the suspension of any such Player from any connection or duties with Exhibition, Regular

107. *Id.* at A-13.

108. The Latrell Sprewell case did not involve an attack on an official. Latrell Sprewell attacked his coach P. J. Carlesimo and threatened to kill him. The NBA suspended Sprewell for one year, which cost him \$6.4 million in salary. His team, the Golden State Warriors then terminated his contract, rather than give into his demands to be traded. Sprewell filed a grievance and this case went to arbitration. The arbitrator decided that the league imposed suspension was appropriate, however, he overturned the termination of Sprewell's contract. The arbitrator stated that:

There has never been a case of contract termination in the history of the NBA for a physical assault or a one-year suspension for such conduct or, it appears from the record, in the sports of baseball and football. In the case of the NFL, joint action by a team and the League is prohibited as a matter of contract. Although there is no specific contract provision in the NBA, as I have found, the evidence indicates that there is no history of both the League and a team imposing discipline for the same violent conduct, on or off the court. This speaks to the issue of fairness, as I see it. The major cases of violence in the NBA that were brought to my attention all involved discipline by the NBA itself and not a team. In the instant matter, the two disciplines together are unprecedented, as well as the severity of each, with respect to an act of violence. Given the magnitude of the Warriors' earlier discipline of the Grievant on December 1 and the NBA having become dominant in the investigatory process after that, I am unable to sustain the termination of the Grievant's contract as meeting a standard of just cause. (Internal citations omitted.)

Opinion and Award, In the Matter of National Basketball Players Association on behalf of player Latrell Sprewell and Warriors Basketball Club And National Basketball Association, at 100 (John D. Feerick, Grievance Arbitrator March 4, 1998).

109. *Id.* at A-19.

Season, or Playoff games, or he may order both such fine and suspension.

(e) The Commissioner shall have the power to suspend for a definite or indefinite period, or to impose a fine not exceeding \$25,000, or inflict both such suspension and fine upon any Player who, in his opinion, shall have been guilty of conduct that does not conform to standards or morality or fair play, that does not comply at all times with all federal, state, and local laws, or that is prejudicial or detrimental to the Association.¹¹⁰

These sections seem to be the sections under which the players who have assaulted officials in the past, have been penalized. These sanctions, however, seem inadequate.

As was stated previously, MLB has not had the same types of assaults upon officials (not withstanding the Roberto Alomar incident). However, Baseball did have provisions in its 1990-1993 Collective Bargaining Agreement which would have covered these types of actions. Article XII of the agreement, entitled "Discipline" would have been the appropriate section whereby the Club, the League, or the Commissioner could have punished a player who assaulted an umpire.¹¹¹

The NFL has had even fewer incidents involving players assaulting referees. However, had the NFL needed to punish a player for such an incident, it could have done so under the current NFL Collective Bargaining Agreement (hereinafter "NFL-CBA"). There are two sections in the current NFL-CBA which deal with player discipline.¹¹² These sec-

110. *Id.*

111. *See* BASIC AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AMERICAN LEAGUE OF BASEBALL CLUBS AND THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF BASEBALL CLUBS AND MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS ASSOCIATION of Jan. 1, 1990, Art. XII, at 33. This section essentially deals with whether there is just cause to discipline a player, however, it seems to be purposely vague as to the exact definition of "just cause." The pertinent section is as follows: "The Parties recognize that Player may be subjected to disciplinary action for just cause by his Club, League or the Commissioner. Therefore, in Grievances regarding discipline, the issue to be resolved shall be whether there has been just cause for the penalty imposed." *Id.*

112. *See* NFL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT 1993-2000, Art. VIII & Art. XI. Article VIII deals specifically with the discipline that a club may impose upon a player in the terms of how much money the club may fine a player for certain acts. These acts include: being overweight (\$50 per pound, per day); being unexcused and reporting late for training camp, meetings, practice, curfew, transportation, an appointment with a doctor, and a promotional activity (\$200); losing, damaging, or altering equipment (\$200 plus the costs for repairs or replacement); throwing a football into the stands (\$200); loss of all or part of a playbook (\$1,000); ejection from a game (maximum of \$2,000); and conduct detrimental to the club (maximum fine of one week's salary and/or a suspension without pay for up to four weeks). *Id.*

Article XI deals specifically with the penalties which the commissioner of the league may impose. It provides the grievance procedures which the players must follow along with the

tions contain the provisions under which a team and the league may punish a player.

The penalties provided for under each of the leagues respective collective bargaining agreements are simply inadequate. They are monetary in nature and pale in comparison to the vast amounts of money that today's professional athlete receives. As Charles Barkley said, "I don't care about \$10,000. The money goes to a good cause. So I look at it in a positive light. I got my money's worth. I definitely got my money's worth."¹¹³

There may be a number of reasons for the lack of proper penalties in these professional leagues. Initially, the leagues may not see that the increase in these types of assaults is important or frequent enough to merit large fines or long suspensions. For example, drug use and gambling receive high priority as problems to be dealt with by the professional league offices. There have been a number of professional athletes who have been subject to long term suspensions due to drug use or gambling on games.¹¹⁴ A focus on this behavior may send the message that it is more important to avoid drugs or to not bet on games than it is to not physically attack an official. Admittedly, these problems are serious. However, physically assaulting an official should be equally as important.

The professional leagues could also be afraid of losing star players for long periods of time, longer than the current length of these suspensions. If a league started handing out year long suspensions for attacking an official, it could run the risk that it may lose a star player for a year and could be hurt financially because of decreases in fan support.

relevant time limits; that players may have representation during this process; who pays the costs; where the fine money will go; and that there shall only be one penalty (meaning that both the club and the commissioner shall not be able to punish a player for the same action).
Id.

113. *Barkley is fined \$10,000; He called official 'gutless' after ejection from game*, MILWAUKEE J. & SENT., Mar. 31, 1998. This incident did not involve Barkley physically attacking an official. This incident stemmed from Barkley calling the official gutless after a game in which the official, Jack Nies, had ejected Barkley. This may demonstrate that the players have a casual attitude toward paying fines that are imposed upon them as punishment for inappropriate actions toward officials. As for Barkley's comments, under the NBA-CBA, ART. VI, § 2, at 39, the fines which the NBA collects are to go to charities if the player does not file a grievance as a result of the suspension or fine.

114. Pete Rose was banned for life from Major League Baseball because of his gambling activities. Steve Howe and Roy Tarpley were suspended for life, on more than one occasion, from Major League Baseball and the National Basketball Association, for their extensive drug usage.

In the NBA for instance, if the league were to suspend an athlete who physically assaulted an official for an extensive period of time, the league would have lost a number of its top players in the last few years. Dennis Rodman would have been gone from the Bulls for more than a few games, Nick Van Excel would have missed extensive time with the Lakers, and Charles Barkley and Clyde Drexler would have missed even more time with the Houston Rockets. Maybe the league could stand to lose players of a lesser caliber for a period of time, but to lose players of this caliber would be very costly, not only for these teams (in the terms of wins and losses, box office draw, and television revenue) but for the league as a whole.

Finally, some professional leagues may be afraid or unable to punish players severely, because of the strength of the players' unions and the ambiguous nature of the collective bargaining agreements. Players' unions are certainly more powerful than officials' unions, as was clearly evidenced in the Roberto Alomar and Latrell Sprewell situations. After all, the fans pay to see the players play, not to see the officials officiate.

C. Other Solutions

There is a growing trend toward players, coaches, and fans assaulting sports officials. This problem needs to be stopped before it gets out of control (assuming that it is not already too late). "Poor officiating — or officiating that is perceived to be biased — is no justification for physical violence. Or for any form of assault. At any level of play."¹¹⁵

One way to crack down on the violence is for the leagues to get tougher. Recreational, high school, and college leagues should have a no tolerance rule. A no tolerance rule simply states that the league or governing body does not tolerate an assault by a player on an official. If a player or coach were to assault an official, that individual would be banned from the league. The ban could be a lifetime ban or it could simply last for the remainder of the current season. If the ban were only for the current season, the player or coach would be allowed to participate the next season, assuming that the player still had eligibility left. If a player or coach would receive a subsequent ban for assaulting an official, that player or coach would then receive the lifetime ban from the league.

Professional leagues should try to deter players and coaches from assaulting officials by handing out more severe penalties. This would then

115. *No Rough Stuff: Zero Tolerance is the Only Way to Handle Violence Against Sports Officials*, CALGARY HER., Mar. 27, 1996, at A14.

ensure that the fans, especially young children, realize that it is not acceptable to attack an official, even if it may seem like he is 'working a bad game.'

Fans who assault an official should be banned from attending future events. If the players, coaches, and fans were aware of the punishments for assaulting an official and knew that they would be strictly enforced, maybe they would realize that it would not be in their best interest to strike an official after the official "blew a call" in their mind. After all, hitting an official is presumably not going to change the call itself.

All states need to enact legislation in order to increase the punishment for assaulting an official. Sports officials play an important role in society. They do a thankless job for minimal compensation. Many officials participate out of a sheer love of the game and to teach children who play the game the valuable lessons that can be learned through participating in sports. These lessons include that of sportsmanship, working as a team, and working within the rules of the game to achieve a common goal. Many of the better officials are getting out of working games because they fear for their safety and feel as if they are fighting a losing battle. Sports officials need protection in order to do their jobs in a safe environment. That protection needs to come from the states.

Furthermore, states that have statutes to protect sports officials must enforce those laws more stringently. States that do not have specific laws to protect sports officials either need to enact special laws, or try to enforce existing assault and battery laws on individuals who attack sports officials. Enhanced penalties for assaulting a sports official may be able to act as a deterrent and keep individuals from assaulting a sports official, because currently, nothing seems to have slowed this trend.

V. CONCLUSION

Fans, coaches and players must realize that mistakes, even by officials are part of the game. Leagues and other sports governing bodies must step up to punish those who assault officials for any reason. Otherwise sports may begin to lose the competent officials they have who fear for their safety if they make any mistake.

TROY CROSS

BBUA_fav_sb1034

Uploaded by: SCHILPP, MICHAEL

Position: FAV

https://www.heraldmailmedia.com/sports/the-umpire-strikes-back/article_4ef51670-367c-11ea-8942-03aa3db02482.html

The umpire strikes back

Kevin Dunleavy

Jan 13, 2020

When Little League umpire Matt Dinsmore was hit in the face by a Gatorade bottle thrown by an angry fan, his initial thought was to let it go.

After all, Dinsmore wasn't injured and bore no ill will toward the bottle thrower, who he didn't know.

But the more Dinsmore thought about the incident, the more he recalled the increasingly bad behavior of adults at games and the more he talked to fellow umpires who also have been subject to similar abuse, the 40-year-old from Sharpsburg became convinced that he needed to take a stand.

So Dinsmore pressed charges.

Six months after the incident, which happened last June, Norman Potter, 31, pleaded guilty to second-degree assault. On Dec. 19, the Hagerstown resident was sentenced to 18 months in jail, with all but four days suspended. A \$500 fine also was suspended. Potter was ordered to write a letter of apology and to undergo anger management help. He will remain on unsupervised probation for 18 months.

Potter's lawyer, Martin Palmer, declined comment.

Dinsmore, an umpire for several years in Washington County, hopes the case serves as a cautionary tale for adults who have become increasingly unruly at games.

"I'm glad the judge took it seriously, saw it as an issue and did something about it," Dinsmore said.

"Talking to other umpires, they now feel like they have some kind of backing, that they've got someone supporting them."

The incident happened on June 17 at the annual City Championship game, which pits the top two teams from Hagerstown's four Little League organizations. The game featured Alsatia of Federal Little League against Sunoco of West End.

According to Dinsmore, the game quickly became contentious after a baserunner from Sunoco was ejected when it was determined he was stealing signs from the Alsatia catcher and relaying them to the batter.

Dinsmore wasn't involved in the call, which was made by home plate umpire Travis Poole. It was a costly ejection as Sunoco lost its starting pitcher.

According to Dinsmore, as the game progressed, Sunoco fans became increasingly abusive, hurling insults at the umpiring crew. When the game ended, with Alsatia upsetting previously undefeated Sunoco, 3-2, the complaints of fans intensified.

"I walked back to the backstop because I wanted to watch the trophy presentation. The whole time people from West End were just screaming — vulgar language and obscenities," Dinsmore recalled. "I asked them, 'Guys, the game is over. There's kids everywhere. Please stop.' I just wanted them to quit cussing."

Eventually, Potter asked Dinsmore to "come on this side of the fence," the umpire recalled.

"I said to myself, 'I don't need this,' so I walked away," Dinsmore said. "Then he threw the bottle and it caught me on the side of the face. It was half to three-quarters full. It was enough to sting.

"And he didn't even have a kid in the game. He was strictly there as a spectator."

The incident prompted another member of the umpiring crew, Steve Mohl, to summon police. As Potter was departing, Mohl followed him and took pictures, which the police used to identify and find Potter.

Police did not charge Potter. Dinsmore took that step in October.

According to Jay Hawks, the president of West End Little League, the strong reaction from fans had much to do with the manner in which Poole ejected the player from Sunoco.

"What set everyone off was the demeanor of how he came out from home plate," Hawks said. "He came barging out like a wild man. You're throwing your mask off like a football player, you charge the mound, screaming, chest puffed out and that's what set the fans off."

Dinsmore said the the ejection "could have been handled better."

"You're talking about a 12-year-old kid and a 275/300-pound man charging after him," Hawks said. "It had nothing to do with the base umpires. They were all very fine gentlemen. It was the home-plate umpire."

With that said, Hawks added, there was no excuse for the virulent reactions of fans, the cursing and especially for a bottle to be thrown.

"That should have never ever happened, no matter what had transpired," Hawks said. "The guy got time. I'm glad for it. I told him he wasn't allowed on the premises at West End Little League."

Dinsmore and Mohl were pleasantly surprised by the result. They weren't convinced there would be any repercussions for Potter.

"I hate to see anything around youth sports that requires that kind of punitive action," Mohl, 48, said. "But on the flip side, I hope word about this gets out and people realize that this is not acceptable behavior and if they continue in this manner, there will be negative consequences."

During the game, Mohl was astonished that one of those helping stoke the fires of the fans was a West End Little League board member.

"He did a lot of stirring the pot," Mohl said. "I think if it hadn't been for that, this whole thing with Matt being assaulted might not have happened. I don't think it would have reached that fevered pitch."

"He was really upset, said a lot of things," Hawks said. "You just can't act that way, no matter what."

Dinsmore and Mohl both said that several parents of players from Sunoco approached them to offer support.

"I got more apologies from West End parents, asking me, 'Please don't hold West End responsible for this, because not everybody at West End is like that,'" Dinsmore said.

Hawks was disheartened to see a Little League game become so combative and with so many adults at fault.

"It's a kids' sport. We're all there to develop them, teach them good sportsmanship," Hawks said. "I'm thinking, 'Am I really seeing this stuff going on in front of these kids?'"

Dinsmore thought long and hard about pursuing the case. Now he hopes some good comes from his decision.

"At times I thought, I am being petty by pressing charges. Is the judge going to look at this and laugh and say, 'You're wasting my time with this nonsense?'" Dinsmore said. "But I got a lot of calls and emails from umpires around the county asking me to do something. In Washington County none of the umpires get paid. I went up there and got pelted in the face and afterward I got a soda and a sandwich. I wasn't making any money. I was doing it for the kids."



Kevin Dunleavy

DavidCollier_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: SCHILPP, MICHAEL

Position: FAV

SB1034 - Favorable

My name is Dave Collier. I umpire for 2 baseball groups and I am also a football official. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak here today on behalf of all sports officials in support of Senate Bill-1034. This is a bill that is desperately needed in the state of Maryland to protect sports officials. I would like to thank Senator Patterson and others for preparing this bill. We appreciate it.

As you may or may not know, all sporting officials for any sport from pee-wee to high school are all volunteers. We go through rigorous training both on the field and off to become sanctioned. We watch film, take tests and are critiqued by veterans of whatever sport we are officiating. But we are being verbally harassed and insulted by parents, coaches and sometimes even players. There are times when things boil over to physical altercations.

As an official that has personally been assaulted by a parent on the baseball field, I can tell you that, even though the police were called and video was shown, there was nothing that could be done to the parent responsible for this action. As of right now, Maryland is one of 29 states where there is no law that protects sports officials in these types of situations. In this day and age officials can never be sure that if they are approached after a game, or even sometimes during a game, if a weapon of some sort may be drawn against them. Who knows if this will ever happen? Even if it does happen there are no real consequences. It's no worse than simply being pushed down. There

really is nothing to deter this type of behavior. The more it is ignored, the more it will happen.

I am asking you to please pass Senate Bill 1034. It will make any kind of physical altercation with a sports official Misdemeanor of Assault in the Second Degree. This could, in some instances, save us from serious injury or maybe even loss of life.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

DavidWilliams_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: SCHILPP, MICHAEL

Position: FAV

February 27, 2020

Favorable

Mr. Jackson (CLATE)

SENATE BILL #SB-1034

Good evening,

My name is David Williams and I'm writing you on behalf of the BBUA and all sports official across the region. I'm fully committed to support Senator Obie Patterson in trying to have the bill passed.

I have been apart of the Greater Baltimore communities that have taken part as a Coach, official and parent. In my 25 plus years of working sports events I value the public safety of all parents, student athletes and coaches. By getting this bill passed in Annapolis will be a big milestone across our region. By knowing that such a bill was presented for the safety of all officials means a lot to us.

Thank you

David Williams
BBUA Member

MichaelSchilpp_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: SCHILPP, MICHAEL

Position: FAV

SB-1034 - Favorable

My name is Michael Schilpp and I am the President of Baltimore Best umpires. On October 6th, 2019, one of my umpires, Mr. David Collier was physically assaulted by a parent/and a player during a baseball game. To date, this assault has not been prosecuted.

Baltimore City police were contacted and responded to scene of the assault. The parent/player fled before they could arrive. Detective Simpson from the Baltimore City Police Department confirmed this statement by the officer that under the "simple assault code", unless the Officer witnessed the assault – and without the name(s) there was nothing more he could do even though there was a video taken from the incident. If we could get the names of the assailants they would enforce the law.

These types of incidents are happening way too often to sports officials everywhere not just only in Maryland.

Maryland is 1 of 29 states that does not have a law that protects sports officials. I stand here today asking you to please pass this law that protects all of us. I have had the opportunity to meet with several Senators and they know my passion for this issue. Someone is going to get seriously hurt – more than they already have. We as sports officials do this for the love of the game, not to make someone win or lose. We are human and sometimes make mistakes. I ask, should that be a reason for us to be harassed/threatened / or assaulted? The answer is NO!

Since May of 2019, I have been made personally aware of 5 incidents where an official has been threatened or assaulted in the State of Maryland. All have been from various geographic areas in the State.

Baltimore City
Baltimore County
Frederick County
Worcester County
Montgomery County

These types of incidents make recruiting and hiring of new officials almost impossible.

The National Association of Sports Officials report that new sports officials in their first 1 to 3 years are quitting at an alarming rate of 70%. You ask why? Because they are being harassed (followed to their vehicles)/threatened/ and even physically assaulted. For the more experienced umpires, this is forcing us to start fighting back or continue and take the abuse. BY fighting back, we expose ourselves to getting charged with assault which does not seem fair. It has been suggested that sports officials carry pepper spray – I can say that this seems like a very bad idea. I see this as a potentially bigger problem than fighting back. Another solution would be all sports officials start quitting and let these parents start officiating games – we all know that will end in more serious violent issues.

The need to stop this persecution of sports officials in the State Of Maryland is right now! We must get protection against these individuals that believe it is ok to follow us to our vehicles after the game, threaten to be waiting for us in the parking lots after they are removed from games because of "their conduct" or the ones that just physically assault us.

Wisconsin and Ohio have now also taken up the task to change their laws to protect their sports officials. They are monitoring how the State of Maryland proceeds to get the law passed that will protect sports officials. I am currently working with NASO to keep them informed.

In closing, we all need to feel safe and know we have some recourse (protection) should an incident occur. Today in the State of Maryland - that does not exist.

By not passing this law, we will be allowing all coaches/parents/ and players the ability to continue to harass/threaten and assault sports officials in Maryland. The time to end these assaults on sports officials in Maryland is right NOW!

Favorable

PaulSeiberlich_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Seiberlich, Paul

Position: FAV

FEB 21 2020

Patterson, Obie Senator

From: warthogk21@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 12:43 PM
To: Patterson, Obie Senator
Subject: Please follow through with SB-1034. Injured Soccer referee, needs your help, due to assault !

Favorable

J. Paul Seiberlich

Greetings Senator Patterson,

THANK YOU for supporting **SB-1034** ! Making Assault on a sports official a Felony, catching up to 25 other states ahead of Maryland.

My name is Paul Seiberlich, I am an injured Soccer Referee due to an assault during a UPSL National Quarterfinal playoff game on 12/14/19 played at Blair HS in Silver Spring MD between Mass United FC and World Class Premier, and I need your help! I have seen twelve medical professionals out of pocket since the assault by Mass United FC Assistant Coach Cesar Deossa on 12/14/19. Cesar A. Deossa of Watertown Mass is the Asst Coach of NPSL Boston City FC, UPSL Mass United FC, as well as a women's team and a youth boys' team.

I may need eye surgery for a **Partially Detached Retina**. Now two months later I am still suffering from **Post-Concussion Syndrome**, missing work since Dec 14, and suffering from **Physical, Mental, and Emotional problems** that are worsening each week. The assault affects my daily activities and I am doing my best to work through this, but my resources are depleting, and I am running out of options.

My injuries have been diagnosed as: Iritis, Posterior vitreous detachment, Partially torn retina, Concussion, Post Concussive Syndrome, Anxiety, PTSD, Vertigo, Nausea, Weight loss Elevated Blood Pressure, plus light to moderate (T.B.I.) Traumatic Brain Injury. These injuries may affect me for many years to come, or even the rest of my life.

I have heard that Mr. Deossa has attempted to apologize and claim that is a one-off situation where he flew off the handle and made a mistake. But I have significant proof beyond a reasonable doubt, that this is not the case. ***Silver Spring Court Legal Assistant Jay Rajan says, 'We aren't taking into account Deossa's past, only what happened that day.'***

- 1) Mr. Deossa was dismissed from two NPSL games in 2019 for inappropriate behavior in the technical area. 6/1/19 and 6/30/19. Each time receiving a league suspension in June.
- 2) I possess a video of a separate incident 12/7/19, where Mr. Deossa enters the field of play and then charges towards a Fourth Official while loudly yelling Foul and Abusive language while chest bumping the Fourth Official on camera. This should have led to Mr. Deossa being dismissed from the match, but he was not. This also verifies he is a coach and not 'a parent from the stands'. This was the game seven days before my game where he assaulted me. Including me, this makes four times in six months Deossa was aggressive towards a referee.
- 3) Two players from Mass United FC were suspended from NPSL both for referee assault, one each in 2018 and May 2019.

This is clearly a pattern of aggressive and violent behavior that escalated with me being assaulted and injured in December. I do not think I have to remind you of incidents in Michigan and Utah where referees were killed in similar circumstances, with just one punch. I'm asking for your help and support in seeing Mr. Deossa being punished to the fullest extent of the law, and ultimately prevention for something like this happening to another referee. **Since you are supporting this SB-1034 bill, you'd be the perfect person to contact for this case.**

You may be aware that news of this went National as a reporter was at the game live tweeting the event:

<https://sports.yahoo.com/upsl-playoff-match-abandoned-coach-220524113.html>

<https://soccer.nbcsports.com/tag/referees/>

<https://www.protagonistsoccer.com/features/punch>

I have been asked to participate in several news stories on sports official assault. I also have a DC news reporter solidly confirmed who wants to use my story on air.

As a soccer referee, I've been assaulted **four times in Maryland** in 23 years, and 8200 games, from Semipro, Mens amateur, Boys U17 travel, and 12 year old boys games, by players and coaches on the field, plus parents in the parking lot 20 minutes after the game. This last assault on December 14, 2019 at Blair High School in Silver Spring Maryland resulted in my worst injuries. The first three assaults were minor enough, or only required one visit to a doctor to fix my problem, but all three times the assailant who was released under PBJ, Probation Before Judgement, all three assailants committed another assault in the next 12 months, not against a referee, but still ON the soccer field, and were not punished yet again. All three getting off Scott Free twice for assault.

Maryland Judiciary Case Search: Last Name: Deossa Case # 3D00406395 Thursday March 12, 2020 8:00am Silver Spring Courthouse Room #401

<http://casesearch.courts.state.md.us/casesearch/inquiry-index.jsp>

Mr Deossa's lawyer is attempting to have his repetitive violent client let off my case with just PBJ. It's over 60 days after the assault, and I still can't go back to work full time in either of my two jobs, and some of my symptoms are worsening. Some of my problems may take several years to clear up, some may never clear up! **(PBJ) Probation Before Judgement should not be on the table at all in this case !!!** Deossa is walking free right now, as I spend thousands out of pocket for medical care and lay at home in bed.

Again, I want to thank you all for listening to my story and taking action in support of criminal proceedings. Referee assault should not happen to any referee ever, and I appreciate you taking the steps to fight for what is right and just.

Regards, J. Paul Seiberlich Injured Soccer Referee
WarthogK21@Aol.com
(703) 888-8846 Cell Phone

=====

Medical Treatment, since the assault :

- 1— Fire Station Silver Spring #16.
- 2— Holy Cross Emergency Room with cat scan.
- 3— Internist Dr Gupta 9801 Georgia Ave.
- 4-- Head First Concussion Treatment Specialist.
- 5— Kaiser Permanente Internist
- 6— Referral Specialist DC Vestibular Physical Therapist.
- 7— Referral: OphthaNeurologist
- 8— Referral Psychiatrist for new Anxiety and PTSD
- 9— Kaiser Neurologist
- 10-- Kaiser Ophthalmologist
- 11-- Kaiser Memory Care nurse.
- 12— Yousefi Chiropractor 2x\week.

**Baseline 120/80 P: 70 R: 12-14 Before Assault (Oct 2019 CVS
Self testing)**

12\14\19 190/150 P: 115 R: 20 One hour
after Assault

1\3\20	170/130	P: 110	
1\6\20	150/110	P: 100	
1\7\20	150/130	P: 100	
1\20\20	150/110	P: 100	R: 17
1\24\20	140/100	P: 100	R: 20
1\28\20	137/97	P: 78	R: 18

NPSL 2019 Suspension List

NAME	TEAM	CODE	SUSPENSION	AS OF 2019/08/04	
Cesar Deossa (coach)	Boston City FC	<u>2019/06/30</u>	IB	1 game	Served
Rigoberto Jimenez Chirinos	Boston City FC	2019/06/15	YCA	1 game	Served
JHONATA MATEUS NASCIMENTO BATISTA	Boston City FC	2019/06/15	YCA	1 game	Served
Cesar Deossa (coach)	Boston City FC	<u>2019/06/01</u>	IB	1 game	Served
Charlton Muhlauri	Boston City FC	2019/06/01	<u>AL</u>	1 game	Served
Avner Alves	Boston City FC	2019/06/01	2CT	1 game	Served
Samuel Deossa	Boston City FC	2019/05/26	<u>VC</u>	2 games	Served
Michael Bustamante Lopez	Boston City FC	2019/05/26	<u>RA</u>	6 games + 6 months	6 months remaining
Jadson Leite Soares	Boston City FC	2018/06/30	<u>RA</u>	6 games & 6 months	Served

RA = Referee Assault

IB = Irresponsible Behavior

AL = Foul and Abusive Language to Referee

VC = Violent Conduct

=====

APPENDIX E_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Senator Patterson, Senator Patterson

Position: FAV

38°

CLOSINGS AND DELAYS / Oakley - USD 274

WEATHER ALERTS / There is 1 area with 1 active weather alert.

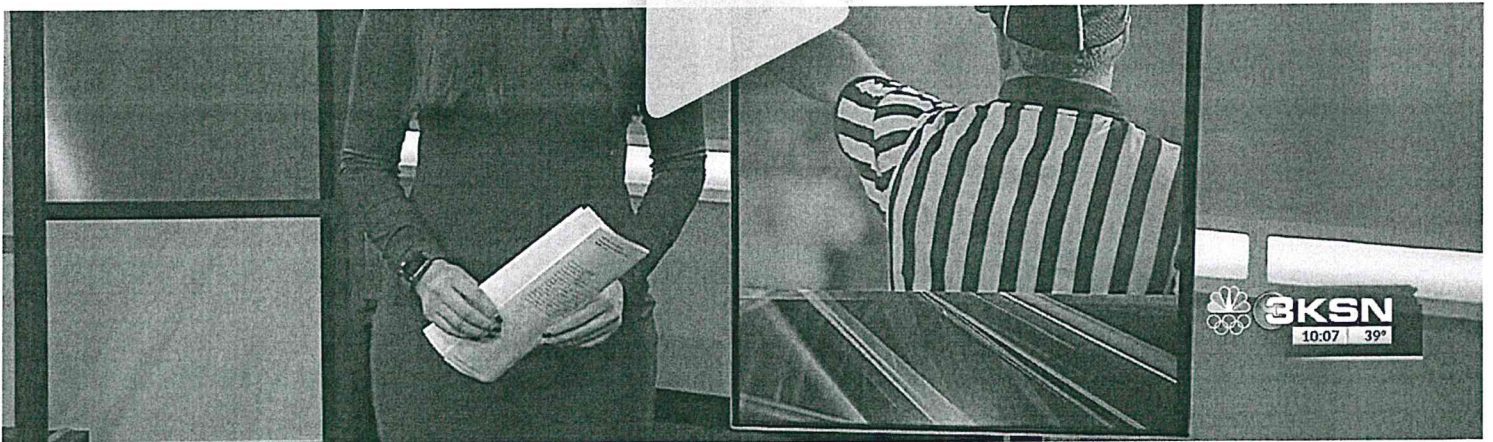
SB1034 Appendix E
Favorable

LOCAL

'It's kind of disappointing that we've come to this': Lawmakers discuss bill to increase penalties for assault against sports officials

Lawmakers discuss bill to protect sports officials

2 minutes left



by: Alexis Padilla

Posted: Feb 20, 2020 / 08:00 AM CST / Updated: Feb 20, 2020 / 09:05 AM CST

WICHITA, Kan. (KSNW) – “It’s a game, and it should be a fun time, a fun event, and it’s kind of disappointing that we’ve come to this,” said referee Keith Kinley.

38°

“Some people take it so serious that it draws to physical activity or verbal altercation. It’s really disappointing at times,” said Kinley, board member of the Greater Wichita Officials Association.

Kansas lawmakers are discussing a bill, HB 2520, that would strengthen the penalties for assaulting a sports official. Their hope is to prevent incidents like the one in Augusta two years ago. When a former Wichita police captain pushed a teenage referee.

“There are some kids that are detoured because of some of the way the parents and the coaches and people act,” Kinley said.

Over the past 10 years, Kansas has seen a decline in sports officials. The shortage is leading to more close calls other than the ones on the field and court.

“We haven’t done it yet but we have come very close this year to canceling some games because of these behaviors,” said the referee.

Kinley says if passed this bill will especially be helpful during the off-season.

“If kids are going to get better and if officials are gonna get better that means we have to do some of the summer leagues, some of the travel ball, some of that stuff and in that situation, it’s not really as regulated,” he said.

LATEST STORIES:

Wichita State University enters wind turbine tech partnership

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APPENDIXB_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Senator Patterson, Senator Patterson

Position: FAV



Favorable

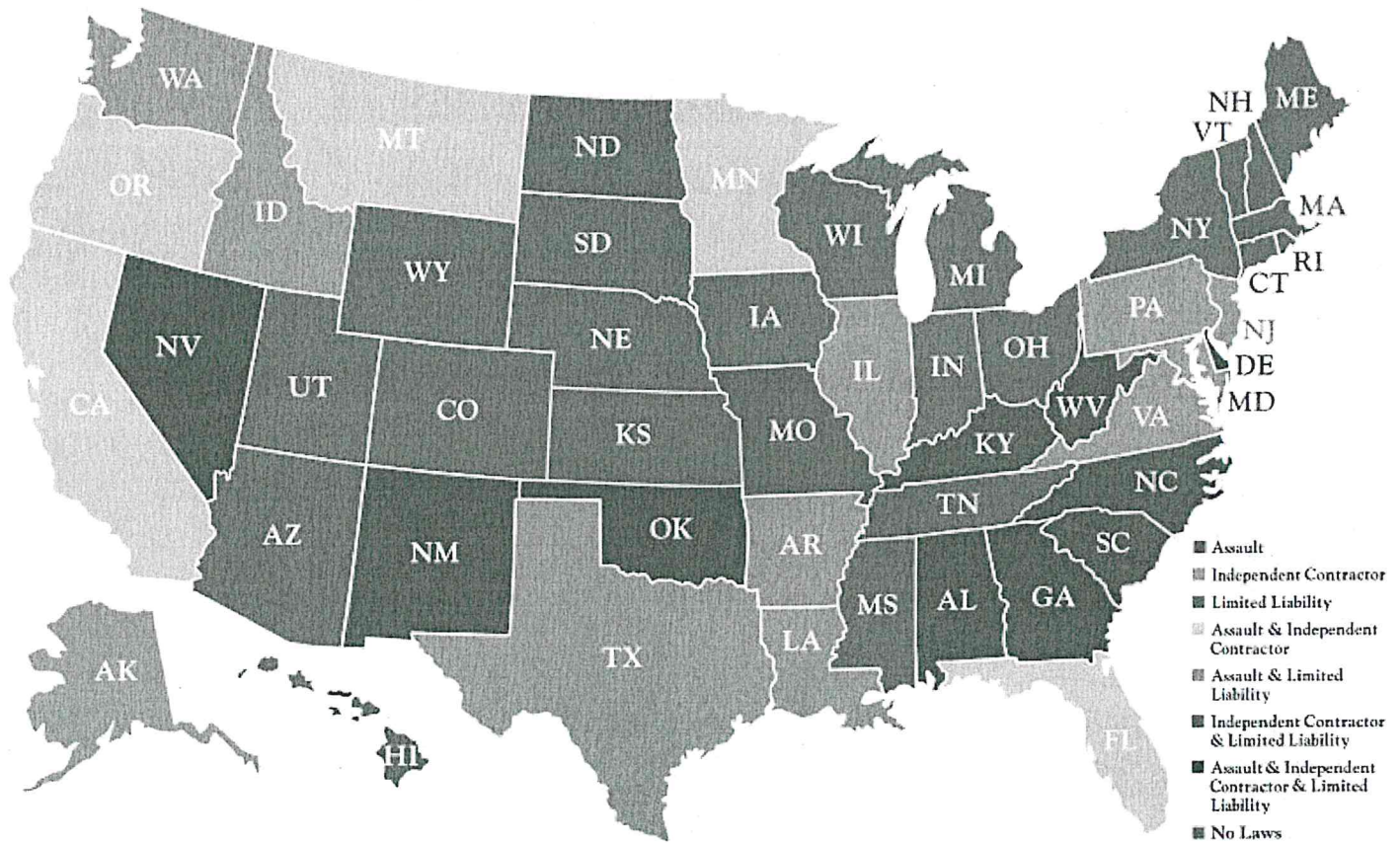


Appendix B



Home > Resources > Legislation > 2019 Sports Officials Legislative Scorecard

2019 Sports Officials Legislative Scorecard



Download PDF

Has your state passed laws related to assaults on officials, officials' liability or independent contractor status? Those three issues impact sports officials and the officiating industry. Many states have realized the importance of addressing those topics.

Sports officials should be able to perform their duties without threat of personal injury, administrative hearings or litigation because of their game calls. Being a referee or umpire

is no easy task. State legislators can show support for the men and women who officiate on the courts, fields and ice by passing laws to protect them.

NASO has been bringing attention to assault, liability and independent contractor issues for years. The map, updated for 2019, displays the states that have passed laws dealing with those issues. There are currently 21 states that have officiating assault laws (including 19 with criminal laws and two with civil statutes), 16 with limited liability legislation and 15 states with independent contractor laws. In addition, two states – Idaho, Washington and Missouri – have supportive resolutions for sports officials. How does your state match up with others? If there is work to be done, consider getting involved in pushing for legislation.

Pass Legislation in Your State

Since 1984, when NASO first submitted model legislation regarding assaults against officials, members and legislators have used such models to construct their own legislative bills.

There is no fool-proof plan to get the job done. Each state handles legislation differently, and it is up to the local constituency to manage the process effectively. It is NASO's goal that individual members utilize the proposed legislative models and work with their local officials associations and local legislators to construct viable laws. Before you do anything else, it's a good idea to do some research. Request an NASO Assault Legislation Packet and visit naso.org. Contact your state government to find out what specific legislation is in place. And if your state does not have needed laws supporting officials, you can get involved.

1. Contact your local association.

Share with your association what other states have done in terms of legislation. Move forward united. You can also work to get other officials associations in the area or your state association to back your cause.

2. Circulate a petition.

APPENDIXC_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Senator Patterson, Senator Patterson

Position: FAV

https://www.heraldmailmedia.com/sports/the-umpire-strikes-back/article_4ef51670-367c-11ea-8942-03aa3db02482.html

The umpire strikes back

Kevin Dunleavy
Jan 13, 2020

When Little League umpire Matt Dinsmore was hit in the face by a Gatorade bottle thrown by an angry fan, his initial thought was to let it go.

After all, Dinsmore wasn't injured and bore no ill will toward the bottle thrower, who he didn't know.

But the more Dinsmore thought about the incident, the more he recalled the increasingly bad behavior of adults at games and the more he talked to fellow umpires who also have been subject to similar abuse, the 40-year-old from Sharpsburg became convinced that he needed to take a stand.

So Dinsmore pressed charges.

Six months after the incident, which happened last June, Norman Potter, 31, pleaded guilty to second-degree assault. On Dec. 19, the Hagerstown resident was sentenced to 18 months in jail, with all but four days suspended. A \$500 fine also was suspended. Potter was ordered to write a letter of apology and to undergo anger management help. He will remain on unsupervised probation for 18 months.

Potter's lawyer, Martin Palmer, declined comment.

Dinsmore, an umpire for several years in Washington County, hopes the case serves as a cautionary tale for adults who have become increasingly unruly at games.

"I'm glad the judge took it seriously, saw it as an issue and did something about it," Dinsmore said. "Talking to other umpires, they now feel like they have some kind of backing, that they've got someone supporting them."

The incident happened on June 17 at the annual City Championship game, which pits the top two teams from Hagerstown's four Little League organizations. The game featured Alsatia of Federal Little League against Sunoco of West End.

According to Dinsmore, the game quickly became contentious after a baserunner from Sunoco was ejected when it was determined he was stealing signs from the Alsatia catcher and relaying them to the batter.

Dinsmore wasn't involved in the call, which was made by home plate umpire Travis Poole. It was a costly ejection as Sunoco lost its starting pitcher.

According to Dinsmore, as the game progressed, Sunoco fans became increasingly abusive, hurling insults at the umpiring crew. When the game ended, with Alsatia upsetting previously undefeated Sunoco, 3-2, the complaints of fans intensified.

"I walked back to the backstop because I wanted to watch the trophy presentation. The whole time people from West End were just screaming — vulgar language and obscenities," Dinsmore recalled. "I asked them, 'Guys, the game is over. There's kids everywhere. Please stop.' I just wanted them to quit cussing."

Eventually, Potter asked Dinsmore to "come on this side of the fence," the umpire recalled.

"I said to myself, 'I don't need this,' so I walked away," Dinsmore said. "Then he threw the bottle and it caught me on the side of the face. It was half to three-quarters full. It was enough to sting.

"And he didn't even have a kid in the game. He was strictly there as a spectator."

The incident prompted another member of the umpiring crew, Steve Mohl, to summon police. As Potter was departing, Mohl followed him and took pictures, which the police used to identify and find Potter.

Police did not charge Potter. Dinsmore took that step in October.

According to Jay Hawks, the president of West End Little League, the strong reaction from fans had much to do with the manner in which Poole ejected the player from Sunoco.

"What set everyone off was the demeanor of how he came out from home plate," Hawks said. "He came barging out like a wild man. You're throwing your mask off like a football player, you charge the mound, screaming, chest puffed out and that's what set the fans off."

Dinsmore said the the ejection "could have been handled better."

"You're talking about a 12-year-old kid and a 275/300-pound man charging after him," Hawks said. "It had nothing to do with the base umpires. They were all very fine gentlemen. It was the home-plate umpire."

With that said, Hawks added, there was no excuse for the virulent reactions of fans, the cursing and especially for a bottle to be thrown.

"That should have never ever happened, no matter what had transpired," Hawks said. "The guy got time. I'm glad for it. I told him he wasn't allowed on the premises at West End Little League."

Dinsmore and Mohl were pleasantly surprised by the result. They weren't convinced there would be any repercussions for Potter.

"I hate to see anything around youth sports that requires that kind of punitive action," Mohl, 48, said. "But on the flip side, I hope word about this gets out and people realize that this is not acceptable behavior and if they continue in this manner, there will be negative consequences."

During the game, Mohl was astonished that one of those helping stoke the fires of the fans was a West End Little League board member.

"He did a lot of stirring the pot," Mohl said. "I think if it hadn't been for that, this whole thing with Matt being assaulted might not have happened. I don't think it would have reached that fevered pitch."

"He was really upset, said a lot of things," Hawks said. "You just can't act that way, no matter what."

Dinsmore and Mohl both said that several parents of players from Sunoco approached them to offer support.

"I got more apologies from West End parents, asking me, 'Please don't hold West End responsible for this, because not everybody at West End is like that,'" Dinsmore said.

Hawks was disheartened to see a Little League game become so combative and with so many adults at fault.

"It's a kids' sport. We're all there to develop them, teach them good sportsmanship," Hawks said. "I'm thinking, 'Am I really seeing this stuff going on in front of these kids?'"

Dinsmore thought long and hard about pursuing the case. Now he hopes some good comes from his decision.

"At times I thought, I am being petty by pressing charges. Is the judge going to look at this and laugh and say, 'You're wasting my time with this nonsense?'" Dinsmore said. "But I got a lot of calls and emails from umpires around the county asking me to do something. In Washington County none of the umpires get paid. I went up there and got pelted in the face and afterward I got a soda and a sandwich. I wasn't making any money. I was doing it for the kids."

APPENDIXD_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Senator Patterson, Senator Patterson

Position: FAV

SB 1034
Favorable

Appendix D

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION **NASO** OF SPORTS OFFICIALS

PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE ON DECEMBER 17, 2019

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED TO ADVANCE ASSAULT LEGISLATION IN MARYLAND

FOR RELEASE DECEMBER 17, 2019

As many of you may be aware, a recent physical assault on a Maryland sports official was ultimately not prosecutable. This incident has also highlighted the fact that, unlike many other states, Maryland does not have strong laws in place supporting sports officials who are victims of menacing harassment or assault.

There is good news, however. This type of legislation is currently being drafted by Senator Klausmeier, and your voice is needed in support of this effort. Please consider contacting your state senator about this possible legislation that will go a long way toward ensuring the well-being of all sports officials in Maryland.

You can speak from your own experience or craft a message from this sample:

I'm calling/writing to ask you to co-sponsor or support the bill being drafted by Senator Klausmeier that will enhance penalties for those who harass or assault sports officials, in line with what more than 24 other states have already done.

I've seen firsthand the problems caused when we can't recruit and retain sports officials because of the increasingly difficult environments a handful of spectators have sometimes created at sporting events.

This type of bill won't be the end of bad behavior completely, but it would put a spotlight on a growing problem in Maryland and will only help bring awareness to the issue as well as support recruitment of officials.

Assault Bill/Harassment Bill Supporting Points

Courtesy of the National Association of Sports Officials (<https://www.naso.org/survey/>)

- *The average age of sports officials across the country is 53 years old*
- *Nearly 48% of male officials have felt unsafe or feared for their safety in connection to officiating.*
- *Nearly 45% of female officials have felt unsafe or feared for their safety in connection to officiating.*
- *57% of sports officials believe that sportsmanship is getting worse. Youth, adult recreation, and high school levels are identified as the worst sportsmanship levels.*
- *Parents (40%), coaches (30%) and fans (18%) cause the most sportsmanship problems.*
- *43% of officials and officiating leaders believe that most new officials quit within the first 1-3 years.*
- *13% of officials have been assaulted by either a fan, coach, or player.*
- *The average starting age for a sports official is now 40-45 years old. Thirty years ago, the average starting age for a sports official was 20-25 years old.*

You can find the senator from your district [HERE](#).

Sports cannot function without officials. Please consider the importance to our communities that youth sports carry, and remember how important your voice as a voter and as an official truly is in this effort to ensure the safety of all sports officials in Maryland.

Contact: Bill Topp

Chief Operating Officer/Executive Editor

Referee Magazine/National Association of Sports Officials

btopp@referee.com

The National Association of Sports Officials is the world's largest organization for sports officials at every level and all sports. More than 29,000 sports officials from around the world belong to NASO, enjoying member benefits and supporting an organization that advocates for sports officials and that helps them maintain the highest level of officiating skills.

###





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APPENDIX_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Senator Patterson, Senator Patterson

Position: FAV

SB1034

Favorable Appendix F

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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

55 Comments 261 Shares

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Most Relevant



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

View 8 more replies



Author

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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FOX 17
TV Channel



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School Sports Team



Hopkins High School
High School



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Photographer

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Meteorologist Erik Kostzewa

See more of Zach Harig - Fox 17 on Facebook


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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

 **Zach Harig - Fox 17**
Yesterday at 8:50 PM

Forest Hills Northern wins share of OK White with win over Northview... See More

1

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Yesterday at 8:50 PM

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or

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

Most Relevant is selected, so some comments may have been filtered out.

See more of Zach Harig - Fox 17 on Facebook

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GregWatson_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Senator Patterson, Senator Patterson

Position: FAV

SB 1034 - Favorable

February 28, 2020

Re: Support Enhanced Penalties For Sports Official Assault
Senate Bills 1034 and 691

Senator Obie Patterson
Room 201
obie.patterson@senate.state.md.us

Senator Katherine Klausmeier
Room 123
katherine.klausmeier@senate.state.md.us Senators

Senator Robert Cassilly
Room 401
Bob.Cassilly@senate.state.md.us

Senator Christopher West
Room 303
chris.west@senate.state.md.us

James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Maryland State Soccer Referee Committee (SRC), I urge Committee approval and Senate passage for legislation that supports referees and clarifies appropriate criminal penalties for assault against referees in all sports. Senate Bills 1034 and 691 are good bills.

Physical assault is an extreme problem. It can be partially addressed by increasing the penalty to a felony, while retaining common law discretion for prosecutors and judges to address the action and injuries case by case.

The Maryland Soccer Referee Committee trains approximately 700 new entry level referees and 1,800 returning referees every year. It trains them, tests them, and certifies them. We also train and test assigners, test the physical fitness of our advanced referees, and are proud of our many members who seek and receive additional training for high school, college, and professional games. Through their own contracting entities, our certified assigners schedule referees for more than 40,000 games annually. For more information about us, please see our website, www.marylandreferee.com.

Three instances of physical assault in Maryland against sports officials have come to our attention this year. First, a physical assault against a soccer referee was determined to be non-prosecutable in December 2019. The SRC is still investigating what it can do. Second, a baseball umpire for a 14 year old game was assaulted by a spectator, presumably a parent from the visiting team at a Baltimore City diamond in the Fall 2019. The umpire's association is still working with the teams to identify the perpetrator and is contracting you separately. Third, in an adult regional soccer match this Fall between teams from Maryland and Massachusetts, at half-time, an assistant coach (or parent-spectator) ran approximately 50 yards onto the field to punch the referee in the head. The referee terminated the match, walked to the ambulance at the firehouse next the field, and now is receiving treatment for a concussion. We understand that a trial in the criminal case is scheduled for March 12, 2020. We will report more after that.

Verbal assault and abuse are the leading causes of attrition among soccer referees. They are the reason the SRC needs to train 700 new referees annually, just to (almost) keep up with the need. A survey from the National Association of Sports Officials (<https://www.naso.org/survey/>) reports that nearly 48% of male officials have felt unsafe or feared for their safety in connection to officiating and that nearly 45% of female officials have felt unsafe or feared for their safety in connection to officiating. For now, our ability to attract younger persons to referee has been seriously hurt. NASO's survey reports that the average starting age for a sports official is now 40-45 years old. Thirty years ago, the average starting age for a sports official was 20-25 years old. Through "zero tolerance" policies with the Maryland state adult and youth soccer associations and the leagues, referees are working hard to stop verbal assaults and improve sportsmanship in youth and adult soccer. Still, though, at many public high school varsity games in football, basketball, and soccer, it is routine to have two uniformed police officers in attendance, in addition to a designated school administrator.

The new Senate Bill and SB 691 are important steps in recognizing the problem and attaching appropriate consequences to those who physically assault sports officials.

Very truly yours

Greg Watson
Maryland State Soccer Referee Administrator

LisaSchreihart_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Senator Patterson, Senator Patterson

Position: FAV

SB 1034 - Favorable

Patterson, Obie Senator

From: Lisa Schreihart <ohiolisanku@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 8:35 PM
To: National Association of Sports Officials
Cc: Patterson, Obie Senator; iowalisa@juno.com
Subject: [Bulk] Re: The Time is Now for Maryland to Protect Sports Officials

I will support this. I am a Maryland attorney as well as a youth, adult, and collegiate sports official.

Thanks for the head's up.

Lisa Schreihart

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 26, 2020, at 4:44 PM, National Association of Sports Officials <mail@naso.org> wrote:



FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 26, 2020

Maryland does not have strong laws in place supporting sports officials who are victims of menacing harassment or assault. To correct this, Maryland State Senators Klausmeier and Patterson will be introducing Bill #1034 for hearing in the first week of March.

Clate Jackson, Senator Patterson's Legislative Aide and basketball referee with IAABO for the last 18 years, is the architect of the new bill. He explained the details the new legislation as follows:

DETAILS OF BILL #1034

RobertFriedman_Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Senator Patterson, Senator Patterson

Position: FAV

SB-1034

Favorable



RE: Senate Bill 1034

To whom it may concern,

The Maryland Board of Football Officials (MBFO) supports Senate Bill 1034 in its entirety.

The MBFO was founded in 1923 and provides High School Football Officiating Services for Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association High Schools.

Rodneysmith_fav_sb1034

Uploaded by: Senator Patterson, Senator Patterson

Position: FAV

State Maryland Legislation Senate Bill 1034-Assault of Sports Officials

State Legislation Aimed at Protecting Sports Officials from Assaults or Harassment

Good Committee members,

My name is Rodney Smith, I am/was a game official of many sports since I was 18. In my 40 plus years of officiating team sports from intramural to high school sports, paid and unpaid, I have seen and have been assaulted, I have been threatened with in a inch of my life. I have shielded my fellow comrades from incidents, and nothing have been done to protect me and others like me that love what we do or want to make a difference on the field or court. Below are 23 States that have supported laws that assist and protect the game officials. I stopped doing certain sports due to the threats, harassment and fear for my life. Senate Bill 1034 must be passed yesterday please before we have at worse a death. The raise in game incident is being ignored because it have not made the front-page news or the 6pm local news like other states. Sending a mad coach, player, parent or fan off the field does not solve the problem.

Kentucky had a game official knocked out, now that want to do something. We have no protection. The \$50. Not even \$100 game fee will not meet the hospitals co-pay. Any fines levied by the court systems, a percentage need to given back to that organization by the offender and some type of band should be levied.

The following states have legislation specifically defining assaults on sports officials as crimes or other legislation that could protect sports officials.

ALABAMA

Section 1. For purposes of this act, a “sports official”, is a person at a sports event who enforces the rules of the event, such as an umpire or referee, or a person who supervises the participants, such as a coach. A “sports event” includes any interscholastic or intramural athletic activity in a primary, middle, junior high, or high school, college, or university, any organized athletic activity sponsored by a community, business, or nonprofit organization, any athletic activity that is a professional or semiprofessional event, and any other organized athletic activity in the state.

Section 2. (a) A person commits the crime of harassment of a sports official if he or she commits the crime of harassment as provided for by Section 13A-11-8, Code of Alabama 1975, and the victim is a sports official performing official duties and the harassment is a result of the official performing his or her official duties. Harassment of a sports official is a Class B misdemeanor. (b) A person commits the crime of menacing a sports official if he or she commits the crime of menacing as provided for by Section 13A-6-23, Code of Alabama 1975, and the victim is a sports official performing official duties and the menacing is a result of the official performing his or her official duties. Menacing a sports official is a Class A misdemeanor. (c) A person commits the crime of assault of a sports official in the third degree if he or she commits the crime of assault in the third degree as provided for by Section 13A-6-22, Code of Alabama 1975, and the victim is a sports official performing official duties and the assault is a result of the official performing his or her official duties. Assault of a sports official in the third degree is a Class C felony. (d) A person commits the crime of assault of a sports official in the second degree if he or she commits the crime of assault in the second degree as provided for by Section 13A-6-21, Code of Alabama 1975, and the victim is a sports official performing official duties and the assault is a result of the official performing his or her official duties. Assault of a sports official in the second degree is a Class B felony. (e) A person commits the crime of assault of a sports official in the first degree if he or she commits the crime of assault in the first degree as provided for by Section 13A-6-20, Code of Alabama 1975, and the victim is a sports official performing official duties and the assault is a result of the official performing his or her official duties. Assault of a sports official in the first degree is a Class A felony.

Section 3. Although this bill would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds, the bill is excluded from further requirements and application under Amendment 621 because the bill defines a new crime or amends the definition of an existing crime.

Section 4. This act shall become effective on the first day of the third month following upon its passage and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Cod. Ann. Section 5-13-209 provides: Any person, with the purpose of causing physical injury to another person, who shall strike or otherwise physically abuse an athletic contest official immediately prior to, during, or immediately following an interscholastic, intercollegiate, or any other organized amateur or professional athletic contest in which the athletic contest official is participating shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

CALIFORNIA

California Penal Code Section 243.8 provides: (a) When a battery is committed against a sports official immediately prior to, during, or immediately following an interscholastic, intercollegiate, or any other organized amateur or professional athletic contest in which the sports official is participating, and the person who commits the offense knows or reasonably should know that the victim is engaged in the performance of his or her duties, the offense shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000), or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year, or by both that fine and imprisonment. (b) For the purposes of this section, "sports official" means any individual who serves as a referee, umpire, linesman, or who serves in similar capacity but may be known by a different title or name and is duly registered by, or a member of a local, state, regional or national organization engaged in part in providing education and training to sports officials. (Adopted October 5, 1991)

*****DELAWARE**

Section 1. Amend § 614, Title 11 of the Delaware Code, by striking the existing language and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

“§ 614. Abuse of a Sports Official; Class G Felony; Class A Misdemeanor.

(a) A person is guilty of Abuse of a Sports Official whenever the person intentionally or recklessly commits the following acts against a sports official who is acting in the lawful performance of duty:

Reckless Endangering in the Second Degree, as set forth in § 603 of this Chapter; or

Assault in the Third Degree, as set forth in § 611 of this Chapter; or

***Terroristic Threatening, as set forth in § 621 of this Chapter; or

Criminal Mischief, as set forth in § 811 of this Chapter.

*** (b) For purposes of this Section, the words ‘sports official’ shall mean any person who serves as a registered, paid or volunteer referee, umpire, line judge or acts in any similar capacity during a sporting event. For purposes of this Section, the words, ‘lawful performance of duty’ means the time immediately prior to, during and/or immediately after the sporting event. (c) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this Section shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction for a second or subsequent offense under this Section, such person shall be guilty of a Class G felony. Notwithstanding Chapter 42 of this Title, such person shall be fined not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$2,350. In addition to the fines imposed by this subsection, any person who is guilty of Abuse of a Sports Official shall be prohibited from participating in and/or attending any organized sporting event for a period of not less than three (3) months nor more than twelve (12) months. (d) Except as provided in § 922 of Title 10, and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Court of Common Pleas shall have original jurisdiction to hear, try and finally determine any violation of this Section, and any other misdemeanor violation of any offense set forth in this Title which was allegedly committed during the same incident. Prosecution under this Section shall not preclude a separate charge, conviction and sentence for any other crime set forth in the Code.”

FLORIDA

Section 1. Section 784.081 Florida Statutes is amended to read: Assault or battery on specified officials or employees; reclassification of offenses.

(1) For purposes of this section, the term “sports official” means any person who serves as a referee, an umpire, or a linesman, and any person who serves in a similar capacity as a sports official who may be known by another title, which sports official is duly registered by or is a member of a local, state, regional, or national organization that is engaged in part in providing education and training to sports officials.

(2) Whenever a person is charged with committing an assault or aggravated assault or a battery or aggravated battery upon a sports official when the person committing the offense knows or has reason to know the identity or position or employment of the victim, the offense for which the person is charged shall be reclassified as follows:

a) In the case of aggravated battery, from a felony of the second degree to a felony of the first degree.

b) In the case of aggravated assault, from felony of the third degree to a felony of the second degree.

c) In the case of battery, from the misdemeanor of the first degree to a felony of the third degree.

d) In the case of assault, from a misdemeanor of the second degree to a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(3) An assault, aggravated assault, battery or aggravated battery upon a sports official shall be reclassified pursuant to subsection (2) only if such offense is committed upon the sports official when he or she is actively participating as a sports official in an athletic contest or immediately following such a contest. Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2004.

GEORGIA

Statute 16-5-23 provides:

(a) A person commits the offense of simple battery when he or she either:

(1) Intentionally makes physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another; or

(2) Intentionally causes physical harm to another.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (c) through (g) (h) of this Code section, a person convicted of the offense of simple battery shall be punished as for a misdemeanor. (h) Any person who commits the offense of simple battery against a sports official while such sports official is officiating an amateur contest or while such sports official is on or exiting the property where he or she will officiate or has completed officiating an amateur contest shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished

for a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. For the purposes of this Code section, the term 'sports official' means any person who officiates, umpires, or referees an amateur contest at the collegiate, elementary or secondary school, or recreational level.

IDAHO The Idaho legislature adopted Concurrent Resolution No. 32 in March 2001.

The resolution read: Be it resolved by the legislature of the state of Idaho:

WHEREAS, sports participation has become part of American life ingrained into the consciousness of society;

WHEREAS, sporting events have components essential to their survival including the players, coaches and fans. In addition, and in some sense most importantly, there must be officials to enforce the rules of the game and judge potential disputes between participants on the field;

WHEREAS, many officials volunteer their time or receive only minimal compensation. Many officials participate out of a sheer love of the game and to teach children who play the game the valuable lessons that can be learned through participating in sports. Those lessons include that of sportsmanship, working as a team and working within the rules of the game to achieve a common goal;

WHEREAS, sports officials act as on-field judges for their respective sports and as neutral participants who have no stake in the outcome of the game. Officials should be afforded protection from assaults and other negative reactions by participants, coaches and fans;

WHEREAS, increasingly, sports officials are subjected to verbal and even physical assault by disgruntled fans as well as certain coaches and players. That trend follows a growing trend in recent years that, at its foundation shows a lack of respect for authority figures,

WHEREAS, children are exposed to media displays of professional sports heroes and are compelled to emulate their heroes. Unfortunately, children may also try to emulate them when they act in a negative fashion. If professional athletes are not

reprimanded for assaultive behavior against sports officials, that gives the impression that verbally and physically assaulting officials is socially acceptable;

WHEREAS, it is not enough that each state must wait for one of its sports officials to be seriously attacked or beaten before its government takes action to stop this practice. Players, coaches and fans should be deterred from assaulting officials by local authorities handing out more severe penalties. That would ensure that the fans, especially young children, realize that it is not acceptable to attack an official;

WHEREAS, the sports officials that give their time and energy to officiate games deserve our collective respect and must have complete confidence that they will be able to carry out their responsibilities in a safe environment. As a society, we must act on the belief that respect for authority, whether you agree with it or not, is critical to living, working and playing together. Sports needs to be a beacon, highlighting positive accomplishments and the need for sportsmanship and fair play. Although education continues to be important, recent trends point out the need for strong sanctions against those who engage in bad behavior at sporting events.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Fifty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, calling on all school districts, little league programs, high school, college and recreational programs, along with law enforcement and prosecutors, to do all they can to put an end to the increased threats and batteries on sports officials and to prosecute to the full extent of the law. (Adopted March 2001)

ILLINOIS

HB4023 Section 5. The Criminal Code of 1961 is amended by changing Section 12-2 as follows: (720 ILCS 5/12-2) (from Ch. 38, par. 12-2) Sec. 12-2. Aggravated assault. (a) A person commits an aggravated assault, when, in committing an assault, he:

(17) Knows the individual assaulted to be a sports official or coach at any level of competition and the act causing the assault to the sports official or coach within an athletic facility or an indoor or outdoor playing field or within the immediate vicinity of the athletic facility or an indoor or outdoor playing field at which the sports official or coach was an active participant in the athletic contest held at the athletic facility. For the purposes of this paragraph (17), “sports official” means a person at an athletic contest who enforces the rules of the contest, such as an umpire or referee; and “coach” means a person recognized as a coach by the sanctioning

authority that conducted the athletic contest. b) Sentence. Aggravated assault as defined in paragraph (17) of subsection (a) of this Section is a Class A misdemeanor.

HB4120 Section 5. The Unified Code of Corrections is amended by changing Section 5-5-3 as follows: (730 ILCS 5/5-5-3) (from Ch. 38, par. 1005-5-3) Sec. 5-5-3. Disposition. a) Every person convicted of an offense shall be sentenced as provided in this Section. (11) The court shall impose a minimum fine of \$1,000 for a first offense and \$2,000 for a second or subsequent upon a person convicted of or placed on supervision for battery when the individual harmed was a sports or coach at any level of competition and the act causing harm to the sports official or coach occurred within an athletic facility or within the immediate vicinity of the athletic facility at which the sports official or coach was an active participant of the athletic contest held at the athletic facility. For the purposes of this paragraph (11), “sports official” means a person at an athletic contest who enforces the rules of the contest, such as an umpire or referee; “athletic facility” means an indoor or outdoor playing field or recreational area where sports activities are conducted; and “coach” means a person recognized as a coach by the sanctioning authority that the sporting event.

KENTUCKY

Section 518.090 - Assault of sports official

(1) A person is guilty of assault of a sports official when he intentionally causes physical injury to a sports official: (a) Who was performing sports official duties at the time the physical injury was perpetrated; or (b) If the physical injury occurs while the sports official is arriving at or departing from the athletic facility at which the athletic event occurred. (2) For the purposes of this section, “sports official” means an individual who serves as a referee, umpire, linesman, or in a similar capacity that may be known by another title, and who is duly registered as or is a member of a national, state, regional, or local organization engaged, in part, in providing education and training to sports officials. (3) A person who is guilty of assault of a sports official shall, for a first offense, be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor, unless the defendant assembles with five (5) or more persons for the purpose of assaulting a sports official, in which case it is a Class D felony. (4) A person who is guilty of assault of a sport official shall, for a second or subsequent offense, be guilty of a Class D felony.

Effective: July 15, 1998

LOUISIANA

Louisiana Rev. Stat. Ann. Section 14-34-4 provides: (A)(1) Battery of a school athletic contest official is a battery committed without the consent of the victim when the offender has reasonable grounds to believe the victim is a school contest official. (2) For purposes of this section, “school athletic contest official” means any referee, umpire, coach, instructor, administrator, staff person, or school or school board employee of any public or private secondary school while actively engaged in conducting, supervising, refereeing, or officiating of a school sanctioned interscholastic athletic contest. (B)(1) Whoever commits the crime of battery of a school athletic contest official shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) and imprisoned not less than fifteen days nor more than six months without benefit of suspension of sentence. (2) The court in its discretion, may suspend the imposition of sentence and place the offender on probation with the condition that he shall serve two days in jail or perform five days of community service work. Failure to successfully complete the community service work, as determined by the supervisor or the program to which he is assigned, may result in revocation of probation.

RS 14:38.4: Harassment of a school or recreation athletic contest official

A. (1) No person shall engage in the harassment of a school athletic or recreation athletic contest official that occurs under either of the following circumstances: (a) While the school athletic or recreation athletic contest official is actively engaged in the conducting, supervising, refereeing, or officiating of a school-sanctioned interscholastic athletic contest or a sanctioned recreation athletic contest. (b) In the immediate vicinity of a school-sanctioned interscholastic athletic contest or a sanctioned recreation athletic contest and is based on the official’s performance in the conducting, supervising, refereeing, or officiating of a school-sanctioned interscholastic athletic contest or a sanctioned recreation athletic contest. (2) For purposes of this Subsection, “harassment” shall include verbal or non-verbal behavior by the offender that would cause a reasonable person to be placed in fear of receiving bodily harm.

B. For purposes of this Section: (1) “Recreation athletic contest official” means any referee, umpire, coach, instructor, administrator, staff person, or recreation employee of any public or quasi public recreation program. (2) “School athletic contest official” means any referee, umpire, coach, instructor, administrator, staff person, or school or school board employee of any public or private elementary and secondary school.

C. (1) Whoever commits the crime of harassment of a school or recreation athletic contest official shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars, imprisoned without hard labor for not more than ninety days, or both. (2)(a) In addition to any other penalty imposed, the court shall order the offender to perform forty hours of court-approved community service work. (b) In addition to any other penalty imposed, the court shall order the offender to participate in a court-approved counseling program which may include anger management, abusive behavior intervention groups, or any other type of counseling deemed appropriate by the court. Any costs associated with the counseling program shall be borne by the offender. (c) Participation in the community service and counseling program required by the provisions of Subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this Paragraph shall not be suspended. (d) Failure to successfully complete the community service work and counseling program, as determined by the supervisor of the program to which he is assigned, may result in revocation of probation.

Acts 2019, No. 355, §1.

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Chapter 128C.08 Subdivision 2 states: “Any person who assaults a sports official in connection with an interscholastic athletic activity may be excluded from attending an activity for up to 12 months.”

MONTANA

Montana Code Ann. Section 45-5-211 provides: (1) A person commits the offense of assault upon a sports official if, while a sports official is acting as an official at an athletic contest in any sport at any level of amateur or professional competition, the person: (a) purposely or knowingly causes bodily injury to the sports official; (b) negligently causes bodily injury to the sports official with a weapon; (c) purposely or knowingly makes physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the sports official; (d) purposely or knowingly causes reasonable apprehension of bodily injury in the sports official. (2) A person convicted of assault upon a sports official shall be fined an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or be imprisoned in the county jail for any term not to exceed six months, or both.

NEVADA

Assembly Bill No. 474—Committee on Judiciary

2. A person convicted of an assault shall be punished:

(a) If paragraph (c) or (d) of this subsection does not apply to the circumstances of the crime and the assault is not made with the use of a deadly weapon, or the present ability to use a deadly weapon, for a misdemeanor.

(b) If the assault is made with the use of a deadly weapon, or the present ability to use a deadly weapon, for a category B felony by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 6 years, or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both fine and imprisonment.

(c) If paragraph (d) of this subsection does not apply to the circumstances of the crime and if the assault is committed upon an officer, a provider of health care, a school employee, a taxicab driver or a transit operator who is performing his duty or upon a sports official based on the performance of his duties at a sporting event, and the person charged knew or should have known that the victim was an officer, a provider of health care, a school employee, a taxicab driver , [or] a transit operator [,] or a sports official, for a gross misdemeanor, unless the assault is made with the use of a deadly weapon, or the present ability to use a deadly weapon, then for a category B felony by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 6 years, or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both fine and imprisonment.

(d) If the assault is committed upon an officer, a provider of health care, a school employee, a taxicab driver or a transit operator who is performing his duty [,] or upon a sports official based on the performance of his duties at a sporting event by a probationer, a prisoner who is in lawful custody or confinement or a parolee, and the probationer, prisoner or parolee charged knew or should have known that the victim was an officer, a provider of health care, a school employee, a taxicab driver , [or] a transit operator [,] or a sports official, for a category D felony as provided in NRS 193.130, unless the assault is made with the use of a deadly weapon, or the present ability to use a deadly weapon, then for a category B felony by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 6 years, or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both fine and imprisonment.

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey Stat. Ann. Section 2C:44-1 (a) provides in part: In determining the appropriate sentence to be imposed on a person who has been convicted of an

offense, the court shall consider the following aggravating circumstances: (8) The defendant committed offense against a police officer or other law enforcement officer, correctional employee or fireman, acting in the performance of his duties while in uniform or exhibiting evidence of his authority, the defendant committed the offense against a sports official, athletic coach or manager, acting in or immediately following the performance of his duties or because of the person's status as a sports official, coach or manager.

*****NEW MEXICO**

New Mexico statutes provide: 1) "in the lawful discharge of his duties" means engaged in the performance of the duties of a sports official, beginning when the sports official arrives at a sports event and ending when a sports official returns to his residence or business following a sports event; and

(2) "sports official" means a person who:

(a) serves as a referee, umpire linesman, timer or scorer, or who serves in a similar capacity, while working, supervising or administering a sports event; and

(b) is registered as a member of a local, state, regional or national organization that is engaged in providing education and training to sports officials.

B. Assault upon a sports official consists of:

(1) an attempt to commit a battery upon the person of a sports official while he is in the lawful discharge of his duties; or

(2) any unlawful act, threat or menacing conduct that causes a sports official while he is in the lawful discharge of his duties to reasonably believe that he is in danger of receiving an immediate battery.

C. Whoever commits assault upon a sports official is guilty of a misdemeanor.

D. Aggravated assault upon a sports official consists of:

(1) unlawfully assaulting or striking at a sports official with a deadly weapon while he is in the lawful discharge of his duties;

(2) committing assault by threatening or menacing a sports official who is engaged in the lawful discharge of his duties by a person wearing a mask, hood, robe or other covering upon the face, head or body, or while disguised in any manner so as to conceal identity; or

(3) willfully and intentionally assaulting a sports official while he is in the lawful discharge of his duties with intent to commit any felony.

E. Whoever commits aggravated assault upon a sports official is guilty of a third degree felony.

F. Assault with intent to commit a violent felony upon a sports official consists of any person assaulting a sports official while he is in the lawful discharge of his duties with intent to kill the sports official.

G. Whoever commits assault with intent to commit a violent felony upon a sports official is guilty of a second degree felony.

H. Battery upon a sports official is the unlawful, intentional touching or application of force to the person of a sports official while he is in the lawful discharge of his duties, when done in a rude, insolent or angry manner.

I. Whoever commits battery upon a sports official is guilty of a fourth degree felony.

J. Aggravated battery upon a sports official consists of the unlawful touching or application of force to the person of a sports official with intent to injure that sports official while he is in the lawful discharge of his duties.

K. Whoever commits aggravated battery upon a sports official, inflicting an injury to the sports official that is not likely to cause death or great bodily harm, but does cause painful temporary disfigurement or temporary loss or impairment of the functions of any member or organ of the body, is guilty of a third degree felony.

L. Whoever commits aggravated battery upon a sports official, inflicting great bodily harm, or does so with a deadly weapon or in any manner whereby great bodily harm or death can be inflicted, is guilty of a second degree felony.

M. A person who assists or is assisted by one or more other persons to commit a battery upon any sports official while he is in the lawful discharge of his duties is guilty of a fourth degree felony.”

Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.-The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2001.

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina General Stat. Section 14-33(b)(9) provides in part: (b) Unless his conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment, any person who commits assault, assault and battery, or affray is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment for not more than two years, or both such fine and imprisonment if, in the course of the assault, assault and battery, or affray he: (9) Commits an assault and battery against a sports official when the sports official is discharging or attempting to discharge official duties at a sports event, or immediately after the sports event at which the sports official discharged his duties. A “sports official” is a person at a sports event who enforces the rules of the event, such as an umpire or referee, or a person who supervises the participants, such as a coach. A “sports event” includes any interscholastic or intramural athletic activity in a primary, middle, junior high, or high school, college, or university, any organized athletic activity sponsored by a community, business, or nonprofit organization, any athletic activity that is a professional or semiprofessional event, and any other organized athletic activity in the State.

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Stat. Ann. Tit. 21, Section 650.1 provides: Every person who, without justifiable or excusable cause and with intent to do bodily harm, commits any assault, battery, assault and battery upon the person of a referee, umpire, timekeeper, coach, official, or any person having authority in connection with any amateur or professional athletic contest is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year or by a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) or both such fine and imprisonment.

OREGON

Oregon Statutes provide: (1) In addition to, and not in lieu of any other damages that may be claimed, a plaintiff who is a sports official shall receive liquidated damages in an amount not less than \$500 but not more than \$1,000 in any action in which the plaintiff establishes that:

(a) The defendant intentionally subjected the plaintiff to offensive physical contact;

- (b) The defendant knew that the plaintiff was a sports official at the time the offensive physical contact was made;
- (c) The offensive physical contact is made while the plaintiff is within, or in the immediate vicinity of, a facility at which the plaintiff serves as a sports official for a sports event; and
- (d) The offensive physical contact is made while the plaintiff is serving as a sports official or within a brief period of time thereafter.
- (2) The court shall award reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing plaintiff in an action in which liquidated damages are awarded under this section.
- (3) An award of liquidated damages under this section is not subject to ORS 18.535, 18.537 or 18.540.
- (4) As used in this section, 'sports official' means a person who:
- (a) Serves as a referee, umpire, linesman or judge or performs similar functions under a different title; and
- (b) Is a member of, or registered by, a local, state, regional or national organization that engages in providing education and training in sports officiating.
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PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Cons. Stat. Ann. Section 2712 provides: (a) Offense defined. A person who violates section 2701 (relating to simple assault), where the victim is a sports official who was assaulted during a sports event or was assaulted as a result of his or her officials acts as a sports official, is guilty of assault on a sports official. (b) Grading. Assault on a sports official is a misdemeanor of the first degree. (c) Definitions. As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning given to them in this subsection: “Sports Event” -Any interscholastic athletic activity in a junior high, high school or college or university in this Commonwealth or any other organized athletic activity in this Commonwealth including a professional or semiprofessional event. “Sports Official”-A person at a sports event who enforces the rules of the event, such as an umpire or referee, or a person who supervises the participants, such as a coach. The term includes a trainer, team attendant, game manager, athletic director, assistant athletic director, president, dean, headmaster, principal and assistant principal of a school, college or university.

SOUTH CAROLINA

SECTION 22-3-560, Code of Laws South Carolina, relating to jurisdiction and procedure in magistrates courts in assault and battery and other breach of the peace offenses, so as to increase the magistrates courts’ jurisdiction for all assault and battery offenses against sports officials and coaches to provide for a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or imprisonment for a term not exceeding sixty days, or both.

TEXAS

H.B. No. 716 AN ACT relating to the punishment for assaults committed against certain sports participants. Be it enacted by the legislature of the state of Texas section 1. Sections 22.01(c) and (e), Penal Code, are amended to read as follows: (c) An offense under Subsection (a)(2) or (3) is a Class C misdemeanor, except that the [an] offense [under Subsection (a)(3)] is:(1) a Class A misdemeanor if the offense is [was] committed under Subsection (a)(3) against an elderly individual or disabled individual, as those terms are defined by Section 22.04; or(2) a Class B misdemeanor if the offense is committed by a person who is not a sports participant against a person the actor knows is a sports participant either:(A) while the participant is performing duties or responsibilities in the participant’s capacity as a sports participant; or (B) in retaliation for or on account of the participant’s performance of a duty or responsibility within the participant’s capacity as a sports

participant. e) In this section: (1) “Family” has the meaning assigned by Section 71.003, Family Code. (2) “Household” has the meaning assigned by Section 71.005, Family Code. (3) “Sports participant” means a person who participates in any official capacity with respect to an interscholastic, intercollegiate, or other organized amateur or professional athletic competition and includes an athlete, referee, umpire, linesman, coach, instructor, administrator, or staff member.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

State of Washington

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2003-4636

WHEREAS Sports participation has become an integral part of American life ingrained into the consciousness of society; and

WHEREAS Sporting events have components essential to their continued success, such as the players, coaches, and fans; and

WHEREAS Many sports officials volunteer their time or receive only minimal compensation and participate out of a sheer love of the game and to teach children who play the game the valuable lessons that are learned through participating in sports, including sportsmanship, teamwork, and complying with the rules of the game to achieve a common goal; and

WHEREAS It is critical that there are a sufficient number of qualified sports officials to enforce the rules of the game and judge potential disputes between participants on the field; and

WHEREAS Sports officials act as on-field judges for their respective sports and as neutral participants who have no stake in the outcome of the game; and

WHEREAS Sports officials who give their time and energy to officiate games deserve our collective respect and must have our collective assistance in creating a safe and secure environment for our children to play; and

WHEREAS Young people observe both the good and bad behavior of their sports heroes, other athletes, coaches, and fans and often emulate that behavior in either a positive or negative manner; and

WHEREAS As a society, we must act on the belief that respect for authority is critical to living, working, and playing together in a civil society governed by the rule of law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the state of Washington express its appreciation to all those sports officials in recreational programs, who do all they can to promote sports as a beacon to highlight positive behavior and the need for good sportsmanship and fair play.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of Resolution 4636 adopted by the House of Representatives March 24, 2003.

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Section 61-2-15a provides: (a) If any person commits an assault as defined in subsection (b), section nine sect. 61-2-9(b) of this article, to the person of an athletic official during the time the official is acting as an athletic official, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50) nor more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100), and imprisoned in the county jail not less than twenty-four hours nor more than thirty days. (b) If any person commits a battery, as defined in subsection (c), section nine, sect. 61-2-9(c) of this article, against an athletic official during the time the official is acting as an athletic official, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than One Hundred Dollars(\$100), and imprisoned in the county jail not less than twenty-four hours nor more than thirty days. (c) For the purpose of this section, "athletic official" means a person at a sports event who enforces the rules of that event, such as an umpire, referee, or a person who supervises the participants, such as a coach.

Sponsor_ Fav_SB1034

Uploaded by: Senator Patterson, Senator Patterson

Position: FAV

SB 1034 Sponsor - Favorable

Chairman Smith (MoCo), Vice chairman Waldstreicher (Moco), and distinguished members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, good afternoon. I am grateful for the opportunity to introduce SB-1034:

[Ladies and] gentlemen of the committee, sports officials all over this nation are under attack – physically, verbally, and psychologically. The type of vitriolic and invective variance that only belongs in drunken taverns and fight clubs. I'm not being hyperbolic when I say to you that the profession is in a state of emergency. SB-1034 is explicitly designed to not only lend the necessary and critical protections to those who preside over sporting events in our State, but it also serves to put any interested spectator, parent, coach or nomadic observer on notice that this behavior is intolerable, nor fitting of the preeminent and storied athletic scholarship that our State enjoys. More Division I NCAA athletes are recruited out of Maryland than any other state in our Union for basketball; it is top 7 for baseball, top 4 for football, and number 1 for soccer (APPENDIX A). In a state that is talent rich, pressures to succeed and contracts to fulfill, generates behavior and action that is abhorrent, which is often taken out on sports officials.

SB-1034 simply attaches officials, umpires, referees, or judges who are officiating a sporting event and its immediate conclusion, to the criminal law article 3-203 that addresses

2nd degree assault generally, subsection (c) for the purposes of identifying it in in Criminal Procedure 2-203 - 2-205 under the warrantless arrest provision. Unfortunately, this is a necessity born out of a legal realism. A theory for those of us who ascribed to the Sociological School of Jurisprudence (law as a tool for promoting justice in society). Senators, as you consider the needfulness of this bill, I offer you this for your deliberation. I want to draw your attention to CR article 3-708. It is the provision of law that makes threatening or assaulting a state or local elected official a crime (3 yrs 2500); also the aforementioned 3-203, the article that makes it a specific intent crime to assault a police officer, EMT/firefighter, or probation/parole officer in the performance of their duties.

Do these laws proposition that you or they are any better or perhaps more important than those who are not performing those duties? Of course not. What it does is recognize that because of the mere nature of their and your jobs, and because you will inherently be opposed, sometimes violently and impassionedly, simply because they disagree with your decisions, additional remedies in the law were necessary. Ladies and gentlemen I submit to you that Sports' officials all over this country experience this exact same fury.

Affording officers the ability to make an immediate arrest for an incident occurring out of his/her presence, provided that there is sufficient probable cause to do so,

remedies a unique problem that officials face, in which 3-203 alone cannot address. Earlier in my testimony I stated that Maryland area is unique for its recruiting of Division I athletes. Because of this honored distinction, sporting events in our State draw an extraordinary number of travelling teams and their fans from out of state. In these cases in the aftermath of an assault, once the suspect is gone, they've likely committed assault with impunity.

In many cases, the suspect cannot be identified because officials do not have the power to seize someone's person. Or, if an officer observes the perpetrator blocks away after the assault, he or she cannot make an arrest, so the perpetrator is free to attend another game and assault another referee. Having included the second-degree assault of a sporting official to CP 2-203 is a reasonable and judicious solution to the problem.

Ladies and gentlemen of the committee, if referees were not in fear for their lives and general safety every day, they nor I wouldn't be here. It is because collectively we all are, we look to our elected officials to help provide resolution. Threatening, intimidating, and assaulting a referee is NOT "a part of the game"; nor is it heckling, nor is it customary. It's fleeting sportsmanship and it is a crime.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable vote for SB-1034.

Thank you,

Appendix A

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/research/pro_beyond/2020RES_HSParticipationMapByState.pdf

Retort to why make this change—

Why do we have laws at all?? If you're a student of the science of criminology, it teaches us that the establishment of laws, whether they'd be the Hammurabi or Mosaic codes, to Ancient Roman law, they all serve as a measure and means of social control; they act as a deterrent, and provide the aggrieved with a clear course of redress.

We're not reinventing the wheel here; we're simply empowering officers to take immediate action.

Classical Criminologist Cesare Beccaria (Che'sar-e' Bec-kar-Ria) theorized that if laws were to be effective, counteractive measures must be swift, certain, and proportionate; but they must be swift.

StephenValerio_ Fav_ SB1034

Uploaded by: Valerio, Stephen

Position: FAV

FW: SB-1034 Drafted by Mr Clate Jackson

Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>

Mon 3/2/2020 11:10 AM

To: Moton-Jackson, Clate <CMoton-Jackson00@student.coppin.edu>

Favorable

From: stephen valerio [mailto:svalerio06@att.net]**Sent:** Sunday, March 1, 2020 3:35 PM**To:** Patterson, Obie Senator <Obie.Patterson@senate.state.md.us>**Subject:** SB-1034 Drafted by Mr Clate Jackson

Dear Senator Patterson,

I am writing in support for SB-1034.

I have been an official in 3 states, officiating in 9 states and internationally over the last 20+ years. While living in California I was assaulted during a match I was an official in and received little support from the authorities. SB-1034 makes a common sense and minor change to our system whereby law enforcement doesn't need to be present to make an arrest in the case of an assault on a sports official.

Sincerely
Stephen Valerio
Frederick