



April 1, 2016

Dear Chapter Secretary:

- The 22nd Annual PIAA Officials' Convention will be held at the Hilton in Harrisburg on August 5-6, 2016. The registration link for the convention is now open on the Officials Homepage at www.piaa.org
- A Train the Trainer session is scheduled to be held in conjunction with the Officials' Convention on August 4-5, 2016. This two day training session is designed for chapter interpreters in order to assist them in planning more effective meetings. An email will be sent to all interpreters announcing this session which is capped at 24 attendees.
- PIAA is requesting that chapter secretaries mark attendance online as soon as the meeting is complete. Secretaries that fail to mark attendance in a timely manner may cause officials to be suspended because they have not been reported as attending the properly required number of meetings. Chapter secretaries need to make sure to give credit to all officials who attend their meetings (INCLUDING officials outside their chapter). A few chapters have not given credit to visitors. Please call the office if you have questions how to enter visitors.
- The Child Protective Services Act, which was passed by the PA Legislature (July 2015) requires all registered sports officials as independent contractors to obtain clearances every five years in order to officiate in Pennsylvania schools. PIAA will continue to accept clearances until July 1, 2016. After that date, officials who have failed to submit their clearances may be suspended. Please note that any inactive official is also required to submit clearances by July 1, 2016 in order to avoid suspension.
- Officials should be reminded that school districts may request copies of clearances for their records prior to using officials for their contests. In addition, schools may also request more up to date clearances than what is required by law. Officials that want to officiate at these schools will have to comply with the schools' requests even though they are properly registered with PIAA. PIAA suggests that officials keep a copy of their clearances in the bag in the event they are requested to produce their clearances prior to working at the school.
- Schools only have the ability to view the dates of officials' clearances. They do not have the ability to view the actual clearance. PIAA does not share clearances with requesting schools. Schools are advised to contact individual officials if they need a copy of a clearance.