



May 25, 2020

Dear Registered PIAA Official:

On behalf of the PIAA Board of Directors and everyone at PIAA, we hope you and your families are all healthy during this pandemic. I thought I would get a couple notes out to all registered officials to update them on what has been happening with PIAA.

As you are well aware, the spring sport season was canceled for the 2019-20 school year. As a result, no spring sport officials were able to work any interscholastic contests across the Commonwealth. With that said, we are all looking forward to the 2020-21 interscholastic sports seasons. We will be awaiting the Governor's direction regarding our member schools and remain hopeful student-athletes and officials will not be negatively impacted this fall.

With that said, a few items of note for everyone to be aware:

- Due to NFHS not printing rule and casebooks for the 2021 spring sport season, baseball, softball, boys and girls lacrosse, and track and field officials will be receiving a \$20 credit when registration fee notices are sent out in October of this year for the 2021-22 spring sport season. The PIAA Board of Directors approved this action following recommendations from the elected Male and Female Officials' Representatives on the Board, at their May 20, 2020 meeting.
- The PIAA Board of Directors passed a motion to approve the cancellation of the 26th annual PIAA Officials convention, originally scheduled for August of this year, along with the train the trainer program. Officials currently eligible to officiate in inter-district playoffs will be granted one year additional eligibility for working these playoffs.
- On May 8, 2020, Governor Wolf signed legislation extending the expiration date for FBI clearances only until December 31, 2020. What that means for registered PIAA officials is anyone who had a valid FBI clearance during the 2019-20 school year which was set to expire during the 2020 calendar year will have that expiration date changed to December 31, 2020. You will see this change in your profile on the PIAA website. You do not need to take any further action in this regard. *However, the legislation did not include the state police or department of human services clearances which must still be updated prior to their expiration in order for an official to work contests at member schools.* Officials needing information regarding clearances can use this link: [PIAA Clearance Information](#).
- In an effort to comply with Governor Wolf's directives, PIAA has now granted permission to all chapters to hold online, virtual chapter and rules meetings for those able to conduct meetings in that fashion. Chapters unable to hold virtual meetings must still hold in person meetings but those must be held in compliance with the Governor's directives. Chapters, which are unable to meet in-person, or virtually, must provide educational materials to their chapter members so they are educated on the rules and mechanics when contests begin. Due to these extenuating circumstances, chapters may not be able to take attendance as required. More information will be forthcoming on this topic as it is clarified through the Officials' Council.
- The PIAA Board of Directors decided to forgo the scheduled five year registration fee increase of five dollars for every official during the next invoice period. The

registration fee notices will remain the same for the 2021-22 school year, with the exception of the \$20 credit for spring sports officials.

- Last school year many chapters inquired regarding insurance for their members. Arbiter Sports has reached out to PIAA with some preliminary information regarding insurance for chapters. Please email Cory Eldredge at Arbiter if your chapter is interested. He can be reached at cory.eldredge@arbitersports.com or call him at 801-440-4652. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) also may be able to assist officials who want insurance coverage. Please use this link if you are interested: [NFHS Officials Information](#).
- In an effort to support PIAA registered officials, the PIAA Board of Directors also voted (on a 2nd reading) to approve a proposal to add supplemental penalties for behaviors which result in an ejection of a player, coach, team personnel, and/or spectators for unsportsmanlike behavior, and to extend the officials jurisdiction to the premises of the competition and for such time that the officials are present for purposes of enforcement of this rule. The Board of Directors also feels this measure could aid in the recruitment and retention of PIAA registered officials.
- The Board of Directors approved "Officially Sports" to continue as the approved Officials' Equipment Center for PIAA for another three year period. Go to: <https://www.officiallysports.com> for your uniform needs.

Questions regarding any of these items may be directed to your local district officials' representative or the Officials' Department at PIAA. A listing of all officials representatives may be found at page 63 of this link: [PIAA Officials' Representatives](#).

Sincerely,

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