



**PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

550 Gettysburg Road • PO Box 2008
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055-0708
(800) 382-1392 • (717) 697-0374
FAX (717) 697-7721 • www.piaa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 29, 2024

Media Contact: Lyndsay A. Barna
lbarna@piaa.org

29th Annual PIAA Officials' Convention

A record of more than 1,400 officials will be in attendance

MECHANICSBURG, PA – The 29th Annual PIAA Officials Convention is set to take place August 2nd and 3rd, 2024 at the Hilton Harrisburg. The Officials' Convention was launched by current PIAA Executive Director Dr. Robert Lombardi in 1994. It started with only 75 officials in attendance and has grown to more than 1,400. This year's attendance is expected to be the largest one since the conferences' inception. This convention has become the largest interscholastic sports officials' convention in the country and continues to hold its place! This is a chance for officials to gain educational knowledge, review rule changes for the upcoming sports season(s), and participate in numerous sessions of the recruitment, retainment and the training of officials.

The annual conference will also host sport specific sessions on, but not limited to baseball, basketball, field hockey, lacrosse, football, softball, swimming and diving, track and field, volleyball and wrestling. A special guest, Dave Raymond, the original Phillie Phanatic will make a presentation entitled "The Evolution of Happiness." Lastly, a keynote speaker from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), Dana Pappas will speak on the value of sports officials in educational based athletics.

The two-day convention caps off by recognizing PIAA officials for their years of service to its member schools and student-athletes in Pennsylvania. The culminating banquet on Saturday night will recognize officials who have dedicated at least three decades of service. This ceremony will honor more than 100 officials.

The PIAA has over 14,700 registered sport officials across the state, but this still isn't enough. With the growing number of sports and student-athletes in Pennsylvania, there's always a need for more officials. If you or someone you know would like to become an official, visit <http://www.piaa.org/officials/become/default.aspx>.

"Our purpose is to serve, our mission is to achieve, and our goal is excellence."

Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association

Beginning in Pittsburgh, on December 29, 1913, PIAA was given the privilege of serving its member schools and registered officials by establishing policies and adopting contest rules that emphasize the educational values of interscholastic athletics, promote safe and sportsmanlike competition, and provide uniform standards for all interscholastic levels of competition.