

# Becoming a BBOWS High School Volleyball Official

Thank you for your interest in finding out what it takes to become a certified high school volleyball official for BBOWS. Please check our website [www.bbows.org](http://www.bbows.org) for more information.

## **What is BBOWS?**

The **B**altimore **B**oard of **O**fficials for **W**omen's **S**ports is a service organization providing the most desirable sports officiating services to women's sports. Our Board recruits, trains and provides continuing education for those interested in becoming an official. The board members of BBOWS strive to provide the leadership appropriate in terms of ethical conduct and consistency with the highest level of performance and achievement of the athletes involved.

## **What times of the day are volleyball matches scheduled?**

Matches are normally scheduled on weekdays with starting times ranging from 3:15pm to 6pm. Officials need to arrive on site, properly dressed, and on the court prepared to begin the pre-game warmups at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. There are minimal Saturday matches that may occur during the season. The volleyball season typically runs from mid-August to mid-November

## **What schools are provided officials for the sport of volleyball?**

BBOWS serves the following school systems:

- Baltimore City Public (MPSSAA)
- Baltimore County Public (MPSSAA)
- Carroll County Public (MPSSAA)
- Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAMS) Private and Parochial schools
- MIAA Boys volleyball league
- Other various independent middle and high schools

## **What is the registration fee to become a BBOWS volleyball official?**

The total registration fee is \$175.00 for a first year/ new official. This covers the cost of the training class, annual BBOWS sport specific registration fee, MPSSAA sports insurance coverage and NFHS rule and case books. A payment schedule can be accommodated, or the fees can be paid in full. You must also set up an MPSSAA account with [www.dragonfly.com](http://www.dragonfly.com) . This will be explained in further detail during the training classes. You will recoup these fees quickly with the assignments you receive. There is also an attendance requirement at regular volleyball sport meetings as well as the BBOWS annual meeting, which is held in June.

## **What type of instructional training is provided for officiating volleyball?**

There are instructors who provide classroom and courtside training, Training classes are held in August at a local high school. Training and meeting dates are available on our website. There are also organized play dates that provide non-paid officiating opportunities prior to the start of the season. New officials **MUST** be available to work these matches. The rules for high school volleyball are governed by the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS). The NFHS exam must be taken yearly and completed with a passing grade.

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## What are the physical demands associated with the sport of volleyball?

The physical demands are minimal. Basically, you must be able to stand for at least 90 minutes. Being prepared mentally as an R1 or R2 requires total concentration and the ability to anticipate what may happen next is a must.

## What are the uniform requirements and their associated costs?

The basic uniform consists of:

- ✓ Black dress slacks
- ✓ Black athletic shoes
- ✓ Black socks
- ✓ Approved white, gray or cyan colored volleyball shirt
- ✓ Whistle (electronic or Fox 40 type) with lanyard
- ✓ Other necessary accessories will be discussed during the training

The associated cost for the uniforms and accessories are **generally less than \$150**.

## What are the match fees for officials?

In general, two officials working together on a Varsity match will earn between \$82-\$84 per match. Two officials working together on a Junior Varsity (JV) match will earn between \$67 - \$70 per match. Some matches with a single official working alone will earn between \$100 -\$102 per match.

## How am I assigned matches?

BBOWS uses an assigner for each sport. Your matches are assigned thru the Arbiter website ([www.arbitersports.com](http://www.arbitersports.com)) and internet email. Officials are not assigned by an individual school or school system. Factors influencing assignments are availability, attitude, experience, and dependability. Establishing accounts with dragonfly and arbiter as well as other requirements must be met before being assigned.