

Officials' Appreciation Week Profile:

Bob Triebe

Bob Triebe's introduction to ice hockey officiating began during his days as a player at St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City, with the help of a coach from another school.

It's a testament to the close-knit nature between the competitors in the sport, who are brought together in many different ways.

"I was playing in a youth house league, and Seton Hall Prep coach John Warchol was the director," he recalled. "Mr. Warchol approached me and encouraged me to come to the rink early and referee other games in our house league. I asked Mr. Warchol if he paid referee fees, and John replied; no, but you get ice time and you NEED ice time. He gave me a rulebook, I bought a whistle and I was giving back to the game I loved. This inspiration began a 40 year career of officiating in the high school, amateur and collegiate hockey community."

Since then, Triebe has officiated more than 1,100 high school hockey games, including 11 NJSIAA Tournament of Champions, public and non-public finals. He is a USA Hockey official, evaluator and seminar instructor. He's worked a USA Olympic Festival, ECAC Division 1 games, seven USA Hockey National Championships and successive USA Hockey Regional and District Championships. Triebe has also worked as a NHL Off-Ice official, Roller Hockey International game official and Arena Football game official. He is also a game timer for high school lacrosse in Morris County.

He also serves as the Ice Hockey Rules Interpreter for the NJSIAA, as well as the game assignor for the Big North Conference.



What do you do in your job as NJSIAA rules interpreter?

As the NJSIAA Ice Hockey Rules Interpreter, I attend league and conference coaches meetings to update rules and interpretations, and address many rules questions throughout the season from athletic directors, coaches and officials.

What do you enjoy most about being an official?

I enjoy giving back to the game and being involved. Still better, I enjoy seeing the passion of student athletes and coaches to be a part of our great game and the support they receive from school communities. Unlike many other sports, ice hockey officiating requires two talents - skating proficiency and rule knowledge/ game management. This makes ice hockey people a special, dedicated breed.

Do you have a favorite memory from officiating an event?

Refereeing NJSIAA Tournament of Champions games at the Meadowlands. The schools were hosted like



professional teams and they are always in awe to play on the big stage. It was also a chance to mentor and relax partners who had never skated on the big stage, either.

What's the best part about any given day of officiating?

The mental and physical preparation. Just like school teams, the team of officials is a brotherhood and close-knit community. We appreciate the fact that we get to play a part in high school competition and the development of student-athlete's skills.

Do you have any particular funny memories of interactions between yourself and a player or coach?

Many games did not have the desired outcome that a coach believed his team would produce. Sometimes a coach would give you his intimidating "critique" of your judgement during a game. But hands were shaken at ends of games and each knew the game was just that. Regardless of past games, coaches were always happy to see me assigned to referee their game.

What's the biggest misconception about the job of being an official?

You do not always get yelled at for doing a bad job and you cannot lose control of a game. Players and coaches control the game with their actions. Referees only run the game and apply the rules. It's usually fans or parents who make comments while they have never read a rule book. Study the rules, be in position and no one can question your abilities.

What would you say to anyone thinking about becoming an official?

High school sports and youth sports need officials. If you are playing a sport, why not stay involved by giving back to it? Officiating keeps you mentally sharp, physically fit and there is a place for everyone in officiating. Plus, you might make a few dollars working at the grass roots and high school level or if you aspire to the professional ranks. Officiating will give you back tenfold what you put into it.