

Officials Appreciation Week Profile:

Annie McCloskey

Some people seem destined to officiate sports, and Annie McCloskey is a perfect example.

She grew up a runner, having participated in track and cross country, first as a high school student in Bridgewater and then at Rutgers, where she graduated in 1987 after specializing in the 5K and 10K events.

Her love for the sport never waned, and once her children got older, and she also had the necessary spare time at the end of school-teaching days, she was all in taking the next step through officiating.

“When my children were in grade school, and I had a little more time after teaching, I began working as an unofficial timer to help out when needed,” Shore said. “Shortly after that, I became a certified official and have loved it ever since.”

Getting to know NJSIAA sports official Annie McCloskey:

What do you enjoy most about being an official?

“As a former high school and collegiate runner, I love being on the track. It’s important for me as a finish judge and line clerk to keep the runners calm and ready to do their best. We are all there for the athletes, and an encouraging word can mean a lot to a nervous athlete.”



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

“I love to see athletes reach their best potential as well as coaches showing pride in their work. There is a special feeling when an officiating crew is in rhythm together and allows the athletes to have a great meet.”

Do you have a cool memory of an interaction between yourself and a player or coach?

“My son ran distance events for Somerville High School years ago, and it was always so special to put him on the starting line! I have a nice bond with some of the runners who spend four years running track. It’s a privilege to see them grow, improve and mature.”

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

“Most spectators don’t realize how much concentration is involved, especially lap counting at an indoor track meet with multiple athletes



being lapped. Many of us have full time jobs in addition to officiating. This requires bringing energy and patience to a meet after a full day of work.”

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

“It’s an amazing and rewarding job with so many potential areas of specialization. We are in need of officials!”

***Think you might be interested in becoming a high school sports official?
Check out this link to learn more: <https://www.njsiaa.org/officials/become-official>***