

## Officials Appreciation Week Profile:

# Krystalle Trumbetti

Krystalle Trumbetti's roots in lacrosse go back to her days as a player at Rutgers Prep in Somerset.

Her experience grew deeper competing collegiately at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania, where a connection through a teammate led her to officiate in the sport.

"I started playing lacrosse in seventh grade at Rutgers Preparatory School, where Coach Carole Zboray first introduced me to the game and helped build my foundation in girls' lacrosse," she said. "I quickly grew to love playing defense and enjoyed the challenge of reading and analyzing an opponent's offense. That passion carried me through my collegiate career at Lock Haven University from 2007–2010.

"My path into officiating came through Peter McAuliffe, a high school and collegiate official and the father of my college teammate, Elizabeth Boyd (McAuliffe)," she added. "Knowing that I was a teacher, he encouraged me to give officiating a try. At first, transitioning from player to official wasn't easy—it required me to see the game from a completely different perspective."

Still, it was something Krystalle was able to adapt to and enjoy.

"With his guidance and support, I learned to shift my focus from individual performance to rule application, positioning, and the overall flow of the game," she said. "Over the past fifteen years, officiating has become a meaningful part of my connection to lacrosse. It has given me the opportunity to stay involved in the sport I love while contributing in a new way and supporting the game from a different lens."



Working within the Northeast #2 Chapter, she has now officiated for 15 years, and has worked multiple county and state championship games. She has also served as Chapter Secretary for the past seven years.

She was also honored last September as an Official of the Year for girls lacrosse by the New Jersey Scholastic Officials Association.

### Getting to know NJSIAA sports official Krystalle Trumbetti:

**What do you enjoy most about being an official?**



“I absolutely love being a part of the game in a different capacity. I also love the relationships I have created with other officials throughout the state.”

***Do you have a favorite memory from officiating an event?***

“One of my most favorite memories was officiating the 2022 North Jersey, Group 4 final. There were so many fans and the energy on the field was electric. I remember having such a great crew and we were all on the same page (Fran Gavin, Pete Mandell and Peter McAuliffe). The game went into overtime and Morristown won the game.”

***Do you have a funny memory from working a game?***

“My most embarrassing moment happened last year. I was slightly late getting to a game and was so focused about getting on the field, I wasn’t paying attention to track practice. As I was running onto the field, the crowd was cheering, excited to start the game, and I got completely trampled by the boys track team. I’m now acutely aware of track practice.”

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

“The biggest misconception is that people think it’s easier than it looks!”

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

“It is a great opportunity to give back to any sport that you played or enjoy watching. As a mom of two, it is very flexible to your schedule.”



***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>***