

WHISTLE STOP

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ARE YOU A SCRATCH LIST CANDIDATE?

The NFHS recently conducted a survey of states that have “Exclusion Systems” (scratch lists, red lines) of contest officials. The GHSA does not allow the exclusion of officials, but the data submitted by those who do echoes many of the concerns shared by many of the coaches at GHSA member schools.

The following are the major points of emphasis used by coaches in states where an “Exclusion System” exists:

#1 – **Communication and Game Control**

- Exhibits a willingness to communicate with coaches/players
- Approachable not confrontational
- Confident, but not arrogant
- Communicates the action on the court clearly

#2 – **Rules Knowledge and Consistency**

- Demonstrates a clear and accurate knowledge of the rules of the game
- Applies the rules in a consistent manner throughout the contest
- Knowledge and application of rule changes each season

#3 – **Professionalism**

- Maintains good physical conditioning
- Wears the approved uniform and is neatly groomed
- Displays composure, even in pressure situations
- Makes an ongoing commitment to improve

#4 – **Mechanics and Positioning**

- Uses approved signals
- Is in the proper position to call or no-call correctly
- Communicates clearly with the benches and table crew

#5 – **Personal Issues**

- Perceived conflict of interest (alumni, employee, family, etc.)
- History of problems with school/coach
- Geography/travel issues

While we may choose to disagree with the order of importance, the issues listed validate what the GHSA training staffs have been attempting to impress upon every contest official in Georgia. While we do not support an “Exclusion List”, look over these issues and yourself if we did, would you be a candidate?