

## Conflict of Interest

**Lone Star HS Softball Umpires** considers a conflict of interest to be any situation — real or perceived — that could compromise an official's impartiality, fairness, or integrity in judging interscholastic athletic events.

The Lone Star HS Softball Umpires Code of Ethics requires that:

- Officials be **free of obligation to any interest other than the impartial and fair judging of sports competitions.**
- They must **avoid anything that may lead to a conflict of interest**, whether real or apparent.
- **This includes gifts, favors, special treatment, privileges, employment, or personal relationships with a school, team, coach, or administrator that could compromise perceived impartiality.**
- **Officials must resist outside pressure to use their position to benefit themselves.**

### Why It Matters

A conflict of interest can erode **public trust** in the officiating profession. Even if no actual bias exists, the **appearance** of bias can damage the credibility of the game and the NFHS.

### How to Avoid Conflicts

- **Recuse yourself** from assignments where you have a personal or financial connection.
- **Decline gifts or favors** from schools, coaches, or players.
- **Maintain professional boundaries** in all interactions.
- **Follow NFHS/NASO guidelines** strictly, especially in social media and public communications.

**Lone Star HS Softball Umpires** takes conflict of interest seriously — both real and perceived — and avoiding it is a core part of maintaining the integrity of the sport.