

Pre-Match Professional Meeting Script

Who should be present: All Officials, Head Coaches, Team Captains, On Site Administrator/Game Manager

Meeting Leader: Center Official

Opening & Introductions – Model Professionalism

“Welcome everyone. Before we get into match expectations, let’s take a moment to introduce ourselves and our roles.

My name is _____. I’ll be your center referee tonight. I’ll let my Assistant Referees introduce themselves as well.

(Turn to coaches.)

“Coach, would you introduce yourself and your role?”

(Turn to captains)

“Thank you. Captains, please state your name, year in school and number.”

(Turn to the administrator/Game Manager:)

“And could administration introduce themselves and their role for tonight?”

(Pause.)

Our job as leaders — coaches, officials, administrators and captains — is to model what sportsmanship, respect, and composure look like. Players, teammates and spectators are watching how we handle adversity, how we communicate, and how we treat each other. If we model it well, they’ll reflect it.”

Education-Based Athletics Emphasis

Before we discuss match details, I want to recognize something important:

This is education-based athletics.

Everything we do tonight should reflect that we are educators first — whether we wear a whistle, a coaching badge, or a captain’s band.”

Our players are going to follow the tone that the adults set. So, we need to model respect, composure, and sportsmanship from the first whistle to the last.

Sportsmanship Emphasis

“Sportsmanship is a point of emphasis under OSAA & NFHS rules.

That means:

- No taunting.
- No baiting.
- No dissent.
- No inflammatory behavior toward opponents, officials, or spectators.

We will address unsporting behavior early.”

“Hard play is encouraged. Disrespect is not.”

Expectations for Coaches

“Coaches, I need your help with a few things: ****BE Specific in each of these bullet points****

- Please communicate with us professionally and through the proper channels.
- If there’s a concern, we’ll listen — but it needs to be respectful and timely.
- Help manage your technical area.
- Most importantly, help your players compete hard and play with respect.”

“We’re not asking for perfection — we’re asking for professionalism.”

Expectations for Captains

Captains, you are leaders for this match.

- You are the only players who may respectfully approach an official for clarification.
- Help us with your teammates.
- If emotions rise, your job is to lower them.
- If we need assistance calming a situation, we’re coming to you.”

“Your voice carries weight. Use it wisely.”

Safety & Game Management

“Player safety is our top priority.

We will:

- Address reckless or dangerous play
- Protect goalkeepers
- Manage persistent infringement
- Deal with misconduct when necessary”

“Our goal is a safe, fair, competitive match.”

Administration & Spectator/Bench Expectations

“Administration, thank you for being here. If spectator behavior becomes an issue, we will work through you to resolve it.”

Pre-Safety Event: In a major medical emergency what is the plan, who is our AT and where is the AED?

(To coaches:)

“Coaches, you are responsible for your bench, your sub varsity teams viewing the game and your personnel.”

Closing – Unified Adult Standard

The players are watching how we interact right now.

If we model respect,

If we show composure,

If we treat one another professionally —

They will follow our lead.”

(Pause.)

“Does anyone have any questions before we head to the coin toss?”

