

# MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONFERENCE



SAOA Officials:

We are reaching out to your organization regarding our assigning vacancy recently opened by the resignation of Gary Gustafston. As a league, we have worked with you for years, and we pride ourselves on giving you quality games and environments to work in. In return you have provided us with terrific officials. Your association has been great to work with and the relationships we have developed is something we are proud of in our schools and communities.

Since the news of Gary leaving, we have received some unsolicited feedback from a few of your members that seemed to take a sided approach and a persuasive effort to steer us toward preferred assignments and/or colleagues who we know and like. As athletic directors we are often faced with hiring decisions that force us to make choices between what is right and what is easy or popular. That is why we are writing this letter today to inform you that we have agreed to partner with Matt Mauschbaugh to assign basketball games for both the boys and girls programs in our league at every level that we provide teams.

We understand that we do not owe an explanation to anyone about our choice in this matter, but we feel that it is extremely important to note that Matt's prior work assigning the bulk of our events in many other sports has been extremely professional, timely, and basically error free on our end. We hold these traits sacred when dealing with the chore of hiring quality officials for our contests. He has gone above and beyond, taking calls up until start times in many instances. Matt has come through for us time and time again while even covering errors created by other assignors and schools.

As a conference, we feature quality venues with some of the best atmospheres you will work in at this level. We are extremely proud of that and also understand that officials help create those positive environments. While we are asking you to give Matt an opportunity (free of charges or dues), what we are really asking is that you continue to work for us as MVC AD's, and work for OUR STUDENTS. Afterall, we are in the student business and they deserve for us to put all things aside when it comes to providing them with the best student-athlete experience possible. While Matt becomes an associate in this process, you are working together with us to facilitate games, just as you always have. We pay the officials and provide the service, not the assignor.

We have nothing but respect for your association and its member officials. We continue to raise official's pay and the expectations we place upon ourselves to ensure that you have a great experience. Officials in the Chicagoland region are envious of how we are able to run things in Southern Illinois. This is due to the relationships we have built and the product that we create together. We trust that you will continue working with us in a professional manner. Thank you for helping us provide a first-class student-athlete experience!

Yours In Sport,  
MVC Athletic Directors and Administrators