

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE  
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS



## NEWS RELEASE

### Smitty Official's Apparel Announced as NFHS Corporate Partner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Koski

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (June 13, 2016) — Smitty Official's Apparel, a nationwide manufacturing leader of sports officials' apparel, is a new corporate partner of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

Smitty Official's Apparel will be the exclusive NFHS Officials Apparel and Officials Equipment Supplier Partner, which will include exposure in all sport case books and officials manuals. In addition, Smitty Official's Apparel will have advertisements in the Football Rules Book, Volleyball or Softball Rules Book, Basketball Rules Book and Baseball Rules Book.

"We are pleased to partner with Smitty Official's Apparel for the needs of high school officials in uniforms and equipment," said Bob Gardner, NFHS executive director. "Their long-standing commitment to service and quality align with NFHS values."

From a company that has grown from two products (Smitty and Moose Lanyards) to a national manufacturing leader of sports officials' apparel with almost 2,000 products in various styles and sizes, Smitty's end goal has been to provide quality products and services at an affordable price for dealers and sports officials. Its recent addition of dye sublimated shirts with more than 60 styles – all manufactured in the United States – for various sports associations confirms its commitment to meeting the needs of officials.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to be the exclusive NFHS official's apparel corporate partner," said Joe DeRosa, president and chief executive officer of Smitty Official's Apparel. "My goal is to support NFHS officiating programs and provide quality products at affordable prices to the NFHS sports officials throughout the entire country."

*This press release was written by Maddie Koss, a 2016 summer intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department. She is a senior sports media major at Butler University.*

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#### About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,000 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.8 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

#### About Smitty Official's Apparel

Since acquiring Smitty in 2004 by President and CEO Joe DeRosa, based in Canton, Ohio, Smitty Official's Apparel, LLC, has become the fastest growing official's apparel manufacturer in the country, developing a wide range of quality officiating apparel and accessory items at an affordable price for our dealers and ultimately sports officials.

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