

Officials Appreciation Week Profile:

Ray Herrmann

Ray Herrmann grew up a swimmer, and his love for the sport never waned as he became an adult.

“I was a swimmer in high school,” he said. “Later in life, I had three daughters that all swam on the high school level. After seven years of following their swim careers, I found myself missing my chlorine fix, so I became an official. That was 25 years ago, and I’ve never looked back.”

Working out of the Shore chapter, he’s officiated many state championship meets.

“I’ve enjoyed doing the state finals for a number of years,” he said.

Ray has also been a cadet supervisor for 13 years. Among his accomplishments, he was recognized last September with the Official of the Year award for swimming by the New Jersey Scholastic Officials Association.

Getting to know NJSIAA sports official Ray Herrmann:

What do you enjoy most about being an official?

“The thing I most enjoy about being an official is that I get to interact with student athletes. These kids are a welcome addition to my life.”

Do you have a favorite memory from officiating an event?

“My favorite memory of officiating is from last year at the Shore Conference championships. After standing on deck for two days for eight hours a day, I questioned myself as to why I still did this. Upon leaving after the day, I opened the door to leave the pool, into freezing cold weather, when suddenly the door opened behind me. A swimmer, still in her swim suit, rushed up to me to give me a hug goodbye, as this was her senior year. We had become friendly over the last four years. And just like that I had my answer. I do it because of kids like that young lady.”

What’s the biggest misconception about the job of being an official?

“The biggest misconception about officiating is that you are there only to enforce the rules. You are there also to encourage student athletes, calm their fears, celebrate their triumphs, tell them when they do something good, and gently correct their mistakes.”



What would you say to anyone thinking about becoming an official?

“If you love the sport and love interacting with kids, I would highly recommend you become an official.”

***Think you might be interested in becoming a high school sports official?
Check out this link to learn more: <https://www.njsiaa.org/officials/become-official>***