

ASSIGNERS ON THE SHORTAGE

Survey Sheds Light on Assigner Perceptions of Causes and Solutions.

In January 2022, Utah-based online officiating management software company ArbiterSports reached out to 400 of its top assigners to get their thoughts on the shortage of officials.

These are assigners who have been in the business for more than two years and have more than 25 officials on their roster that they assign with frequency. More than 75 percent have been assigners for more than seven years and more than 50 percent assign more than 150 officials.

ArbiterSports said the results validate concerns about a shortage of officials.

The officiating industry is at a crucial juncture. There's a need for a resolution of issues of sportsmanship and a need to recruit younger officials to begin replacing retiring officials and those who are leaving due to sportsmanship and other negative drivers.

"The concern is real and requires decisive actions," ArbiterSports wrote in a report, which is part of a larger initiative to research the industry's challenges and assist with generating solutions.

Here is the data from some of the assigners' responses (numbers rounded by Referee).

97.3%

of assigners said they were EXPERIENCING A SHORTAGE of officials

PRIMARY REASON for the shortage of officials

23.9% Issues of Sportsmanship From PARENTS

20.2% Other

16.7% Retirement

16.5% COVID-19

14.7% Issues of Sportsmanship From COACHES

8.0% Pay/COMPENSATION

PRIMARY SOLUTION to the shortage

- #1** Resolve issues of sportsmanship
- #2** Get younger people involved
- #3** Better pay
- #4** Better training that promotes the long-term benefits of officiating
- #5** Have a formal recruitment process assigners can use

IF EXPERIENCING A SHORTAGE,

what percentage of officials are you down in the last 12 months?

14.4% Less than 10%

51.9% 10 – 20%

23.7% 21 – 30%

6.5% 31 – 40%

3.5% Over 40%

What is the primary reason your officials GET INTO THE BUSINESS?

38.9% For the MONEY

29.9% To get closer to SPORTS

15.7% REFERRALS from others

7.2% Other

5.8% To referee their KIDS

2.5% Your RECRUITING efforts

ArbiterSports

The full survey results and a report can be found at arbiter.com/resources-center.