**Suburban Officials Association Basketball Mentoring Program
 2011-2012**

**PURPOSE:** The Suburban Officials Association Basketball Mentoring Program will provide younger officials the support to mature into a self-sufficient and confidant official.

**GOAL:** To provide an avenue of communication between mentor and mentee to facilitate their growth and maturation process.

The following parameters will be used as guidelines in establishing the SOA mentorship program:

* One-to-one relationship between mentor and mentee.
* Program will not be required for all newer officials, but will be highly recommended for the first two to three years of officiating.
* A mentor will be responsible for establishing contact with the mentee. After the initial contact has been made, it will be both the mentor’s and mentee’s responsibility to have ongoing communication. It is recommended they visit or meet one to two times a month.
* A goal of the mentorship program will be to have SOA assign a mentor and mentee to officiate a lower-level game together, at least two times per season. The suggested format would be to have the mentee work a JV game with the mentor during a JV/Varsity double-header.

In addition to the mentorship program, the observation program will be used to give feedback to younger officials. A veteran, retired official or the mentor, will observe the mentee and provide written feedback.

The following will be used as parameters for this program:

* It will be the goal of the program to observe mentees one time per season and provide written feedback, either electronically or with a paper copy.
* Officials not in the mentoring program can request to be observed by the association once during the season.
* The assignor or members of the board reserve the right to observe any official at any time, as situations necessitate.