

Megan Cusick

As a high school athlete in 1998 I began my officiating career in the GRACEAC league (seasons were different so I could play & ref). I continued until 2008 when I took time off for my new marriage and career. Fast forward to 2017 as a stay-at-home mom looking to earn extra money and get out of the house I returned to officiating.

In 2017 I started officiating sub-varsity games. Other than a few rule and signal changes it was like riding a bike. For the next two years I worked every game I could find while attending multiple summer basketball camps. I am an advocate of camps – you learn so much. To date, I have been to 7 camps in the past four years.

During the season of 2018-19 I was honored to work the first OK Conference game with an “all female” crew. Game Partners: Kathy Talcott and Alison Haraburda. During this season while working varsity games with my crew I continued to speak with, train, encourage, and mentor high school female athletes to become basketball officials. In addition, after attending several camps, one of them college in the summer of 2019 I was invited to join a college staff and work Division III women’s basketball. In 2020-21 I began mentoring an MHSAA legacy young lady, ran a crazy high school season with everyone else and worked my first district final. This season I started working Women’s Junior College games.

In 2019 one of my basketball mentors and friend, Patrick Kane asked me to assist him in the “retention and recruitment” of new basketball officials into the West Michigan Officials Association. It has been my joy to help Pat and see new officials who I speak with join our association and become basketball referees. Every time I step onto the court, talk with a fellow official, engage with a coach, I want to be an example of what’s possible, to inspire others. If I can inspire even 1 or 2 those stay-at-home parents in the stands or an athlete on the court then it’s worth it. The way we gain more female officials is by women seeing women and I am always recruiting.

As for my personal life I hang out with my husband and son on 40 acres in Coopersville. When I am not at the gym we work on DIY house projects, tend to our honeybees, garden, woodwork, and oil paint.