

# 11/26/24 – SABANOVIC NAMED 2024-25 SOCCER OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

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Each year, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association honors the top officials for the sports in which it licenses officials. Finalists in each sport are selected through a combination of not only on-field performance but also local association activity and leadership, training efforts and the mentoring of newer officials.

One official in each sport is named Outstanding Official of the Year in appreciation of their dedication and service to schools and student-athletes across the state. Winners are selected following consultation with local assigning secretaries, veteran officials' observers and coaches throughout the state, as well as additional staff review.

The Outstanding Official of the Year for the 2024-25 soccer season is **Azer Sabanovic** of Louisville. Each finalist will receive a commemorative watch and certificate courtesy of the Officials Trust Fund, with the Official of the Year receiving an additional recognition award.

With officiating numbers declining at the national level, the KHSAA is always accepting applications from individuals interested in giving back to their community. Officiating remains a great avenue to stay active, earn extra spending money and ensure that high school athletics are preserved for the current and future generations. To get involved as an official, visit [khsaaofficials.org](https://khsaaofficials.org).

## 2024-25 KHSAA OUTSTANDING OFFICIALS (Winners in **bold**)

Field Hockey: **Chris Niblock** (Louisville), Lauren Bauer (Louisville)

Soccer: **Azer Sabanovic** (Louisville), Darren Somerville (Irvine)

– KHSAA –

## About the Kentucky High School Athletic Association

The Kentucky High School Athletic Association was organized in 1917 and is the agency designated by the Kentucky Department of Education to manage high school athletics in the Commonwealth. The Association is a voluntary nonprofit 501(c)3 organization made up of 290 member schools, both public and non-public. The KHSAA awards 229 state championships to 59 teams and 178 individuals in 13 sports and six sport-activities, funds catastrophic insurance coverage for its more than 109,000 rostered member school student-athletes, provides coaching education and sports safety programs for more than 12,000 coaches and licenses and facilitates the distribution of training material for over 4,000 contest officials.

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