

2025 METRO DETROIT FOOTBALL OFFICIALS CLINIC (MDFOC) BRINGS CAREER OPPORTUNITIES TO CAMPUS

On July 26, the Orchard Lake Schools, along with Community Partnership & Student Engagement Director Tracie Robinson, welcomed 125 officials and 40 coaches and clinicians from across the U.S. to campus to help aspiring referees – from high school juniors through adults – learn 7 Man High School Mechanics to break into officiating. “Students can get into the athletic world, learn valuable skills, and build careers in officiating from industry leaders in the NFL, BIG, MAC, SWAC, MVFC, ACC, OAC, GLIAC, and MHSAA,” said Robinson. “The collaboration between MDFOC and OLSM has been fantastic!”

Attendees spent valuable time in the Burkacki Academic Center classrooms. “Each referee position had its own classroom, designed for more personal instruction of no more than 25 students per classroom,” added Robinson. “They were treated to food truck catering at lunch followed by 7v7 training on the main and practice football fields comprised of several high school football teams, including OLSM, U of D Jesuit, Our Lady of the Lakes, Henry Ford, Harper Woods, Voyageur, Oak Park, and River Rouge.”

“Officiating is more than just calling the game — it’s about leadership, integrity, and dedication. The path will challenge you, testing your resolve and your character. But with every challenge comes growth and respect. By committing yourself fully, you become a vital part of a sport that unites millions and inspires countless others. I encourage you to embrace this responsibility with confidence and pride. The field is ready for you. Step forward and make your mark.” **SHAWN SMITH**, NFL Official, MDOFC

“I still remember my first game on the field—the adrenaline, the excitement, and yes, the nerves. But what I found was much more than just calling plays. Being a football referee means you’re at the heart of the game, making sure every snap is fair, every play is safe, and the spirit of football shines through. Football moves fast, decisions come quick, and the pressure can be intense. But with every game, you grow stronger, sharper, and more confident. You become a leader on the gridiron, respected by players and coaches alike, and a guardian of the game’s integrity. If you love football, want to develop your leadership and decision-making skills, and want to give back to the sport that brings us all together, then stepping into officiating is the right move. The whistle is in your hands. Take that step. We’re out here, ready to teach you the rules of the game.” **GAYLON WILLIAMS**, MDFOC Experienced Football Trainer



“Making it to the Big Ten as a female referee showed me that with passion and perseverance, anything is possible. Believe in yourself, push through the challenges, and lead the way for other women to follow.”

NICOLE RANDOLPH, Big Ten Female Football Referee

Orchard Lake St. Mary’s and MDFOC will host a Spring Introduction to Referee Clinic for interested juniors and seniors. For more information on amazing careers in officiating, how to break into the business, and more, email Tracie Robinson at trobinson@stmarysprep.com