

TRI-COUNTY BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Comprehensive Executive Summary

Youth Basketball, Officials Compensation & Rural Community Sports Model

Period	Games	Official Assignments	Direct Officials Cost
2016-2023	2,244	4,488	\$151,170

Prepared for Baseball Heaven. A community-based rural youth-sports case study for the Oklahoma Professional Umpire Workforce research area.

Executive Overview

The supplied dataset documents 2,244 youth basketball games from December 3, 2016 through February 4, 2023. The accompanying narrative describes the schedule as an export from the league scheduling system and states that historical officials compensation was verified through the person responsible for assigning officials.

Two officials per game produce 4,488 officiating assignments and \$151,170 in calculated direct officials compensation. The dataset identifies 19 facilities in 15 communities. Of all games, 2,172 - 96.8% - occurred at facilities classified as high schools.

The central finding is structural. Tri-County involves meaningful financial activity, but its schedule depicts recurring league play distributed among rural communities and school-based facilities. It is therefore a useful comparison to destination-oriented competitive travel sports rather than automatically being treated as the same business model.

The distinction is not money versus no money. The better analytical questions concern purpose, governance, transparency, beneficiaries, facility relationships, geographic distribution, and financial incentives.

1. Methodology & Evidence Boundaries

Each CSV row represents one scheduled game. Fields identify dates, age divisions, facilities, ownership, towns, counties, teams, officials, compensation, modeled players, modeled gate, modeled economic impact, and year.

The narrative states that participating communities charged different player fees. Because those historical amounts were not verified, the dataset records team entry fees at \$0.00 rather than substituting unsupported estimates.

Schedule-derived: games, dates, divisions, facilities, towns, and ownership. Calculated: official assignments and officials cost. Modeled: player counts, gate, and local economic activity.

No 2018 records appear in the supplied CSV. No inference is made about why they are absent.

2. Quantitative Snapshot

Measure	Result	Status
Games	2,244	Schedule-derived
Official assignments	4,488	Calculated
Officials cost	\$151,170	Calculated
Facilities	19	Schedule-derived
Communities	15	Schedule-derived
High-school games	2,172 (96.8%)	Schedule-derived
Modeled gate	\$123,420	Estimate
Modeled economic impact	\$403,920	Estimate

Direct and modeled values should remain clearly separated in publication. Gate and economic-impact totals are not audited receipts.

3. Participation Structure

Tri-County served six elementary-age boys and girls divisions from first through sixth grade. No single division dominates the schedule.

Division	Games	Share	Officials Cost
3rd-4th Grade Boys	485	21.6%	\$32,600
1st-2nd Grade Boys	412	18.4%	\$27,760
5th-6th Grade Boys	397	17.7%	\$26,170
3rd-4th Grade Girls	356	15.9%	\$24,180
5th-6th Grade Girls	350	15.6%	\$23,700
1st-2nd Grade Girls	244	10.9%	\$16,760

At the standardized assumption of 18 players per game, the schedule represents 40,392 modeled player-game participations. This is not a count of unique children.

4. Community Facilities & Geographic Distribution

The league used 19 facilities, with 96.8% of all games classified as high-school facility use. The remaining 72 games occurred at the municipally classified Reynolds Wellness Center.

Facility	Games	Share
Prague High School	324	14.4%
Okemah High School	275	12.3%
Holdenville High School	239	10.7%
Meeker High School	220	9.8%
Wewoka High School	126	5.6%
Strother High School	112	5.0%
Varnum High School	110	4.9%
Seminole High School	106	4.7%
Paden High School	104	4.6%
Perkins High School	102	4.5%
Calvin High School	99	4.4%
Stroud High School	91	4.1%
Reynolds Wellness Center	72	3.2%
Mason High School	55	2.5%
Maud High School	52	2.3%
Cushing High School	51	2.3%
White Creek School	42	1.9%
Butner High School	35	1.6%
Davenport High School	29	1.3%

Prague High School is the largest host with 324 games, about 14.4% of the schedule. Even the largest host accounts for less than one-sixth of all activity, reinforcing the distributed community structure.

5. Officiating Labor Market

Officiating is the strongest directly quantifiable labor cost. The represented compensation progression is \$25, then \$30, then \$40 per official per game.

Year	Games	Rate / Official	Assignments	Officials Cost
2016	186	\$25	372	\$9,300
2017	433	\$25	866	\$21,650
2019	163	\$30	326	\$9,780
2020	326	\$30	652	\$19,560
2021	167	\$40	334	\$13,360
2022	616	\$40	1232	\$49,280
2023	353	\$40	706	\$28,240

The move from \$25 to \$40 is a 60% nominal increase. The schedule demonstrates that youth-sports officiating can be analyzed as a labor market: game volume creates demand, assignments measure workload, and pay rates determine aggregate labor cost.

6. Controlled Compensation Scenarios

Holding the 4,488 assignment workload constant isolates the effect of pay. These are scenarios, not historical expenditures.

Per-Official Rate	Cost at 4,488 Assignments	Change vs. \$40
\$25	\$112,200	\$-67,320
\$30	\$134,640	\$-44,880
\$40	\$179,520	\$0
\$50	\$224,400	\$44,880
\$60	\$269,280	\$89,760
\$70	\$314,160	\$134,640

Every \$5 change in compensation changes aggregate cost by \$22,440. This is directly relevant to recruitment, retention, training, and scheduling.

7. Cash-Flow Environment & Modeled Economics

The source supports discussion of recurring financial activity: officials are paid, communities reportedly charged differing player fees, and the model contemplates admission and concessions. It does not establish a complete cash ledger or prove that every transaction was conducted in cash.

The dataset does not establish total registration revenue, actual gate receipts, concession revenue, administrative compensation, net income, tax treatment, banking practices, or personal income to any administrator.

The model assigns \$55 of gate activity per game, producing \$123,420, and \$180 of local economic activity per game, producing \$403,920. These are estimates, not audited receipts.

Their primary value is comparative: they illustrate how recurring family travel among rural communities can circulate spending through fuel, food, convenience stores, concessions, and similar transactions.

8. Community Model vs. Destination Travel Model

Tri-County and competitive travel sports both require facilities, officials, participant spending, and administration. Those common features do not make the systems organizationally identical.

Tri-County's documented architecture is distributed: elementary-age boys and girls, recurring league play, rotating host communities, heavy reliance on school gyms, regional travel, and a directly observable officiating workforce.

A destination travel-tournament model can be more concentrated: larger geographic recruitment, event entry fees, destination complexes, tournament promoters or directors, longer-distance travel, and incentives tied to event volume and team counts.

The policy distinction is therefore not whether money exists. It is how money, control, public infrastructure, and community benefit are organized.

9. Relevance to the Oklahoma Professional Umpire Workforce Model

One rural basketball league generated 4,488 officiating assignments. That volume demonstrates why officials should be studied as a workforce rather than as a minor line item.

Basketball referees and baseball or softball umpires share core workforce characteristics: evening and weekend schedules, per-game compensation, travel, training requirements, assignment systems, and competition for available workers.

Tri-County broadens the Oklahoma Professional Umpire Workforce concept beyond baseball. A statewide strategy could examine recruitment, certification, mentorship, standardized training, progressive assignments, compensation tiers, and regional scheduling across multiple youth sports.

Community leagues can also function as development environments where new officials gain experience before advancing to higher levels.

10. Principal Findings & Conclusion

Tri-County is substantial: 2,244 games, 19 facilities, 15 communities, and 4,488 official assignments.

Public/community infrastructure is foundational: nearly 97% of games are classified as high-school facility use.

The officiating workforce is measurable: historical direct officials cost totals \$151,170, with represented pay increasing from \$25 to \$40.

The schedule is geographically distributed: activity rotates among rural communities rather than concentrating at one destination facility.

The modeled economics require clear labels: \$123,420 gate and \$403,920 local impact are estimates, not verified receipts.

For Baseball Heaven, Tri-County is an important comparative case study. It shows that youth sports can generate meaningful economic activity while remaining structurally community-centered. The reform question is therefore not whether money exists in youth sports, but whether the economic architecture supports children, facilities, officials, local communities, transparency, and long-term access.

The case also reinforces the central premise of the Oklahoma Professional Umpire Workforce research: officials are a measurable regional workforce upon which organized youth sports depend.

Research Disclaimer

This analysis is for research, educational, and public-policy purposes. Schedule-derived and calculated figures are distinguished from modeled assumptions. Modeled player participation, gate, and local economic-impact figures are not audited financial statements or verified receipts. Additional accounting records would be required for conclusions about total revenue, profit, tax treatment, or financial compliance.