

KEYS TO BEING A GOOD HIGH SCHOOL PA ANNOUNCER

To be a good high school PA announcer, focus on being an unbiased, prepared, and calm reporter of essential game information, not a cheerleader, by learning the sport, mastering player names, sticking to basic play details (not play-by-play), promoting sportsmanship, and having clear emergency protocols in place, all while staying professional and out of the way of the action.

Preparation & Knowledge

- **Learn the Sport:** Understand the rules, terminology, and official signals for each sport you announce.
- **Get Rosters:** Obtain and learn to pronounce names for all players and coaches; highlight key players.
- **Arrive Early:** Get to the venue an hour or more before game time to set up and meet with officials/ADs.
- **Prepare Materials:** Have a well-organized binder with scripts, rosters, notes, pens, and highlighters.

Announcing Style & Tone

- **Be Unbiased:** Maintain a neutral, calm, and consistent tone for both home and visiting teams.
- **Be Brief & Informative:** Stick to essential details like scores (when appropriate), fouls, substitutions, and scores; avoid cheerleading or excessive commentary.
- **Don't Talk Over Action:** Wait until plays are dead or officials have made their calls to speak.
- **Be Humble:** It's about the event, not you; don't try to be the star.
- **Promote Sportsmanship:** Use pre-approved scripts to encourage respect for officials, opponents, and fair play.

Professionalism & Conduct

- **Take it Seriously:** Dress appropriately and treat everyone with respect.
- **Stay Focused:** Keep the microphone off when not speaking and avoid distractions like social media.

- **Have an Emergency Plan:** Know the school's procedures for severe weather, injuries, or security threats; use a calm, clear voice for evacuations.

What to Avoid

- **Don't Be a Cheerleader:** Your role is to inform, not to incite or get emotionally involved.
- **No Personal Opinions:** No politics, inappropriate music, or unauthorized ads.
- **Don't Over-Announce:** Silence is golden when there's nothing important to say.