

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**'BATTLEFIELDS 2 BALLFIELDS' AND TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SPORTS OFFICIALS JOIN FORCES TO PROMOTE OFFICIATING**

DALLAS, TX – The Texas Association of Sports Officials [TASO] today announced a new partnership with 'Battlefields 2 Ballfields' in a program designed to assist military veterans' integration into their communities and at the same time work to ease the shortage of sports officials in Texas.

'Battlefields 2 Ballfields' is a 501 [c][3] foundation that provides scholarships and pays for officiating uniforms, in addition to other benefits, for veterans, while TASO provides the advocacy for sports officials, basic and continuous training, and game assignments through their more than 155 local chapters in Texas. The two organizations will also assist in creating a mentoring program for the veterans.

This is the first alliance between 'Battlefields 2 Ballfields' and a statewide officiating organization.

"I could not be more pleased to align our foundation with TASO," said Mike Pereira, 'Battlefields 2 Ballfields' Executive Director. "TASO ranks among the very best officiating organizations in the United States, and I am excited to see what we can achieve together going forward."

"TASO is honored and proud to partner with 'Battlefields 2 Ballfields' to provide this exceptional opportunity to our returning heroes," said Michael Fitch, TASO Executive Director, "while at the same time helping us to provide more quality officials for the student-athletes we serve."

During the on-line application process, a new applicant will be asked if he/she is a veteran of the active armed forces. If so, TASO will connect them to 'Battlefields 2 Ballfields' where they can apply for the scholarship and other benefits.

**About 'Battlefields 2 Ballfields':** The foundation will provide scholarships to veterans who have served in the armed forces with an opportunity to get integrated back into their community through officiating. Those who have been involved in officiating already have felt the joy of stepping out onto the field or court. With it comes a great sense of value that leaves one with a feeling of accomplishment. In military service, and officiating, there's the common bond of being a member of a team and creating order out of chaos.

Battlefields 2 Ballfields' will provide these veterans with an opportunity to hone their newfound officiating skills and participate in something that will give them a renewed sense of self-worth along with the ability to earn some extra income. While the ultimate goal will be to get some of our returning veterans into the upper levels of officiating, including the professional ranks, they will start out at the local level working high school and youth-level games. Local associations are actively recruiting because not enough officials are currently available. 'Battlefields 2 Ballfields' will place more officials and judges into the system and will greatly enhance the mage of those entering the officiating ranks.

**About TASO:** TASO is an independent organization, providing support, resources and training for Texas high school sports officials. With more than 155 local chapters serving 15,000+ members throughout Texas, TASO is one of the largest professional organizations for sports officials in the country. TASO works closely with the University Interscholastic League [UIL], the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools [TAPPS], the Texas High School Coaches Association, other coaches associations, the Texas High School Athletic Directors Association and many other organizations to ensure fair, challenging and safe athletic competition for Texas high school student-athletes.

CONTACT:

Jeff Crilley

TASO

xxx.xxx.xxxx [cell]

xxxxxxxxx [email]

Doug Kelly

'Battlefields 2 Ballfields'

916.202.0552 [cell]

[DKelly1416@aol.com](mailto:DKelly1416@aol.com) [email]