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## Bridgemen to Participate in Inaugural NJSIAA Student Ambassador Officials' Appreciation Week

**Fort Lee, N.J.** - Today the Fort Lee Athletic Department (North) announced its participation in the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) Student Ambassador Officials' Appreciation Week. The fall iteration of the event will take place during athletic events held in New Jersey from October 14<sup>th</sup> through October 20<sup>th</sup>. The aim of this event is to raise awareness for the shortage of officials in our state and thank the ones we do have for their often thankless task.

Fort Lee will play host to volleyball, tennis and girls soccer varsity contests during the week of 10/14 (subject to change). The department plans to recognize the officials with public address announcements before varsity contests and acts of appreciation by student-athletes and coaches.

In a statement to the Fort Lee Athletic Department, Brian Barlow, a USSF certified referee and the owner of the popular Facebook page "Offside," which looks to curb referee abuse, said, *"Officials are always the guys and gals in the middle of it all. We are productive members of society who have families, homes, jobs, kids and a very passionate love for the game we officiate. We are also too many times abused, assaulted and taken for granted, so I am very grateful to see an association like the NJSIAA create an entire week to those who make it an official game. Without them it's just recess."*

Photos and other media will be published on Fort Lee Athletics social media commemorating the event for all three athletic seasons beginning with the session in the fall.

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## ABOUT FORT LEE ATHLETICS

The Fort Lee Athletic Department is the unit of the Fort Lee Public Schools Central Administrative Offices responsible for the supervision of sixteen varsity interscholastic sports teams and their respective sub-varsity programs. Fort Lee competes in the Big North Conference and the Super Football Conference, while maintaining their membership in the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. For the latest news and information on the Bridgemen visit [flboe.com/administration/athletics\\_department](http://flboe.com/administration/athletics_department). Fans and members of the media can follow the department on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), along with, the Mascot Media National Sports App.



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