



Top 25 things officials need to remember:



1. FOR ALL BUT A FEW OF US, OFFICIATING IS AN AVOCATION, NOT OUR PROFESSION
Recognizing that will help keep your life in better balance.

2. NINETY PERCENT OF OFFICIATING IS BEING A “PEOPLE PERSON”
Know how to relate with people. Treat everyone on the court with the same respect you demand from them.

3. OFFICIATING IS SELDOM FAIR
Regardless of how much talent you possess and how hard you work, you won't always work the big games or move up the officiating ladder.

4. KEEP PLAYER SAFETY NUMBER ONE
The rules not only empower but also require officials to penalize rough play. Manage the game from the tip to the final buzzer.

5. DON'T MAKE EXCUSES
Instead of wasting time and mental energy coming up with an excuse, your first course should be doing whatever the rules allow you to do to rectify the situation.

6. YOU HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO HOLD YOURSELF TO A HIGHER-THAN-NORMAL ETHICAL STANDARD
How you comport yourself away from the game is as important as how you act during the game.

7. EXPECT CRITICISM AND LEARN HOW TO HANDLE IT
Most comments from spectators, players and some coaches are not positive. Own what you can. Learn from it and move on.

8. OFFICIATING BUILDS SKILLS FOR A LIFETIME
The qualities that make a great official are also the qualities that make a person a good employee, spouse, parent and friend.

9. BE CAREFUL NOT TO LET YOUR SIGNALS CONVEY YOUR EMOTIONS

Do not allow your body language or voice to convey displeasure. Your facial expression and voice should not suggest you're happy or unhappy to be enforcing a penalty.

10. UNDERSTAND THE INTENT OF THE RULES, NOT JUST THE RULE
Knowing why a rule is needed will help you enforce it. In some cases, the intent is obvious (e.g., player safety). In other instances, a rule is intended to ensure that neither team nor athlete is placed at an unfair disadvantage.

11. IF YOU'RE GOING TO BLOW THE WHISTLE, BLOW IT HARD
A strong blast of the whistle conveys the message that you're sure play should be stopped.

12. UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WILL MAKE MISTAKES
Sometimes they are dreadful mistakes, but we must accept them as an environmental hazard in an avocation that calls for us to make a multitude of split-second decisions under very stressful conditions.

13. DON'T CRITICIZE OTHER OFFICIALS
Under no circumstances should an official point out a peer's inadequacies or offer a negative opinion about another official to a coach or player. Let your work and the work of others speak for itself. If an official you've worked with or observed asks for a critique, be honest but supportive.

14. BE PROFESSIONAL
No matter the level, dress the part; act the part. In officiating, a book is judged by its cover. Soiled, aged, discolored, ill-fitting and wrinkled uniforms and accessories cast a negative impression before a pitch is thrown or the ball is put into play.