



DOING JUSTICE TO THE GAME



Thoughts on what a basketball official needs to do to:

- 1) Be the best he/she can be
- 2) Have the opportunity to referee at a high(er) level
- 3) Develop his/her officiating skills over time

What you look like It matters!

- Clean grooming (hair trimmed; no or little facial hair)
- No spectacles (consider contact lenses, laser surgery as alternatives)
- Impeccable uniform (no belt on pants; pressed pants with light break in fabric at top of shoes; slim fitting jersey & jacket; polished/patent leather shoes)
- Crisp signals (fully extended arms; erect posture; relaxed demeanour during delivery)
- Hustle! (during dead ball situations; to communicate with the table/your partner; to cover the play)
- Be in good physical condition (the game demands it from its officials!)

Coaches, players and spectators are constantly scrutinizing us! How we look when we walk on the court, when we interact with players and coaches, when we make rulings, has a clear impact on our credibility with, and on our acceptance by spectators, coaches and players. Look good, look professional It matters!!!!

RULES , RULES, RULES

Know them, review them, study them

- Know, review, understand, and study the rule book
- Video study is essential in understanding how to apply rules to game situations Use the IAABO and FIBA websites for help
- Go out and watch your colleagues officiate You will learn from the experience – sometimes you’ll learn what to do, sometimes you’ll learn what NOT to do
- Take your exams seriously They are meant to force you to read the book and understand the application of rules in game situations

How you “handle” the game

It’s all about awareness and understanding

- You need to develop good contact judgment AND you need to understand advantage/disadvantage to call a “good” game
- You need to have awareness of what is going on during the game (time clock, alternate possession arrow, shot clock, the coaches, the various types of players on the floor, foul counts/bonus, time-outs remaining)
- You need to maintain a calm, cool and collected manner about you (converse with players, communicate with your partner and the table; lend an ear to coaches/players; report fouls/violations without rushing through your mechanics; don’t let events during the game frazzle/disturb you) – be consistent in how you handle the game, start to finish
- You need to be a student of the game: understand how offenses and defences are run; get to know how different coaches implement different strategies; appreciate that the flow of the game is dynamic – some teams adjust, others don’t

Make a commitment to refereeing

- We are **NOT** as good as we think we are We improve every time we step on the floor – to improve, you need to get on the floor (it does not matter what type of game it is!)
- Accept that you need to referee at least 500 games before you can really “cut it” as an official (this represents 5 to 7 years of dedicated work!)
- Accept that you need to referee “recreational” men’s and women’s leagues, and U11 and grade 7/8 girls’ games
Make yourself available for all of them if you want to improve

Make a commitment to refereeing

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- Go to camps OABO camps, the Eastern Ontario camp, IAABO camps, CABO camp ANY camp where you can get immediate feedback and where you can work on your game!
- Seek nomination to provincial appointments – take the opportunity to referee at an OFSAA (high school all-Ontario tournaments), Provincial championships or National championships
- When you are evaluated by a local or provincial evaluator, work on the areas he/she has identified for improvement – and don't argue about the specifics ACT upon them!

Develop your “soft” skills

Management and communication are part of the game!

- Accept that there are “politics” in everything we do And that includes refereeing a basketball game!
- You need to communicate with players, coaches, your partner on the floor, table officials throughout the game
- Human emotion is an integral part of all sports As officials, we accept that this is part of the game, and we have the sole responsibility of managing that emotional content without it interfering with the game itself!
- Talk with players (during live and dead ball situations), answer questions from coaches (but don't discuss with them)
- Demand respect for the game while enjoying being around the game and its personalities.

About refereeing at a high level . . .

Tournament finals, LOSSA championships, OFSAA, the College Panel, the OUA

- You need to be noticed Your peers are watching, local evaluators are watching, the Development Officer is watching, the Assignor is watching, the Executive is watching, coaches are watching
- When you go to camps or to Provincial/National championships, evaluators are watching, supervisors are watching, peers from others boards are watching
- They are all watching because they want to see what you have to offer to the game and to its participants They are there to support you in being the best official you can be!