

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY – INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Officiating a Game from Start to Finish

Professionalism

A large portion of the job of an official is being professional before, during and after a game. This includes both mental and physical preparation and control at all times during a shift. Know the most up-to-date rules and interpretations. Try to focus on the task at hand, the game that is about to begin; not other worries, stresses or troubles. It is important to be "in the zone" going into a shift. Always be prepared for the upcoming games in the most basic ways. Whistle and lanyard, officiating gear; double check and make sure to bring everything you need with you to the games.

Formal Pre-Game Discussions

The goal of any pregame conference is to mentally prepare all of the officials for the upcoming game, cover any unusual situations that may come up, and bring the crew together to work as a team. While there is no formula for a perfect conference, the officials should cover some basic points.



Working During a Game

During a game, an official must be constantly trying to improve themselves and fix any holes in their performance.

“Communication with the rest of the crew is paramount and should be constantly occurring, especially when necessitated by changing elements in the game. A quick word with another official can adapt both refs to changes in tempo or conflicts in the game.”

Work to remain focused during the game. Keep your head clear and do not let your mind wander. Do not dwell on mistakes, let them go and move on.

Meet with the rest of the officiating crew during halftime to analyze the first half. Were there any plays of interest that need to be discussed? Are there any changes that need to be made in the second half? Could a situation have been

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handled differently? Covering these aspects of the game allows for improvement in the second half and improvement as an official.

Post-Game

Have a post game conference similar to the half time conference. Did everyone make the adjustments that were needed? Was the game a success? Are there any problems or concerns? What could be done to improve next time? Conduct an honest self-evaluation. This means looking in depth at your performance in the game and identifying what you did well, what you did poorly, and what you can do to improve. The only way to learn and improve is to honestly critique yourself and realize what aspects need work.

Do not be afraid to ask questions. Talk to the supervisor that was watching/evaluating your game and ask them for feedback. Listen to what they have to say and take it to heart as you strive to improve. Ask the other officials if they noticed any weak spots or have recommendations on how you can improve. Your fellow employees are a vast resource of information that should be utilized.

The Rule Book

The rule book is another valuable tool that is often under used. Refer to the rules to clear up any doubts you had about a ruling or interpretation and you will often be surprised to learn something new as well.



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University Recreation

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