

You've thought about becoming a basketball official and need a place to get started.

Southern Nevada Official Association (SNOA) is the local officials associations in Southern Nevada. SNOA is a group of officials who meet periodically to discuss rules, mechanics and philosophy. This is a great way for new officials to learn from veteran officials.

SNOA has a valuable pool of resources for training, obtaining games and getting to know the officiating community. One important item is attending association meetings. At those meetings, some held before the season starts, you can ask questions about rules, mechanics and positioning. These sessions will be a foundation to get you started properly.

Possess an even-tempered personality. The referee has to keep their emotions in check while everyone around them is losing theirs. High school basketball can get very emotional for players, coaches and fans. The referee has to maintain order while not letting the action get out of control. To many times on the news people see a brawl at a sporting event and wonder what happened. A properly trained and skilled referee can help appease situations such as these at times.

Make sure that there is time to commit to the vocation of being a referee. A person cannot just show up and referee a sporting event. They must understand that a time commitment to improve their craft and stay abreast of any rule changes to the sport is necessary.

Physical Requirements

A referee must be in good physical and mental shape. In an average high school game, a referee may run three to five miles. An awareness of the entire playing field is very important. Quick reactions, decisions and speed are advantages. As the ages of the players increase, so does the speed in which the game is played and competitiveness of the players. Good officials have a good knowledge of the rules, a good feel for the game and how to manage it from the time they enter the gym to the time they exit.

Officials Code of Conduct

The key role of an SNOA Basketball Official is to cooperate with other officials in the provision of fair and equitable conditions for the conduct of Athletic events under the relevant rules of competition, thereby offering all participants every opportunity to achieve their own personal goals and aspirations.

SNOA Basketball Officials shall demonstrate high standards of judgment and competency as they represent SNOA at all times. The hallmarks of good Officials are promptness, firmness and justice, tempered by tact and consideration.

Officials must be impartial and must supervise and control an event in a manner that reflects the spirit and intent of the rules and regulations. They will provide a competition that will preserve the health and safety of all involved. They will do their utmost to guarantee that each competitor/team receives an equal and fair opportunity to win. They will promote sportsmanship and an atmosphere of enjoyment

Officials must maintain high standards of moral and ethical conduct that includes self-controlled responsible behavior, consideration for others' physical and emotional well-being, courtesy and good manners.

Officials must abstain from the use of illegal drugs and the consumption of alcohol while in the performance of their duties as a representative of SNOA.

Officials must refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of his/her duties.

Officials should both teach and learn with every assignment. Officials should exhibit and promote respect, understanding and compassion towards hosts, competitors, coaches and volunteers no matter where they are on the learning curve.

Officials must not engage in "on" or "off" the record criticism of race organizations, competitors, coaches and volunteers to the public including to other SNOA sports organizations. Officials shall make suggestions that are constructive, founded and relevant to the improvement of SNOA basketball.

"The leadership of the SNOA basketball Board is dedicated to being of service to league administrators. We will accomplish the service in the most efficient businesslike manner".

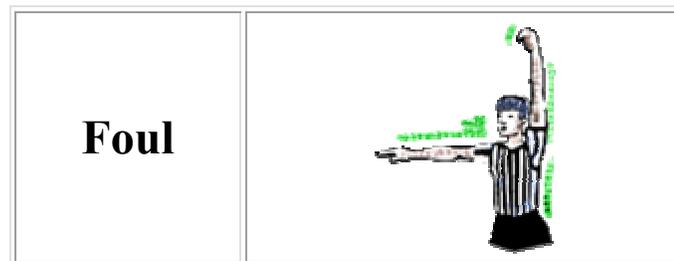
Mechanics

While there are many different hand signals and general rules a referee must be aware of, the most important thing to understand is the ethical part. Officials shall master both the rules of the games and mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner. This may sound like common sense, but it is very important to keep your professionalism and keep in good grace with the players, fans, and coaches. If you are not respected then an officiating experience could very well turn into a nightmare.

Three official mechanics will be used on 4A varsity schools and zone/state games. Two official mechanics will be used most of the time in the lower levels of basketball.

Fouls

Every time an official blows the whistle, his or her right hand needs to go straight in the air. A closed fist at the top of the hand indicates a foul while an open hand indicates a violation. This seems simple but it is very important to not confuse the two. A foul is when a player is involved in illegal contact with an opponent, which hinders an opponent from performing normal defensive and offensive movements.



Reporting fouls is an important part of officiating. When reporting a foul to the scorer's table, the official needs to be vocal. Everyone has seen officials do this while attending games. The official reports the number of the player with not only his voice, but his hands as well. This is to give the scorer a visual picture in case it is too loud to hear the calling official's voice. The official must also report the type of foul that was committed by using the correct hand signals.



Holding	
Charging	
Intentional	
Illegal use of the hands	
Technical	

Each time a foul is called officials must switch places on the floor. For example if you were the lead official you must switch places and become the trail official. This is done so that an official won't always be under the same basket. It is only fair to each competing team that one ref doesn't stay in the same position all game.

Violations

A violation is called immediately with a whistle and an open hand straight up into the air.

Violation	
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Violations are also characterized by the use of proper hand signals. The official doesn't have to say anything when reporting a violation. He must simply put his hand straight into the air and then make the correct hand signal that corresponds with the proper violation.

Traveling	
Double Dribble	
Jump Ball	
Over and Back	

Remember

You are an independent contractor. You solicit your services to assignors/supervisors, schools, coaches, fans, players and league administrators. Solicitation of games is not by gratuities, bribery or some other payment. It is by your dedication, work ethic, knowledge and application of the rules and most important your appearance as an official. Remember PERCEPTION isn't the only thing, it's EVERYTHING!

IMPORTANT REGULATIONS

Under our Constitution and By-laws, there are several important requirements that should be known to all officials.

Please note these carefully:

1. All officials should abide by the Code of Conduct as printed in this Handbook.
2. All officials are required to attend local rules interpretation meetings during the season. If an official does not attend at least five or meet local requirements, he/she may be dropped from the Association by action of the Board.
3. Members must wear the official uniform. Uniforms will be readily available and there should not be an excuse for officials working games out of uniform.

The following uniform is mandatory effective September 26, 2009:

1. A black and white, vertical striped quarter-sleeved knit shirt with v-neck opening. The mesh/panel shirt is an approved shirt. All officials should wear the same shirt for the sake of uniformity.
2. Black slacks with a belt is acceptable at lower levels but as the level of competition rises, beltless pants are the norm.
3. All black shoes with black shoestrings.
4. The uniform should be neat and clean at all times.
5. As an optional part of the basketball uniform, a black jacket designed for officiating may be worn. It shall be long-sleeved and solid black in color. If jackets are worn at a game site, all officials should wear them for the sake of uniformity.

APPEARANCE CODE – Officials are expected to be groomed in a neat and professional manner at all times. Officials who take pride in their personal appearance will readily earn the respect of players, coaches, and spectators.

REPORTING PLAYER/COACH EJECTIONS

Because of penalties involved, 100 percent reporting by officials is crucial. The following must be reported in writing:

PROCEDURES

In an effort to provide proper accountability with the administration of SNOA member schools and their support for exemplary sportsmanship, officials are to follow these procedures when it becomes necessary to eject a participant or member of the coaching staff from a game. Needless to say, we urge preventative measures.

An SNOA official must adhere to the following procedure when disqualifying (ejecting) an athlete from a contest:

- (1) Call timeout. Stop the action.
- (2) Do not hurry. If an athlete is disqualified (ejected), request the athlete to accompany you to his/her team bench or box. Go directly to the head coach and clearly notify the head coach directly that the player is disqualified (ejected). Provide both the athlete and the head coach with a statement of explanation as to why the athlete is disqualified (ejected). Be professional, courteous and assertive. Do not, however, debate the issue with either the athlete or the coach.
- (3) Go to the opposing head coach and notify him/her that the athlete has been disqualified (ejected) and provide him/her with the exact same statement of explanation.
- (4) Report the disqualification (ejection) to the official scorekeeper if the rules of the contest so require.
- (5) Resume the contest.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE FILLING OUT THE FORM IN ITS ENTIRETY AND YOU HAVE THE CORRECT FORM FROM THE INTERNET AT www.snoaofficials.com

Disqualification (Ejection) of a Coach

An SNOA official must adhere to the following procedure when disqualifying (ejecting) a coach from a contest:

- (1) Call timeout. Stop the action.
- (2) Do not hurry. Go directly to the head coach and clearly notify him/her that he/she or, if applicable, another member(s) of his/her coaching staff is disqualified (ejected). Provide the head coach with a statement of explanation as to why he/she or the member(s) of his/her coaching staff is disqualified (ejected). Inform the disqualified (ejected) individual that he/she must leave the premises (facility) for the remainder of, and after, that contest and that he/she may not give any further instruction to, have any

further contact with, or confer with athletes or other members of the coaching staff for the remainder of the contest. Be professional, courteous and assertive.

Do not, however, debate the issue with any member of the coaching staff.

(3) Go to the opposing head coach and notify him/her that the coach has been disqualified (ejected) and provide him/her with the exact same statement of explanation.

(4) Report the disqualification (ejection) to the official scorekeeper if the rules of the contest so require.

(5) Resume the contest.

Disqualified Coach Must Leave Premises

(1) A coach who is disqualified (ejected) from a contest must leave the premises (facility) and may not give any further instruction to, have any further contact with, or confer with athletes or other members of the coaching staff for the remainder of the contest, including halftime, breaks between quarters and other intermissions, and following the contest. The coach may not sit in the spectator seating area, stand beyond the fence, etc. The coach must remove himself/herself from the (premises) facility to a position where he/she is no longer visible to the participants and spectators and the competition is no longer visible to the coach.

(2) If a coach who has been disqualified (ejected) from a contest refuses to leave the premises (facility) or is intent upon continuing to coach his/her athletes or conferring with other members of his/her coaching staff in defiance of the officials, the officials are instructed to discontinue the contest and declare it a forfeit.

(3) If a coach or coaches are disqualified (ejected) from a contest and no other authorized school personnel is available to take charge of the athletes, the contest must be suspended.

Official May Not Hear Appeal or Reverse Decision

Once an official has disqualified (ejected) an athlete and/or coach, the official may not entertain any appeal from the athlete, coach, athletic director, principal, parent, spectator or any other individual associated with the school. The disqualification (ejection) of an athlete and/or coach is a judgment call and may not be reversed. The official's decision is final.

When Written Reports Must Be Filed

(1) An athlete or coach is ejected for any reason from a contest;

(2) An athlete or coach is guilty of a flagrant act and/or unsporting conduct before, during or after a contest for which he/she is not ejected.

(3) A contest must be temporarily stopped due to unsporting conduct on the part of a spectator or spectators;

(4) A contest, for whatever reason, does not go to its normal conclusion.

(5) The contest facility is, in the official's opinion, judged to be unsafe for participants, or hazards are present; and

(6) The contest facility or team equipment/uniforms do not meet rule specifications

When Verbal Reports Must Be Filed

Officials are required to notify the SNOA Basketball Board the following morning when acts of gross unsporting conduct are committed by an athlete or coach, or when a bench-emptying brawl occurs, or when a contest, for whatever reason, does not go to its normal conclusion. Such verbal reports are in addition to the necessary written reports.

Content of Written Reports

Written reports as required should be made on the required form, must provide complete and detailed information concerning the incident which prompted the report, and must be neat and legible. The report must always include:

- (1) The sport and gender being contested (e.g. men basketball, women basketball);
- (2) The level of competition (e.g. junior high, junior varsity, varsity);
- (3) The date and site of the contest;
- (4) The names of the participating schools;
- (5) The first and last name of any athlete and/or coach who was ejected from a contest, as well as the jersey number of the athlete;
- (6) The score of the contest and the time remaining in the contest if it was necessary to declare it ended prematurely;
- (7) A narrative of exactly what occurred and exactly what was said to prompt the action which required the filing of the report; and
- (8) The name, signature, address and daytime telephone number of the official filing the report.

School's Responsibilities to Officials

Member schools are charged with the following responsibilities relative to SNOA officials when serving as host for an athletic contest to which the officials are assigned.

- (1) An authorized representative of the host school must greet the officials upon their arrival.
- (2) The host school shall provide a private, secure place for the officials to park.
- (3) The host school should provide a secure dressing facility which affords privacy [See s.1001.07 regarding dressing facilities for state series contests].
- (4) The host school should provide the officials access to private shower facilities.
- (5) The host school should provide the officials with refreshments (i.e., water and/or sports drinks) during the halftime intermission and other appropriate times.
- (6) The host school must provide pregame, halftime and postgame security for the officials. A school official or principal's designee must escort the officials to and from the playing field or court to prevent harassment.
- (7) The host school principal or game administrator must indicate to the referee or umpire-in-chief his/her seat location should a situation develop where assistance is needed during the contest.

(8) School personnel, including coaches, must not enter the officials' dressing facility while the officials are in attendance except when requested by the officials.

Evaluation of Officials

1. Each Official will be ranked into one of six rating groups by the Basketball Board.

The qualifications and ability of the official as determined by his/her SNOA ranking, the official's performance on the most recent test rules examination, and evaluations of the official made by the SNOA Basketball Board.

Ranking	Skill Level
100	Referee (All Levels)
150	Varsity (All Levels)
200	Girls Varsity (All Levels) Boys Varsity (Some levels)
300	Girls Varsity (Some levels) / JV
400	JV (Some Levels) & B & MS (All Levels)
500	B & MS (All Levels)

At each site, the Varsity 100 shall be required to complete an evaluation of each partner, rated below 100, they were able to observe.

The Assignor may assign a person to a higher level game when no other officials are available.

The rankings of the officials shall be based on the evaluations of the Varsity 100's evaluations performed by Board members not assigned to work that game, input from the Assignor, and evaluations received from coaches.

Each official shall be notified at least once a year of their ranking, and provided whenever possible with the evaluations of 100's, Board members, and coaches. The Board members are responsible for ensuring that every official is observed a sufficient number of times to receive a fair evaluation.

Assigning Policy

1. It is the policy of SNOA Basketball Board that:
 - a. Assignments of in-season games are spread out among the available officials to the extent reasonably possible.

- b. The number of assignments received will be negatively impacted when officials are frequently late, assignments are missed, or the official is not maintaining the high level of professionalism expected.
 - c. Tournament assignments should equally be spread out among the available officials. Varsity tournaments are generally assigned to varsity officials. B and JV tournaments are normally assigned to JV and B officials first. If the schools requests' varsity level officials for the finals of B and JV tournaments the assignor will do so.
 - d. Assignments giving preference to a particular school or official are prohibited.
 - e. Officials who have not taken/pass the basketball exam for the current year may not work varsity games.
 - f. Officials must be present for 5 SNOA meetings to work varsity games.
2. Playoff assignment policies are:
- a. To be playoff eligible, an official must attend at least 5 training meetings, and must score at least an 80 on the NFHS Exam.
 - b. Rankings still apply during the playoffs. R100 slots in the playoffs at all levels are generally filled with 4A/3A ranked varsity officials, with R150 assignments generally including some 2A/1A officials.
 - c. Regional assignments will be spread out among the qualified officials where possible.
 - d. **No person will do a State Championship game two years in a row.**
3. Officials are expected to complete the assignments they accept. It is the responsibility of the official to notify the assignor of changes in their schedule that alters their ability to complete their assignments. Officials may not swap assignments with other officials without the permission of the assignor.
4. SNOA policy permits the fining of officials who are out of uniform, late, miss assignments, turn back assignments after accepting them or switch assignments with other officials. Basketball has adopted the SNOA fine schedule without alteration.
5. Officials who work early games when later games will be played in the same gym must remain on site until their replacements arrive. If only one official is present at the game site that official should proceed through the pre-game procedure on schedule and conduct the game by themselves if necessary. Once the game begins, the officials who start it will finish it, even if the scheduled official(s) arrive. Notify the assignor of any unusual circumstance that occurs.

6. If a game ends early and the officials for the following game have not arrived, it is not permissible for the officials on site to begin preparations for the game to follow, nor start that game, before its scheduled time. These officials should remain on site and act only if the warm-up time has begun for the next game and no new officials have reached the game site.
7. Officials traveling to remote sites are expected to travel together. The two/three officials must communicate well before the date of the match and determine who will drive, where they will meet and when. Travel should be scheduled to allow arrival at least 60 minutes prior to game time.
8. The driver is responsible for providing drinks and snacks on all trips. On longer trips, the driver should buy meals as well.
9. Officials must be cautious in their conversation. While in the stands, each official is still representing SNOA and must limit their conversation with fans and with other officials. It is never permissible to publicly discuss another official, even with other officials, when fans, coaches or players are present. It is perfectly acceptable to answer questions about the rules; however, good judgment is required in way the answer is given. Officials are discouraged from commenting to the media about any game, whether they worked it or not.
10. Officials should refer to team coaches as “coach” while on assignment.
11. Officials must notify the assignor of potential conflicts of interest they may have with a coach or school. These include employment at a school, children enrolled at a school, personal relationships with coaches and business relationships such as coaching club teams or teaching clinics with coaches.

TRANSFERRING OFFICIALS

Eligible transfer officials must submit acceptable verification of prior officiating to the SNOA Basketball Board. Transferring officials must register with the SNOA, and meet all existing SNOA criteria for Varsity list consideration. The transferring official will be given an opportunity to be observed in a game situation by an assigned evaluator(s).

Membership in Other Organizations

- (1) The SNOA Basketball Board does not require its registered officials to join or maintain membership in any organization other than a sanctioned officials association. However, membership in such outside organizations is permissible provided:
- (a) The organization does not have guidelines, regulations, policies or procedures which conflict with those of the SNOA; and
 - (b) the organization does not practice discrimination.
- (2) Business unrelated to the SNOA officials program, such as recreational or youth league assignments, etc., shall not be a part of the agenda for any SNOA meeting. The assignment of officials to officiate SNOA athletic events shall not be influenced in any way by assignments to work non-SNOA events.

Dealing with Fans

This memo provides guidelines for handling unruly spectator behavior. There have been situations where the officials have made a bad situation worse by engaging in conversation with these unruly spectators. Officials assigned to officiate a contest are responsible for the conduct of the contest. Controlling crowds and crowd reactions are not within the officials' province. That responsibility falls to game administrators.

If spectators begin to interfere with the conduct of a contest; cause an official to become distracted through continual and unrelenting verbal abuse; or berate players, coaches, or officials in an unacceptable or vulgar manner, officials should stop the action, report the spectator(s) to the home school administration or the nearest uniformed security officer and ask that they be restrained or removed from the facility. If the home school administration or uniformed security is unwilling or unable to comply and the official does not believe the contest can be safely continued, the official must declare the contest ended at that point.

Officials should never engage directly with spectators. Under no circumstance should an official ever confront, challenge, rebuke, or threaten a spectator, or make gestures of any kind toward a spectator before, during, or after a contest.

Officials should respond to threats and vulgarity from spectators by using the same good judgment they utilize when ruling on a key play. Locate the game administrator, uniformed security personnel, coach, or other school personnel and request that the unruly spectator be removed. Addressing the spectator directly is a no-win situation and often serves to make a bad situation worse.

In summary, officials should not deal directly with spectators, but may ask game management to deal with disruptive spectators. The game may be temporarily halted until the situation is resolved, but terminating a game because of problems with spectators must be an absolute last resort. Following the ejection of a spectator, please file an incident report with SNOA.

Something extra..Does not have to be in the manual.

The 25 Most Important Things To Know About Officiating

(Received without identification of writer; minor edits made)

1. For All But a Few of Us, Officiating Is an Avocation, Not Our Profession

It takes time, hard work, and study to become a successful official. But an official must not put officiating ahead of what's really important: family and work. Devote more time and energy to your family and job than you do to officiating.

2. Ninety Percent of Officiating Is Being A People Person

Know how to handle people. Remember that listening is an important skill. If you're asked a question, answer it. Treat everyone at the game with the same respect you want from him or her.

3. Officiating Is Not Always Fair

Regardless of how much talent you possess and how hard you work, you won't always work the big events or move up the officiating ladder. It is sometimes less a matter of what you know than whom you know. There is no use obsessing about things you can't control. No matter what level you work, you will often be criticized even though you are 100 percent correct. It isn't fair, but you must learn to accept it.

4. Keep Safety Number One

The rules not only empower but also require officials to penalize rough play. Even if a potentially dangerous situation is not specifically covered in the rules, an official is obligated to make whatever correction is necessary to ensure player safety. In this overly litigious age, erring on the side of safety is not only the morally correct course but the one that will help keep the official out of court as well.

5. Don't Make Excuses

Even if you have the best possible excuse for making a mistake, the error won't be corrected because you have an alibi. 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. Next you should learn from the mistakes so you won't make it - or have to come up with another excuse - again.

6. You Have an Obligation To Hold Yourself To A Higher-Than-Normal Ethical Standard

How you conduct yourself away from the court is as important as how you act on the court. Poor decisions or bad behavior in everyday life can eradicate all of the good will and good impressions you earn when you're officiating. Integrity is defined by how you act when you think nobody is watching.

7. Expect Criticism and Learn How To Handle It

Most comments from spectators, players and coaches should go in one ear and out the other. Granted, that's easier said than done. But turning a deaf ear to such criticism is crucial to maintaining focus and keeping a positive attitude. Constructive criticism from chief officials, assignors and veteran officials should be sought. If you solicit comments after working with a respected veteran, be prepared for what you might get. It's possible you'll find out you're not as good as you think you are.

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. Teamwork, loyalty, sacrifice, study, decision-making, fair mindedness, accountability and honesty are just a few of the positive skills and qualities that can be learned, developed and implemented through officiating.

9. Never Let Your Signals Convey Your Emotions

Too many officials view fouls or rules infractions as personal affronts. Instead of acting dispassionately, they allow their body language or voice to convey that 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. 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

In almost every situation in virtually every sport, the rules dictate that an official's whistle causes play to cease. Since that is the case, you might as well blow it hard. A strong blast of the whistle conveys the message that you're sure play should be stopped. A weak toot casts doubt about your confidence and judgment.

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. To expect perfection is too heavy a burden for any person to carry and ultimately will take the joy out of officiating for even the best official.

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. If your opinion is not sought, don't offer it.

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 cast a negative impression before a game even starts. Your appearance before and after the event is important. No, you don't have to wear a tuxedo en route to a venue, but it is a good idea to dress a bit better than most people expect.

15. Know Your Role

You are part of a bigger picture - don't showboat. When you need to sell a call, it's OK to give an emphatic signal. But actions designed to draw attention away from participants and onto officials are unprofessional and unacceptable. Use the standard mechanics and signals for the level you are working.

16. Be Prepared

Plan for the unexpected. Don't anticipate the call; anticipate the play. That sounds like a contradiction, but it's not. If you can "feel" what's coming and adjust your position or your visual focus to the right area, you'll see what's happening better and you'll have improved your opportunity to make the correct call if needed. Good umpires know when to expect a squeeze play. Football officials know when to expect a deep pass or a quarterback sneak. Top basketball referees recognize the times teams are going to apply full-court pressure or change defense.

17. Continuing Study Is A Requirement

How many times have you had to correct a partner who applies an outdated rule? Or been corrected yourself? Good officials read the rulebook often. The more often you read it, the more ingrained the rules will be in your mind. Attending clinics allows you to keep up with changes in philosophies and mechanics.

18. Body Language Will Do You In Quicker Than A Lack Of Knowledge

Sometimes it's less a matter of what you say than how you say it. In officiating, body language often speaks louder than words. Even a correct call will cast doubt in the minds of participants if you don't appear decisive. Don't stand with your arms folded or shoulder slumped, which gives the impression you're bored or would rather be anywhere else.

19. Pour No Gasoline

Coaches, players and fans will say plenty during most games. Much is designed to do no more than vent frustration. Understanding which comments or questions merit a response is a key to success in officiating. Yelling in kind can turn a small brush fire into a four-alarm conflagration. More often than not, the "right" response will not be verbal. You might nod your head slightly, smile momentarily, glance at whoever said something, hold eye contact for a moment or two, shake your head, or hold up a stop sign. Each alternative communication has a particular meaning; learn to use them wisely.

20. You Don't Care Who Wins

One of the many sports myths accepted as fact; is that the officials are predisposed to favor the locals. But an official should never use calls to favor any player or team for any reason. Impartiality is the foundation on which the officiating house is built. Officials must be blind to factors that have nothing to do with the game, including who wins or loses.

21. Have a Reverence for the Rules

Before you can understand the spirit behind the rules you must have an appreciation for them. That doesn't necessarily mean knowing them verbatim. More important, is understanding how vital it is to properly apply the rules. The avocation suffers when officials ignore or misapply the rules.

22. Always Have a Pre Game

Just as athletes must warm up before competing, officials must prepare themselves for the job ahead. Even if you work with the same partner or crew day after day, a pre game provides valuable reminders about how certain situations will be handled.

23. Don't Carry Over Feelings to the Next Game

It is crucial to treat each game as a new experience. If you work a game involving a player or coach you've had to penalize or eject, your demeanor and actions must convey the feeling that you've forgotten about it - even if they haven't.

24. Remember Where You Came From

If you've achieved your goal, it's easy to forget what helped you reach that pinnacle. Few officials make it on their own; more than likely there was a mentor, an assignor or a local association that gave you the boost you needed. You can repay that by helping another budding official.

25. Be Who You Are When You Referee

Your officiating personality is driven by your everyday personality. That's not necessarily a bad thing. But remember that extremes are often detrimental in officiating. For

example, if your job involves supervising people, remember that you can't treat fellow officials, players and coaches the same as you do your employees.

SNOA BASKETBALL

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