

## **WHAT CAN I DO TO GIVE MYSELF A CHANCE TO OFFICIATE MY BEST**

1. **LOOK THE PART:** Be certain that you give a professional and prepared look. Pants fit, shirt the right size and tucked in. Be in your best physical shape.
2. **GET STARTED RIGHT:** Good pre-game. Focus during warm-ups. Show confidence, be engaged, not distracted. Get opening jump ball right!
3. **KNOW YOUR PROBLEM PLAYS:** What are the plays that I continually have problems getting right? **Keep a journal.** Miss them once, not twice!
4. **SHOW STRENGTH, NOT ARROGANCE:** Your mechanics are critical and can be better! Sell the play. **FIRM BUT FRIENDLY** in all interactions. Remember, your body language is crucial.
5. **COMMUNICATE:** With partners, with the table, with coaches and players. But, you have to be able to draw the line. **Enforce or enable!**
6. **FIND A FRIEND:** Make an assistant coach or the point guard or team leader your ally. When you need help, go to them for help.
7. **TAKE A BREAK:** Use timeouts, halftime, any break to “re-boot” or catch your breath. Re-focus; move on from a mistake.
8. **GAME PACE IS OFTEN UP TO YOU:** How you go from situation to situation is critical to the pace of the game. Jog, don’t walk. Go fast, but don’t hurry. GET THE BALL IN PLAY as soon as possible.
9. **THE TABLE IS YOUR FRIEND:** Always remember that the table crew is likely not “professional” help. You help them. Teach, coach. Patience necessary.
10. **KNOW THE RULES:** You can always do better in this area. Know the things you have to know to keep you from messing up the game. (or be sure you work with someone who does know the rules!)

11. **DO NOT BE SURPRISED:** Always be alert for something to happen (blocked shot, break away with defender coming from the back, a screen you do not expect) that messes up the game because you were not engaged.
12. **FIGHT FOR A BETTER LOOK:** Always work to get the best open look at plays you can get. **A great POSITION is the most important tool you have.**
13. **DON'T "LEAK":** At the trail and center (slot) position you must **assume a missed shot,** and step toward the basket and not start your trip to the other end before the play in the front court is over. With this idea, start your center position one-two steps below the free throw line extended and your trail position one-two steps inside the 28' line.
14. **RAISE YOUR STANDARD:** Your goal should be to be right 90% of the time. 95% is better. It will never be perfect, but strive for a very high standard.
15. **GO TO WORK:** Coaches love to see officials sweat, work hard. Let them know you are there to work.
16. **ADMIT A MISTAKE:** "Coach, I missed the play, my fault." Once a game you can say this and it makes you more human, relatable. But not 5x a game. Tell the truth.
17. **LOSE YOURSELF IN THE GAME:** Be engaged, interested, involved from start to finish. **Remember, every game is really important to someone.**
18. **BE RIGHT IN THE LAST TWO MINUTES:** Even if the game hasn't gone great, be sure you are right when you blow the whistle late in the game.
19. **WHEN YOU KNOW, BLOW:** Blow the whistle when you know you are right. Not when you "think" you are right, or when you have been right before on a similar play. **KNOW YOU ARE RIGHT.** Then blow the whistle.

- 20. DO AN OBJECTIVE SELF-EVALUATION:** Work with officials that are better than you. Write down your good and not-so-good. Be objective. Get better each game; "what can I work on to get better today?"
- 21. REMEMBER ADVANTAGE/DISADVANTAGE:** The game was founded on this principle and it never changes. If you want to be good-great you must understand what this means and apply it.
- 22. BE A GREAT PARTNER:** Arrive on time. Be prepared. Be ready when asked to help. Stay in your primary. Support your partners. Be the person who when your name is on the game, your partners are happy.
- 23. SILENCE CANNOT BE QUOTED:** Not during the game. Not at halftime. Not after the game. The less you say the better. Communicate what is necessary, no more. Note: post-game cell phone chatter.
- 24. BE "GLOBAL" WITH YOUR VISION/ATTENTION, BE "LOCAL" WITH YOUR CALLS:** Know all that is happening, but call plays in front of you.
- 25. CALL THE FIRST FOUL. CONTROL THE POST. PROTECT SHOOTERS. CALL THE FIRST ILLEGAL SCREEN. THEN, LET THE GAME PLAY OUT. ENJOY AND SAVOR EVERY GAME. CASH THE CHECKS.**

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Good evening everyone. My name is Rick Hartzell and I am honored to have been asked by my friend Chuck Brittain to present some officiating information to you. I hope that I can give you some thoughts tonite that make sense to you and help you to officiate your best in the coming season.

First of all, a big THANK YOU to each of you for what you do for Iowa High School basketball. Without you there wouldn't be any games and all the great experiences that go with those games. You are appreciated!

I started my officiating journey in the Iowa High School ranks and was very fortunate to be able to continue to grow and improve my officiating skills. Ultimately, I worked nearly 4,000 Division 1 basketball games over a 40 year career. I was able to work all of the major college leagues, 21 NCAA tournaments and many championship and high level games. I get it.

So, with that, lets get started. I have 20 minutes to deliver this information to you so I will move it along. I will follow the handout you have.

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In conclusion, you have great challenges ahead. These games are not easy to work. The great satisfaction from officiating is making the game better and giving young people a chance to play in a fair and objectively refereed game. My contact information is on the bottom of your handout. If I can help you in any way, please reach out to me. I will respond asap. Good luck this season, stay healthy, travel safe, and do your best!