

Twelve Ways to Better Officiating

By John P. Hill & ZLAX Publications

partial material from

**“Making The Call”
The Inner Game of Officiating**

1) Relax when you work

- a) Enjoy the experience and be willing to laugh at yourself**
- b) Tension transmits to coaches, players and your partners**
- c) When you relax, you think things through more clearly**
- d) Less tendency to put foot in your mouth**

2) Always Look the Part

- a) Arrival to departure, look the part in dress, demeanor and enthusiasm**
- b) You only have one chance to make a first impression**
- c) Hustle like it is a championship game because for the players – it is!**

3) Keep Your Cool

- a) You are judged by how you handle game situations**
- b) We all make mistakes, just don't make the same one often**
- c) Sometimes you have to let a coach get something off his chest**
- d) Expelled to get yelled at, within reason**

4) Mentally Rehearse Situations

- a) Your own self image is most important**
- b) When fans and coaches yell, don't take it personally**
- c) Take it as a challenge, and channel the energy in a positive manner**

5) Expect the Unexpected

- a) Poor officials can survive average games**
- b) But sooner or later they are in over their head**
- c) Unusual games make a supervisors job easier because they get to see their officials under the gun**

6) Let the players know that you are human

- a) People love to hate officials**
- b) Modify the player's attitude that you are not a robot or the enemy**
- c) You need to learn to be flexible**
- d) Communication breeds success**

7) Coaches Motivation

- a) Always try to give the coach the answer he is looking for**
- b) Don't take away from the game to do this**
- c) All coaches are different, try to figure them out**

8) Work to perfect your Timing

- a) Make your calls in a consistent manner**
- b) Don't make them too fast or too slow**
- c) Waiting the extra second allows the player and coach to hear you**
- d) Wait until the foul has been committed, be sure to see the call, don't anticipate the call**

9) Be Teachable

- a) Keep your ego in check**
- b) Remember – you don't know it all, no matter how long you officiate**
- c) Watch your attitude**
- d) Be flexible**
- e) Admit it if you made a mistake**

10) Accept Reality

- a) Don't worry about politics or advancement**
- b) Climbing the ladder never ends**
- c) Officiate the game that you are assigned**
- d) Don't feel you don't belong there**
- e) Not everyone is going to move up**
- f) Don't be preoccupied with moving up**
- g) Enjoy the level you are at**

11) Use Preventive Mechanics

- a) Know what to call and when**
- b) The worst call is calling something that didn't happen**
- c) The 2nd worst call is to call something that didn't affect the play**
- d) Talk players and coaches out of fouls**
- e) Occasionally you will get challenged for "coaching" players**

12) Make Learning Your Primary Goal

- a) There is always something to learn**
- b) Always try to sharpen your skills**
- c) Stay on top of all the rules**
- d) Making it to the top can be rewarding, but falling down can be worse**
- e) Don't leave yourself open to criticism**