

# **The Most Basic of Basics**

## **Remember when you started**

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### **Pre-game**

- 1) Arrive at game site early**
  - Never rush to a game.
  - Allow ample time to get in proper frame of mind.
- 2) Park your car in a well-lit area**
  - Try to leave space so as not to get boxed in.
- 3) Hold a thorough pre-game**
  - Do it even if you have worked with the partner before.
- 4) Attend to administrative duties**
  - Allow sufficient time to fix problems.
- 5) Dress in proper, clean uniform**
  - Look sharp, and you're off to a good start.
- 6) Inspect the playing area**
  - Correct potential hazards before the game.
- 7) Conduct brief meeting with coaches**
  - Cover your certification requirements, and find out about any pre-game or halftime festivities.
- 8) Meet with captains**
  - Conduct coin toss, and explain their role.
- 9) Observe players during the pre-game**
  - Opponents occasionally try to intimidate each other.
- 10) Examine your equipment**
  - Check your whistle, flags, beeper, pencil, etc.
- 11) Relax**
  - If you appear tense and nervous, the players will pick up on it.

## **DURING THE GAME**

- 1) Hustle, but don't over-hustle**
  - Over hustling can be counterproductive.
  - Have a purpose as to why you are running.
- 2) Talk with your crew**
  - Be sure that all areas are covered.
- 3) Talk to the players as appropriate**
  - Try to develop a rapport.
  - Do NOT be overly friendly.
  - Use your voice to let them know you are in the area.
- 4) Talk with the coaches**
  - Keep conversations brief, and to the point.
  - If you tell a coach that you will get back to him with information – DO IT!
- 5) Keep the game moving**
  - If you need to confer with partner, be brief
- 6) Make your signals clear**
  - All movements should be crisp and sharp
  - Don't add your personal adaptations
- 7) Never give medical advice**
  - Leave this to trained medical staff
- 8) Stop game if weather becomes a hazard**
  - Rule of thumb: if you err, err on the side of safety.
- 9) Keep track of major penalties/ejections**
  - It might be helpful in the case of a lawsuit.
  - Be sure to notify Assignor as soon as possible.
  - Be very accurate with an ejection.
  - Keep a file of the game at your home in case you are called to testify at a later date.
- 10) Know where the site manager is located**
  - In an emergency, they will be needed quickly.

## **POST-GAME**

- 1) Hustle, but don't over-hustle**
  - There's always safety in numbers.
  - Don't leave yourself open to be verbally attacked.
- 2) Don't talk with reporters**
  - Refer all questions to your Assignor.
  - Never talk about a coach, team or your partner.
- 3) Remove your whistle**
  - If you use a whistle around your neck for face-offs remove it as it could get caught on something.
- 4) Limit comments to fans**
  - Be brief, but cautious
  - A fan is short for "fanatic"
- 5) Relax**
  - Take a deep breath, and gather your thoughts.
- 6) Review the game**
  - Talk about any strange play or situation.
  - Look up rulings in your rulebook.
- 7) Solicit constructive criticism**
  - Good partners will tell you what you need to work on.
- 8) If appropriate, thank site manager**
  - If they took care of you, let them know you appreciated it.
- 9) Leave the locker room as it was**
  - Don't force someone else to clean up after you.
- 10) Walk to your cars together**
  - If problems appear imminent, return to the building.
  - Locate site manager or security.