

7 Habits of Successful Officials

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- 1) Arrive at each game mentally and physically prepared.**
 - Be sure to know the rules.
 - Arrive on time.
 - Be physically fit.
 - Show professional demeanor at all times.
- 2) Treat everyone with respect and fairness**
 - Learn to listen.
 - Coaches talk because they think there is a problem.
 - Don't let the players out-work you.
 - Enforce all the rules in an equal and consistent manner.
- 3) Practice preventive officiating**
 - Talk players out of violations.
 - Warn coaches about rules.
 - Warn players about situations.
 - Let them know what you expect.
- 4) Learn from others in your field**
 - Watch other successful officials.
 - Ask for advice.
 - Never get to the point where you think that you know it all.
 - Listen to younger officials because some have very good insight.
- 5) Develop interpersonal communications skills**
 - Learn to clearly explain rules and calls.
 - Be an active listener.
 - Deal confidently with conflict.
 - Communications with your partner is essential.
 - Don't over-react to problematic situations.
 - Learn to manage conflict.

- 6) Set realistic personal and professional goals**
- Keep your family above your officiating career.
 - Each game should be important, but not the most important thing you do.
 - Only you can answer if you did the best you could do!
- 7) Make every game the most important one**
- Work every game as hard as you can.
 - Officiating has to be fun.
 - Don't get involved with pre-game prejudice – don't predict!
 - Everyone remembers the effort displayed by good officials.