

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY – INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Good Positioning

Being at the Right Place at the Right Time

The mechanics for each sport are different, but fundamentally, the goal is to provide adequate coverage of all the action where a penalty may occur. Universally, all mechanics depend on the official having a clean line of sight into their designated area of coverage. This section will give officials an outline of how to fight for the best position on every play. These general principles can be applied to any sport and in any system or crew.

Getting into position requires the official to use both common sense and tactical awareness. This means knowing the most likely play that the teams on the field or court will execute.

As an official, you must be able to adapt to change - know what is most likely to happen but be prepared for anything that could happen! Mobility is the ability to get where you want to go.

Positioning means understanding where to be on the field for each play. Within a prescribed mechanics scheme, the official must be mobile enough to get to that spot.



Aspects of Gaining Good Positioning

Mobility

Knowledge of positioning

Tactical Awareness

Being flexible and willing to move

Below are some general tips to get you thinking about where you should be during a game and what to do when you get there.



Referee the Defense

This principle comes mainly from basketball but is applicable for most sports. The idea is to stop watching the ball and to start watching the interactions of the players. Often it is the defensive player that commits the rule violation - not the ball handler.

- Stop Ball Watching!
- Be intelligent with your attention.
- Know where your fouls will come from and focus there.



Advantage - Disadvantage

During any competitive sport there are numerous fast moving bodies making contact with each other. Not every instance of contact needs to be whistled a foul. Doing so would make the play stagnant and boring. The official must be able to recognize when a team or player has been placed at a disadvantage. Also, officials must hold a whistle that could cause the violating team an advantage. Use your power and your whistle intelligently.

- Know the Spirit and Intent of the rules!

Anticipate the Play, Not the Call

A good official can predict where the action is going to take place and where on the field they need to go to officiate the action. However, the best officials know to wait for the play to materialize before calling anything. Sometimes you can just see the contact coming. But until it happens, hold the whistle and the call. Get to the spot, but wait for the foul.



Dead Ball Officiating

Often the most aggressive action between the players comes after the whistle and play is stopped. The officiating crew must make a concerted effort not to lose focus during a lull. Watch the players, watch the other official's backs and don't stop when the play does.

- Focus on being a good dead ball official.
- Make an effort to be aware of the whole court/field and all the players.

