

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY – INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Referee Assessment

Introduction

It's important that our officials strive to improve their skills each and every game. Our official's should look at every game as an opportunity to learn something new and demonstrate what they have already learned.

Assessment of referees is an important part of the improvement process, showing the official what they need to do to improve and become a better official.

The assessment of a referee should:

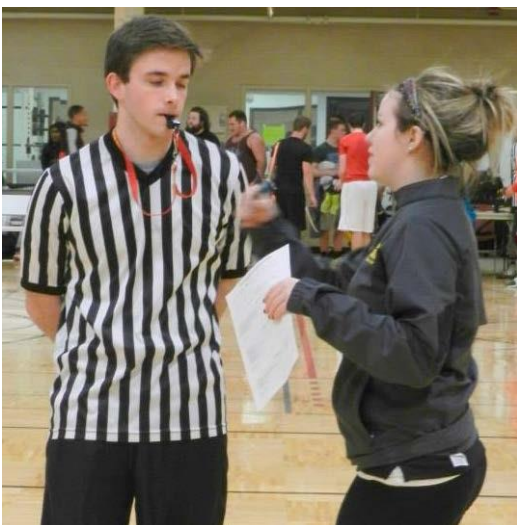
1. Aim to give an indication of what needs to be worked on by the official.
2. Coach the referee and improve the skills they require to be get better.

Evaluators

Evaluators will be the intramural supervisors. They are in charge of helping officials improve their skills. Each will have slightly differing opinions on various aspects of officiating, but each will seek to ensure that consistent basic ideas are being offered to the officials. We will often assess an official's performance during half-time or after a game. Half-time is often used to fix in-game problems; post-game is used for more of a general overview of the official's performance.

Diverse Skills of Officiating

Officials require a number of skills to effectively officiate a game. Each official will bring their own personality and skills into the game, making each unique. There is no style, which can be unequivocally defined as "best", as no one has yet found a way to officiate a perfect game. The officiating skills exhibited will indicate level of the official, and the level of game they are capable of effectively running.



Decisiveness, People Management and Game Control

Decisiveness requires the referee to identify what is going to happen, or what just happened in a game, and react accordingly. Referees need to anticipate the play but not the call. They can identify problems before they appear, enabling them to proactively prevent a situation, or deal with it effectively when it does occur.

The more experienced a referee is the more capable they are of reading situations which may become volatile and consequently they are able to act appropriately to prevent it from happening or escalating. This is displayed in the way they control the game.

Mechanics, Teamwork and Communication

Mechanics are important in any officiating system. It involves working as a team within a basic framework to ensure that the whole game is officiated properly. While mechanics are only a basic guide to helping an official find the best spot to see a given play, they provide a structure to officiating. This makes it easier for the officials to work as a team. The understanding of mechanics must increase as an official becomes better. A new referee needs merely to have a grasp of basic mechanics - where to go and what to look for. While a better official must be more advanced, demonstrating an understanding of the intricacies of the mechanics guidelines, but also be flexible with these guidelines in special situations to ensure that through teamwork they are able to achieve the best result possible.

Teamwork is another area in which the official must improve as they become more experienced. It requires good communication skills and also having trust in their partner(s) to do their part right.

Effective communication between officials and players and other officials is paramount to the game running smoothly. Verbal communication must ensure that everyone is informed of what they need to know, with the best official using their voice to manage the game and prevent or resolve conflict. A good official is also sharp and sure in his/her signals - which may lead to others having more confidence in their decisions.

Consistency

On any given night, there are multiple officials on court; each with slightly differing education, personalities and skills. This means that perfect consistency is almost impossible to achieve. Players want officials to be consistent with the officials they had in their previous games - an almost impossible task. Consistency within a game is something that an official will improve with experience, and exposure to more game situations. Coupled with the increased teamwork requirements of these officials, they must maintain this call pattern within the officiating team on court.

Rule Knowledge and Judgment

Rule knowledge is paramount for an official in any sport, but how to apply those rules is just as important. A good official should make very few mistakes about the rules because they are something that can be read and learned away from the court, without any pressure.

Judgment requires the official to take in as much as possible and make a relatively informed decision almost immediately on any given situation within a game.



Conclusion

The best officials are those officials who have been educated by others and have educated themselves both on and off the court. The many officiating skills required are varied, yet each is equally important to the game, and each can be achieved in a slightly different way depending on the individual involved. Each game is different, and will test different skills in the official. The official should strive to referee every game to the best of their ability, and their assessment will reflect and facilitate that.

