

FOOTBALL OFFICIATING FUNDAMENTALS

1. **BE PREPARED** – For each game: mentally, physically & emotionally. All games are important. Work every game with the same intensity & effort! *Fail to prepare – prepare to fail . . .*
TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN YOUR EFFORTS / PERFORMANCE!
2. **BE PROFESSIONAL AT ALL TIMES.** If you want to be treated like a professional, you must act & look like a professional, both on and off the field. Have a positive attitude . . .
3. **TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN A THOROUGH PRE-GAME CONFERENCE.**
The pre-game sets the tone for your performance and the crew's performance.
Arrive early – others should not have to wait on you. Be prepared to contribute during the pre-game.
4. **CONCENTRATION** – stay mentally alert. Focus one play at a time, for the full 60 minutes.
5. **KNOW YOUR KEYS** (the basics) – Develop a pre-snap routine. Get into a rhythm, establish a tempo. Count players on every play!
6. **PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY – PLAYER SAFETY** (and your own) – *protect the players.*
7. **PREVENTIVE OFFICIATING** – Three things ruin a football game; 1) fights, 2) excessive penalties and 3) injuries – do *whatever it takes* to prevent them. Warn – don't threaten! Be proactive – not reactive. Penalize ALL personal fouls (safety) & unsportsmanlike (conduct) fouls = zero tolerance. Game Control!
8. **GAME AWARENESS** – ALWAYS KNOW THE STATUS OF THE CLOCK.
Know – down / distance / yard line / line to gain / score / game situations.
9. **NEVER ASSUME ANYTHING** – Don't be surprised. Anticipate the action not the call.
Stay alert. Expect the unexpected.
10. **HUSTLE** – But don't be in a hurry. Move with a purpose. Also, keep the game moving.
11. **WORK AS A TEAM** – Help each other excel. Be a team player. Make the crew and each member of the crew better. Know your role. Provide leadership when needed.
12. **GET THE PLAY RIGHT!** Have the courage to make the tough call when necessary and also be willing to seek help when needed (NO EGOS). *Be a crew saver.* Outstanding officials have the guts to step up when needed!
13. **DON'T BALL HAWK** – Focus on your key(s) = area of responsibility.
14. **SOFT EYES** – See the big picture. Always know the status of the ball and where it is on the field. Know where you are on the field at all times. Be aware.
15. **QUALITY CALLS / MAKE IT BE THERE!** Set standards & be consistent – consistently right. See the whole play. Advantage / Disadvantage. Remember: *No pain / no gain = no foul.*
If you think it's a foul – it's not. If you know it's a foul = thrown flag and continue to officiate.
16. **MAINTAIN YOUR CUSHION / KEEP THE PLAY BOXED-IN**
Don't get too close to the action. Never let players get behind you (accordion). Don't Get Beat – most threatened line (Line-to-gain / Goal line / End line). It's a game of angles. Read the play & react. Be there when needed! Get a good look at it. Be stationary when making a call.
17. **WHISTLE CONTROL:** See contact with the ground / see leather (in possession).
Never, ever guess! No quick whistles. *Don't know – don't blow.* The play kills itself!
18. **MAKE YOUR PRESENCE FELT** – Pinch in after each play, but maintain your field of vision – see number twenty.
19. **BALL RELAYS** – Secondary responsibility. Ball handling can make the crew look sharp. Throw strikes / play catch. Keep the ball off the ground. Don't be in a hurry, let the play end . . .
Finish the play . . . see #20.
20. **BE A GREAT DEAD BALL OFFICIAL!**