

As the director of training for Great Lakes Basketball Officials Consortium (GLBOC), the training staff and I have compiled a series of items that are important for our growth and development as basketball referees. Review these teaching points and implement them into your summer camp and scrimmage training opportunities. The off-season is the best time for referees to improve. By implementing these points into our games now, we will become better referees when it matters most next season. Carry this document with you and review it before each game or scrimmage. We will all be better for it.

- Accountability:
 - Hold yourself and your crews accountable. Laziness and “summer mechanics” will hurt us all during the regular basketball season. Provide honest feedback to your partners in a respectful manner. Be open to feedback from your crews, assignors, or training staff.
- Crew Cohesion:
 - Work the system – apply approved mechanics and philosophies
 - Consistent crew mechanics leads to increased play calling accuracy
 - Trust your partners and earn the trust of your partners. Manage your primary effectively. The system works when implemented correctly and when all officials are engaged. Know your primary coverage areas (PCA) and understand when it’s okay to extend outside of it.
- Game awareness / Game Management:
 - Last season we had an unusually high number of in-game incidents involving fighting or other excessive rough play – we must all improve our game awareness to prevent this activity
 - Call the first foul – rough play gets out of control when we don’t call the first foul. We often call the 2nd or 3rd foul which has increased in severity. Rough post play, rebounding activity, and protecting shooters must be a priority for all crew members. Double fouls should be rare; we often use them when we know we missed the first foul but called the second on the opponent.
 - Whistle discipline – see the whole play through to the end before you whistle – Start => Develop => Finish. Do not blow the whistle simultaneously with illegal contact. Use a cadence whistle when you MUST go outside of primary, or into gray areas, to get an obvious foul.
- Positioning:
 - Trail – big picture mentality. All 10 players are within your visual purview. Stay connected on drives to the basket. Don’t bail out on shot attempts, closedown to officiate rebounds. Cadence whistles on scoring plays at the rim, with an open look, and a high degree of certainty.
 - Lead – rotate in a consistent manner across the crew. Matchups opposite the lane, make an attempt to get there before the ball enters the post. Do not rotate with a drive or shot in motion. Maintain an open look on all post plays.
 - Center – Find the nearest matchup. Don’t ball watch in the trail’s primary. Be aware of plays in the lead’s primary that are coming to you or curling towards you. Help with screens in the trail’s primary.
- Officiating principles:
 - Feet => Pivot => Release
 - When a player receives the ball in your primary. Find the feet first, then identify the pivot. Stay engaged until the player releases or moves. Did the pivot change? Was there a split-step before the dribble? Call the obvious travels.
 - Screen => Line => Defender
 - When a player is setting up for a jump shot, find the nearest defender and possible screener. Officiate the screen first, is the screener legal? Is the defender pushing through the screen? Determine if the shooter is in front / on / or behind the 3pts line. Then officiate the defender. Are they jumping up, running forwards, or trying to block the shot?

- Up => Down => Rebound
 - When a player begins a jump shot, determine where they left the floor. Officiate the shot from feet to hands all the way up. Is the defender jumping straight up, arms up, arms forward, swinging to block? Does the defender hit the hand, is that a foul? Does the defender hit an arm or wrist or make body contact? Once the ball is released, don't chase it with your eyes. Return the shooter to the floor. Does the defender impede the shooter's ability to land clean? Can the shooter return to the floor without illegal contact? After the shot ends, move towards rebounding responsibility.
- Personal appearance and physical condition:
 - Your credibility is impacted by your appearance and demeanor on and off the court
 - Be physically fit to officiate the games you are assigned
 - Cardio, weightlifting, diet, hydration
 - Uniforms should be clean, neat, and professional looking
 - Pants, shirts, shoes
 - When you talk to a coach, are you out of breath and unable to communicate?
 - What you do now and through the summer will impact your abilities during the season, don't wait to start your preparations

The off season is a great time to work on your game, but only if you're doing it the right way every time the ball goes live. By reviewing and implementing these mechanics and philosophies, we can all become better officials and better crews.