

PROFESSIONALISM FOR NCOA

Professionalism: Involves being reliable, setting your own high standards, and showing that you care about every aspect of your job.

Professional does not elude to the level of game your working, but rather the manner in which you work each game.

Becoming a professional referee means you have a total level of awareness involving all aspects of the game, moving beyond refereeing without a plan, and calling plays with reckless abundance.

An official who shows hustle, determination to make the right calls, and enthusiasm on the court, will gain the respect of all participants and will be seen as a professional.

Professionalism for officiating the Basketball Season starts with the following:

- Download ArbiterSports and ArbiterMobile to your phone
- Download the NFHS Basketball Rules
- Keeping your calendar up to date in ArbiterSports
- Adding blocks to your schedule
- Accepting assignments in a timely manner
- Declining Pending Game Assignments
 - If any official needs to decline games, this is acceptable without explanation by the assigners. Declining games after they have been published will need an explanation to the assigners.

As an Officials

- Your job is to create a “WE” mind-set on your crew
- Your challenge is to unite, build and develop as a crew
- Stay calm, especially in situations of conflict
- Be respectful towards players and coaches
- Use controlled and positive body language
- Listen to partners, players or coaches
- Be clear and concise in your explanation and instructions
- Behave morally and ethically
- Maintaining poise

Before the games

- Communicate with your partner – email, phone call, text, ArbiterSports “Note” Box
- Get a response
- Confirm arrival time
- Meeting location
- Dress attire
 - If not in uniform, semi – professional
 - If in uniform, shirt tucked in pants

- Arriving 30 minutes before game time, if dressed
- Pre-game before arriving to games. Set-up phone/zoom type calls before games
- Issues with arrival contact the assigner – “Day of” **MUST BE** a phone call
- Pre-game introductions and pre-game warmups
- Table Communication / Coaches Communication

Half-time

- Sit away from spectators
- Stay out of stands
- If family is present, talk to them away from the court.

After the game - Post Game Conversation

- Walk off the court together
- Stay away from the crowds
- Wait until gym clears before leaving if hostile
- Have a Post-game meeting
 - What did we do well in our communication? What needs improvement?
 - The whole crew should be involved and invested in their ability to communicate.
 - No preaching, just good solid preparation for next week!

Head Coach

- Communicating with the Head Coach is verbal and non-verbal
- Presence starts at arrival
- You get one chance at first impressions
- Present yourself, smile, greeting, handshake, no joking, business-like, control, focus on the game!
- Always refer to them as “Coach” or “Coach Summit, Coach Bennett”
- Discuss how you’re going to communicate with them.
- Are you approachable? Are you listening to understand? Eye contact? Are you calm? Body Language-Tone-Words! Respectful and confirming.
- Coach will almost always have the last word – GET USED TO IT!
- Be Careful What You Say – Just looking the wrong way can set off a coach!
- Site or quote the rule but avoid over-technical speak
- Avoid official’s terms use the correct verbiage
- Avoid our philosophy statements
- Answer questions, not statements
 - If you don’t agree with the statement, no response is needed, “I hear you coach. I understand”
- Don’t pursue the conversation
- Let the coach speak and acknowledge that you are hearing them.
 - Coach, here is what was called. Coach, here is what I saw. Coach, what did you see?
- Don’t over-use the phrase “I missed it” or it’s not my area. Your job is not to miss it.
- Do use please and thank you

- Again, coaches will almost always have the last word – GET USED TO IT!