

All,

As we begin another SYC basketball season, it's important that we all continue to grow as officials and as an association. That said, periodically, we will be sending messages to our officials that will hopefully inspire all of us to greater things, help reinforce things we already know, help bring issues to the forefront that we can discuss with our junior officials during our pre-games, and maybe even learn something we might not know.

None of this will be rocket-science. All of these are probably published somewhere (Rules Book, Case Book, Officials Manual, Training Seminar, etc.) or were sent to me by other trainers or colleagues.

So, let's start off this season by officiating with "Pride:"

1. Be PROFESSIONAL – Arrive to the gym at least 15 minutes early. Look sharp. Present a good appearance (tuck in your shirt). Meet with the coaches and table crew before the game to ensure they're ready to go. Give your best effort! Don't dribble the ball or shoot-around during time-outs, at half-time, or between games.
2. Be RESPECTFUL – Treat players, coaches, league administrators and fans with respect. There's nothing wrong with talking to people as required.
3. Work with INTEGRITY – As an official, you are a "protector of the game." Remember, we are the only ones in the gym that don't care who wins or loses.
4. Be DEDICATED – Study the Rules Book – read it. Practice your mechanics. Work hard to become better – are you in the best position to make the call? Can you communicate with your partners more or better?
5. Show ENTHUSIASM – Officiating is supposed to be fun – show it! Smile. Act like you want to be there. Run to beat the players down the floor.

Have a great season and see you in the gym!

- Rob Grunewald, National Federation High School, Certified Basketball Official

Questions or comments? Email Rob @ grunewar@yahoo.com