



"Be The Referee" is a series of one-minute messages designed to help educate people on the rules of different sports, to help them better understand the art of officiating, and to recruit officials. "Be The Referee" features MHSAA Assistant Director Mark Uyl's insights on officiating.

Basketball Communication

The most challenging task in officiating any basketball game for referees is effectively working with coaches.

In a perfect world, coaches would simply ask questions on plays they had questions or concerns about and the official would simply respond with a description of what he or she saw on the play.

The very best basketball officials keep the communication with coaches during a game a conversation, not an ongoing argument. Officials need to always be in control of their emotions, answer questions from coaches honestly and head-off behavior early that is argumentative and unprofessional.

Coaches and officials working together makes for a much better game as everyone in the gym...players, media members and spectators take their cues for how coaches are acting. When coaches are professional with officials, the entire atmosphere is so much more positive.

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