



Ten Commandments of Officiating

1. Thou shall be a great perimeter official - stay wide - keep players in front of you to give a better perspective. Only pinch in if there is short yardage for a 1st down, goal line situation, or to break up a fight.
2. Thou shall always watch thy primary responsibility- players going out of bounds, staying with receivers after completions or interceptions, after touchdowns turn and watch players as they go into end zone, escort players out of bench areas.
3. Thou shall be a great dead ball official, don't be too quick to get a new ball, see players separate.
4. Thou shall always be an official on the goal line when a touchdown is scored.
5. Thou shall not blow the whistle without a good reason—1. You are the ruling official and you the ball in control of a player that is down. 2. There is a dead ball foul prior to a snap. 3. You need to get the attention of the Referee.
6. Thou shall use cross-field mechanics for forward progress spots. Use the official across the field to get forward progress spots on passes, when players go out of bounds, when you get pushed back, and to assist in mirroring progress.
7. Thou shall concentrate at all times—you should be mentally exhausted at the end of every game, you should constantly be going through your ritual, looking at formation, down and distance, find and watch keys so that when the play starts you are with your keys. When the play ends and you didn't see everything you know you need to concentrate more. The absolute key to getting things right is concentration. It is easy to lose concentration after a tough play. You need to regain your concentration as soon as possible. The best way to regain it, is to use your ritual.
8. Thou shall understand and appreciate the coaches at all times. You don't have to prove to the coaches that you are in charge with a flag. Demonstrate respect to players and coaches. If a player or coach becomes upset talk to him. We are the ones paid to keep our emotions in check. Let coaches vent and then let's "get back to football".
9. Thou shall always strive for perfection—Perfection is impossible, excellence is not. We can be excellent by striving for perfection. Listen to constructive criticism and work to get better. Study rules, watch film, and attend clinics.

10. Thou shall always be professional in everything we do. Take pride in officiating. Challenge yourself for this season, this game, this series, this play. Earn respect by respecting others. Prepare for every assignment, look the part: uniform folded, shoes shined, little or no flags showing, don't showboat. People didn't pay to see officials. Cherish every game you work, it could be your last.

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