



OFFICIATING DEVELOPMENT SERIES

WHAT CAMP EVALUATORS ARE REALLY LOOKING FOR

A practical guide to the mechanics, judgment, habits and professional qualities that help basketball officials stand out at camp.

REAL OFFICIALS.

**REAL
CONVERSATIONS.**

REAL IMPACT.

THE STORIES BEHIND THE CALLS.

Under The Stripes Network | Educational Resource

THE TRUTH ABOUT OFFICIATING CAMPS

Evaluators are not only counting your correct calls. They are deciding whether they can trust you, teach you and place you on a crew. One missed play rarely defines a camp. Your response, habits and consistency often reveal far more.

THEY ARE WATCHING	WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE
Judgment	Obvious fouls, patient whistles, incidental contact passed on and decisions supported by an open look.
Positioning	Purposeful movement that creates angles without chasing the ball or running unnecessarily.
Crew awareness	Primary discipline, secondary help, eye contact and awareness of what partners are covering.
Coachability	Listening without arguing, understanding the correction and applying it in the next game.
Consistency	The same standard at both ends and during every stage of the game.
Presence	Calm confidence, strong communication, controlled signals and professional body language.
Professional habits	Preparation, punctuality, appearance, conditioning and respect for everyone in the gym.

A camp is an extended evaluation—not a whistle contest.

Use this guide to organize your preparation. It is not a substitute for the NCAA rules book, case book, CCA mechanics manual, conference directives or instructions given by camp leadership.

FOUNDATIONAL PLAY-CALLING PRINCIPLES

1. Freedom of movement and RSBQ

A ball handler, dribbler, post player, cutter, rebounder or shooter must be able to move without being illegally impeded, re-routed or displaced. Judge contact by whether it changes the player's **rhythm, speed, balance or quickness (RSBQ)**.

- **Call it:** Illegal contact changes normal movement or creates a clear disadvantage.
- **Pass on it:** Contact is incidental and does not hinder either player's normal movement.

2. Call the obvious

Obvious fouls and obvious violations must be called regardless of score, time remaining or foul count. Do not trade an obvious play for a philosophy about "letting them play." At the same time, do not manufacture marginal whistles to look active.

3. See the whole play

- Referee the defender before judging the contact.
- Know whether legal guarding position was established.
- See the point of contact and the effect of the contact.
- Avoid guessing through bodies or calling from a closed angle.

4. Patient whistles

Allow the play to develop long enough to identify legality, contact and consequence. A patient whistle is not a late whistle; it is a whistle supported by complete information.

CAMP LANGUAGE

"I saw the defender establish legal position. The contact displaced the ball handler and affected her balance."

COURT COVERAGE: LOOK CONNECTED

Primary coverage first

The primary official should normally have the whistle in that official's coverage area. Secondary officials help only when an obvious foul or violation is missed and they have definitive information.

Cadence whistle

Give the primary official the first opportunity. If a secondary whistle occurs at the same time as the primary whistle, it was likely too early. Secondary coverage is help—not permission to roam.

Position-adjust with purpose

- Move to avoid being straightlined or stacked.
- Create an open angle between the offensive and defensive players.
- Stay connected to the competitive matchup in your area.
- Do not move simply because the ball moved.

Drive coverage

- **Drive toward Center:** Center takes the primary defender; Lead takes the help defender.
- **Drive from Center:** Center stays with the primary defender, including trips or swipes from behind; Lead takes the help defender.
- **Drive from Lead's primary:** Lead takes the primary defender; Center and Trail help with secondary defenders based on the open look.
- **Trail help:** Trail may need to step one or two steps onto the floor to see the legality of the help defender.

Restricted-area help

All three officials must be prepared to provide restricted-area information. Give help only when you have definitive knowledge. The calling official owns the final ruling.

THE PLAYS THAT REVEAL GOOD OFFICIATING

Rebounding: get the first foul

Locate opponents before the ball reaches the rim and officiate the entire sequence: ball in flight, ball coming off the ring, rebound secured and players separating.

- Clamps and hooks
- Holds and hacks
- Illegal displacement
- Pushes after possession is secured

Protect the shooter

On perimeter attempts, officiate the defender and the shooter's landing space before transitioning to rebound coverage. Do not become a spectator watching the ball.

Transition and pressure

- **New Lead:** Get ahead, accept the play and referee the defense.
- **New Trail:** Stay outside and behind the ball; do not overrun it.
- **Center:** Maintain backside and weak-side coverage.
- **Press:** Keep players boxed in and move when pressure or a trap changes the angle.

Dead-ball officiating

When one official blows the whistle, all three officials are working. Keep players in view, know whether the goal scored, observe reactions and help with shooter, clock, two/three or restricted-area information.

HIGH-VALUE HABIT

Finish the play before turning to transition. Many camp mistakes happen because an official leaves the first action too soon.

MECHANICS, SIGNALS & COMMUNICATION

After the whistle: slow down

- Stop at the spot and continue officiating the players.
- Recognize double whistles and know the status of the ball.
- Use the proper preliminary signal and clear, consistent language.
- Identify the shooter and designate the throw-in spot when applicable.

Foul sequence

1	Fist first to stop the clock.
2	Pause and stay visually engaged with the players.
3	Signal the illegal contact at the spot. For an offensive foul, use the punch signal—not a point.
4	Communicate shooter, direction or next administration.
5	Clear the players and report with eye contact, approved signals and a controlled voice.

Professional communication

- Use concise, rule-based explanations—not speeches.
- Do not debate from across the court.
- Maintain calm body language after difficult plays.
- Ask for help when needed; provide help only with definitive information.
- Make eye contact with partners before making the ball live.

THE LESS-OBVIOUS THINGS EVALUATORS VALUE

Coachability

Listen completely, repeat the correction in your own words and apply it. Avoid explaining every decision. Evaluators want to know whether instruction changes your performance.

Crew contribution

Participate in the pregame, encourage partners, share useful information and remain engaged when you are not the calling official. Camp is not an individual audition conducted beside two strangers.

Adaptability

Different clinicians may emphasize different details. Apply the instruction given to your court and show that you can adjust without losing your foundation.

Emotional steadiness

A missed play should not create three more mistakes. Reset, communicate and officiate the next matchup. Your recovery tells evaluators whether you can handle pressure.

Self-awareness

Know what you saw, where you were positioned and what you would change. Honest, specific reflection is stronger than a vague “I’ll do better.”

Professional presence

Appearance, conditioning, punctuality, attention during classroom sessions, respect for staff and how you behave between games all count. Evaluation does not stop when the game clock expires.

A STRONG RESPONSE TO FEEDBACK

“I understand. You wanted me wider so I could stay with the primary defender and allow Lead to take the help defender. I’ll make that adjustment in the next game.”



YOUR CAMP GAME PLAN

Before the first game

- Know the camp's rules set, mechanics expectations and schedule.
- Prepare uniform, shoes, whistle, lanyard, backup equipment and hydration.
- Be warmed up before your assignment—not during the opening minutes.
- Pregame primary coverage, drive/help coverage, rebounding, last-second shot and press coverage.

During every game

- Start in the correct home position.
- Referee competitive matchups in your primary.
- Create open angles with purposeful movement.
- Call clear illegal contact; pass on incidental contact.
- Protect shooters and finish rebounding plays.
- Stay engaged during every dead ball.
- Know clock, shot clock, foul and possession status.
- Communicate clearly and support your crew.

After every game

- Write down one strength, one correction and one action for the next game.
- Confirm that you understood the evaluator's feedback.
- Apply the correction immediately.

THE FORMULA

**OPEN ANGLE + COMPETITIVE MATCHUP + PRIMARY DISCIPLINE
+ PATIENT WHISTLE + STRONG COMMUNICATION**

CCA-BASED QUICK REFERENCE

The mechanics concepts in this resource were organized from the 2025-26 and 2026-27 CCA Women's Basketball Officiating Manual: Crew of Three.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

This independent educational resource was prepared by Under The Stripes Network. It is not an official publication of the NCAA or Collegiate Commissioners Association and is not endorsed by either organization. Rules, mechanics, interpretations and camp expectations can change. Officials should follow the current official publications and the directions of their assigner, coordinator and camp staff.



UNDER THE STRIPES NETWORK

Building the premier media and leadership platform for sports officials—where every official has a voice, every story matters and every generation can grow, connect and lead.

REAL OFFICIALS. REAL CONVERSATIONS. REAL IMPACT.