



OFFICIATING DEVELOPMENT SERIES | RESOURCE 06

POSITIONING WITH PURPOSE

Open Angles, Competitive Matchups and Efficient Movement

The best position is not a painted spot. It is the place where you can see the legality of the matchup.

PREPARE.

PERFORM.

PROGRESS.

THE STORIES BEHIND THE CALLS.



ANGLE BEFORE DISTANCE

Use this section as a practical conversation guide, self-evaluation tool and next-game plan.

Open look See space between offensive and defensive players, including torso, arms and feet.	Avoid straightlines Move when one body blocks the point of contact.
Avoid stacks When players align, adjust laterally rather than staring through them.	Do not crowd More distance can widen the viewing window and improve credibility.
Stay connected Your angle should match the competitive action, not an empty area.	

Move to see—not to appear busy.

REFLECTION: What would a partner, evaluator or assigner see from you today? What single behavior will you make visible in your next game?

POSITION-ADJUSTING

Use this section as a practical conversation guide, self-evaluation tool and next-game plan.

Small steps One or two purposeful steps often solve the angle.	Before contact Read where the matchup is going and adjust early without anticipating the call.
During drives Identify primary and help defenders, then hold the angle through the finish.	On screens See screener position, opponent path and resulting contact.
On rebounds Locate opponents and create a window before the ball reaches the rim.	

Good movement is early, economical and connected to responsibility.

REFLECTION: What would a partner, evaluator or assigner see from you today? What single behavior will you make visible in your next game?

ROTATIONS AND TRANSITION

Use this section as a practical conversation guide, self-evaluation tool and next-game plan.

Rotate for a reason Follow mechanics and ball location; avoid late movement that abandons matchups.	Finish rotation Communicate new responsibilities and avoid leaving the crew between positions.
New Lead Get ahead, accept the play and referee the defense.	New Trail Stay outside and behind the play without overrunning the ball.
Pressure Use wide-triangle coverage and move when traps close your angle.	

Positioning becomes credible when movement and coverage tell the same story.

REFLECTION: What would a partner, evaluator or assigner see from you today? What single behavior will you make visible in your next game?

SELF-EVALUATION FROM FILM

Use this section as a practical conversation guide, self-evaluation tool and next-game plan.

Freeze before contact Could you see the space and point of contact?	Track your head Were you officiating a matchup or following the ball?
Watch transitions Did you finish the play before leaving?	Study distance Were you so close that the players filled your entire view?
Name the fix Use a specific correction: wider, deeper, close down, step onto the floor or hold position.	

Film improves positioning when every observation becomes a movement cue.

REFLECTION: What would a partner, evaluator or assigner see from you today? What single behavior will you make visible in your next game?



PUT THIS RESOURCE INTO ACTION

Development accelerates when information becomes a repeatable behavior. Use this page to convert the guide into a personal plan.

MY CURRENT STRENGTH

What can my crew consistently trust me to do well?

MY PRIORITY CORRECTION

What specific behavior—not a vague outcome—needs to change?

MY NEXT-GAME CUE

Write a short phrase you can recall under pressure.

WHO WILL HOLD ME ACCOUNTABLE?

Identify a partner, mentor or evaluator and the evidence you will review.

PREPARE. PERFORM. PROGRESS.

Educational notice: This independent resource is designed for general officiating development. It does not replace any governing body's rules book, case book, mechanics manual, conference directives, state modifications or instructions from an assigner or camp staff. Officials must follow the requirements applicable to their level and jurisdiction.

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