



OFFICIATING DEVELOPMENT SERIES | RESOURCE 09

AFTER THE MISSED CALL

Recover, Reset and Protect the Next Possession

Every official misses plays. The separator is how quickly the official returns to clear, neutral judgment.

PREPARE.

PERFORM.

PROGRESS.

THE STORIES BEHIND THE CALLS.



THE FIVE-SECOND RESET

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

Recognize Notice the mistake or uncertainty without replaying it during live action.	Breathe Use one controlled breath to reduce the physical stress response.
Locate Find the ball, your position, your matchup and your partners.	Name the cue Use a short correction: "wider," "see defender," "finish rebound" or "slow down."
Next play Return to the current possession with no compensation.	

The next possession deserves an official who is fully present.

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

AVOID THE MAKEUP CALL

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

It compounds error A new marginal whistle does not repair the first ruling.	It breaks consistency Players and coaches experience two different standards.
It damages crew trust Partners cannot predict coverage or philosophy.	It shifts attention You begin officiating the past instead of the play in front of you.
Neutrality is the repair Return immediately to the same rule-based standard.	

The fairest response to a miss is accurate officiating from that point forward.

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

WHEN TO COMMUNICATE

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

With a coach If appropriate and certain, briefly acknowledge missing an angle or piece of information.	With a partner Share essential facts at the next natural dead ball; avoid a midgame autopsy.
With the table Correct only what procedure allows and communicate the final ruling clearly.	With yourself Save detailed analysis for halftime or after the game.
In a report Use objective facts, sequence and required terminology—never emotion or blame.	

Accountability should clarify the game, not destabilize it.

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

POSTGAME LEARNING

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

Describe What happened without judgment or excuses?	Diagnose Was the cause rules knowledge, angle, distance, focus, anticipation or communication?
Correct What exact behavior would create a better look or decision?	Rehearse Visualize or physically practice the correction.
Release Keep the lesson and let go of the shame.	

A mistake becomes development only after the correction is specific.

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.

© 2026 Under The Stripes Network, LLC. All rights reserved.