



OFFICIATING DEVELOPMENT SERIES | RESOURCE 10

THE PREGAME

A Practical Crew-Conference Guide

A focused pregame creates shared expectations before pressure exposes uncertainty.

PREPARE.

PERFORM.

PROGRESS.

THE STORIES BEHIND THE CALLS.

A 10-MINUTE PREGAME

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

0-2 minutes Introductions, experience, game context and any current directives.	2-4 minutes Primary coverage, rotations, drive coverage and help-defender responsibilities.
4-6 minutes Rebounding, shooting, transition, press and traps.	6-8 minutes Double whistles, communication, clock, last shot and correction procedures.
8-10 minutes Sportsmanship, unusual situations, individual goals and final questions.	

The goal is shared clarity—not a speech.

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



COVERAGE QUESTIONS

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

Drives Who owns the primary defender? Who owns the help defender?	Perimeter shots Who marks the attempt, protects the landing and covers rebounding?
Post play How will we cover displacement, illegal arms and secondary defenders?	Press How do we keep players boxed in and adjust to traps?
Rotations What triggers movement, and when will Lead lock down?	

If responsibilities cannot be explained before the game, they will not become clearer at full speed.

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



ADMINISTRATION AND HELP

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

Last shot Confirm clock responsibility, release responsibility and how information will be shared.	Two or three Define primary responsibility and when partners provide definitive help.
Restricted area Share information only with a clear look; calling official owns the ruling.	Fighting or severe conduct Secure players, observe benches and record numbers and sequence.
Correctable errors Slow down, gather crew information and apply the rule without guessing.	

Strong crews know how they will communicate before they need to correct something.

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



PRINTABLE PREGAME CHECKLIST

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

Crew Names, arrival, roles, individual goals and communication preferences.	Coverage Primaries, secondary cadence, drives, post, rebounding and shooting.
Movement Rotations, transition, press, traps and end-line or sideline responsibilities.	Game awareness Clock, shot clock, fouls, timeouts, possession and last shot.
Professionalism Coach communication, warnings, conflict response and postgame location.	

Short, specific and interactive wins the pregame.

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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