



Columbia Football Officials Association

Seven C's of Officiating

Communication- A majority of the problems experienced by an officiating crew can be attributed to a breakdown in crew communication. It is essential that individual crew members communicate, both verbally and visually, throughout the game. Goal line situations, sideline catches, player possession, timing procedures are all instances in which good crew communication is vital.

Concentration- Total concentration is the most difficult good habit an official can develop. Lack of concentration is a contributing factor to officiating mistakes. Total involvement in each and every play is required. By doing so, the mind doesn't wander, and distractions are kept away. Mental control is the key and a good official should be as tired mentally as he is physically after a well officiated game.

Comportment- Good comportment begins with good physical condition and appearance. Official portray confidence to players, coaches, and fans by sharp appearance, hustling, movements, and effective use of signals and voice. Officials who look professional are perceived as professional.

Consistency- One of the most voiced complaints from coaches through the years has been lack of consistency by the officials. The most consistent officials are the ones who get the big things that happen and forget the little ones. It is impossible to be consistent when an official "nit-picks" the rules. Consistency is closely related to the next "C"...

Common Sense- The most important attribute an official can have is an abundance of common sense. The ability to read the tempo of a game is vital. Like a good traffic cop in a busy intersection who keeps traffic moving without actual arrests, a good official keeps the game moving by using every power at his command to prevent fouls from occurring. The intent of a rule should be understood. Simply stated our role, as officials is to protect the players' safety and penalize any player who fouls and gains an advantage.

Calming Influence- The official must be the one that stays calm in any coach or player interchange. When things look tough or could get out of control- we need an official to enter the picture and have a calming influence. Get things under control—stay calm.

Courage- The attitude of facing and dealing with anything recognized as dangerous, difficult, or painful. Step up and do your job, make the call- the correct call.