

## **Guidelines on Staying Out of Trouble**

### **Arriving at the Game Site**

Show up On-Time.

For Varsity games, don't come to the stadium in your uniform.

Don't wear either school's colors.

Don't drink before the game.

Park away from the entrance of the stadium, team buses or any type of team or school personnel.

Don't leave an extra stripped shirt hanging in car window.

### **Entering the Stadium**

Be business like and professional.

Have all uniforms and equipment in some sort of bag.

Refrain from fraternizing with school or team personnel for any length of time.

If you are accompanied by friend(s) and school says they should pay, have them pay.

Don't argue with school personnel about friends paying.

### **In the Dressing Room**

Don't steal anything.

If any school personnel are in the area, don't be talking about teams involved in the game.

Try to be compatible with other officials - don't create an atmosphere of animosity.

Find out if the security or other person will escort crew to dressing room after the game.

If there is such a person, find out where you will meet them after the game.

Find out who will open the door(s) after the game.

Prior to pre-game or half-time discussions, politely ask all non-officiating personnel to leave the dressing room.

### **Entering the Field Prior to the Game**

Be business-like and professional.

If you have to warm-up or stretch, do it in an area which will not draw attention to you.

Don't carry on long conversations with team personnel or spectators.

Don't sit on either team's bench.

### **Meeting the Coaches**

Be as brief as possible.

Just get the basic information - no long conversations.

If one coach has a complaint about the other team, tell him you want to include the other coach.

## Guidelines on Staying Out of Trouble

### Working with Game Personnel

Give Clock Operator(s) good instructions.

Give Ball Boy(s) good instructions. Get their names.

Give Chain Crew good instructions.

Make them feel like they are part of your crew.

Make them feel important as an integral part of the game.

During a time out, give them encouragement and compliments.

Try to get and use their names, they will respond to feeling needed and appreciated.

### The Coin Toss

Make sure you have a coin.

Make it brief - no long speeches or discussions.

Crew should confirm and record results of the coin toss.

No huddle or fraternization.

### Officiating the Game

Take control early without being over officious.

Make the players aware of your presence.

Use preventive officiating. Don't warn players by saying "you were holding, next time I'll call it".

Always warn them by saying something like, "you were close or borderline".

Tolerate no unsportsmanlike act.

Don't look to call a foul just to call something.

If you think it's a foul, it's not. You must know it's a foul. Quality not quantity.

Don't throw a mirror flag. Make sure you see a foul.

Don't call a foul in another official's area unless very obvious or flagrant.

Don't blow whistle in other official's area.

Hustle! Especially covering pass receivers downfield.

Try to not throw a flag from long distance.

Get number of player committed the foul.

Be a good dead ball official. Only one official should go to spot ball.

Have efficient ball handling. Use short crisp tosses.

In lop-sided game, try to run out the clock. Don't let either team call time outs.

Work every game as if it were a championship game. You never know who's watching.

### Working With Player on the Field

Remember captains names.

Firm but polite reminders concerning possible rule violations.

Compliment players on avoiding fouls.

**Keep hands off players.**

**Don't swear at players.**

**Don't coach players.**

## **Guidelines on Staying Out of Trouble**

### **Working With Coaches and Players on the Side Line**

Don't have rabbit ears.  
Be polite.  
Don't swear at coaches.  
Give coach number of player that fouled. If you did not get the number, tell him.  
If a coach has a question, try to answer it or as soon as possible get the answer from another official.

### **Half Time**

Don't sit on team benches. Go to locker room or area away from everybody.  
Offer to pay for food or drink at snack stand. Don't assume it is free. Avoid snack stand if possible.  
Crew should confer regarding any problems during the first half.  
Politely ask any non-officiating personnel to leave the area.

### **Team Time Outs**

Don't huddle or carry on long conversations with fellow officials.  
Verify number of time-outs with other officials.  
Keep coaches and captains informed regarding number of time-outs.

### **Leaving the Playing Field Area**

Leave as quickly as possible. Try to leave as a group.  
Try not to go near the stands.  
Don't yell at spectators or anyone else.

### **Dressing Room – Post Game**

Don't let anyone in the dressing room other than the crew.  
Emphasize positive remarks regarding the officiating of the game.  
Don't criticize another official's call.  
Don't leave the dressing room dirty or messy. Clean up the area you used.

### **Parking Lot – Post Game**

Try to go to the parking lot together as a group.  
Have your uniform and equipment in a bag.  
Avoid confrontations with fans or school personnel.  
Don't drink in parking lot.  
Don't stay in parking lot and fraternize.