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### **Beginning Official:**

1. There is no more important thing you can do than **KNOW THE RULES!** I know it sounds simple, but you will never begin to feel confident, until you are comfortable with the rules and approved rulings. There is no excuse for a sports official, who is getting paid, not to know the rules.
2. Look and act professionally. That can overcome a multitude of sins. Clean and neat uniform, be well groomed, no facial hair or jewelry etc.
3. Work your butt off! Don't engage in false hustle, but work hard to get in good position to see plays. Coaches who see that you are working hard are less likely to give you a hard time.
4. Work any and all games you are offered. 2 things will happen. You will find out if you like officiating basketball, and if you do like it, you will get better.

### **Transition from 2 to 3 man Officiating:**

1. Get a hold of a high school 3-man mechanics book and commit it to memory.
2. "Walk through" the mechanics in your driveway or in your home. They must become second nature to you or you will never feel comfortable on the floor.
3. Watch 3 or 4 games before you actually have to work a 3 man game.
4. Learn to watch "off the ball". That is the biggest difference between 2 and 3 man mechanics.

### **Transition from High School to College:**

1. Until you have refereed at least 200 games, don't even think about it!
2. If you haven't advanced to the season ending playoffs in your state, what makes you think you are ready to try the college game?
3. If you have officiated 200+ games (at any level) and have progressed up the ranks of high school officiating, set reasonable goals as it pertains to college officiating.
4. Find one or two officiating camps to attend in your immediate area. These should be camps that lead toward officiating Juco, NAIA or DIII games.
5. Assuming you have above average talent, expect it to take about 10 years from your first college camp to your first DI game. Don't expect to move from one level to the next until you work the playoffs in the entry level leagues you are working in.