



The Philosophy/Psychology or Youth Sports

“The High School Mind Set”



Lets Talk Philosophy

Basic to any philosophy

All philosophies presume that the official has a thorough understanding of the game and is well versed in the basics such as:

- *Knowledge of the rules*
- *Good mechanics, techniques, and procedures*
- *Physical condition and appearance*
- *Consistency*
- *Character*
- *Sound judgment*
- *Dedication (feeling for the game)*

Lets Talk Philosophy

The assumption that all officials equally possess these characteristics is erroneous. Officials bring many differences to the game. Other factors that may contribute to their success are:

- *Background as player/coach*
- *Personality/demeanor*
- *Physical size*
- *Experience*
- *Working with veteran official*
- *Field presence/poise*
- *Adaptability*
- *Game control*

Lets Talk Philosophy

A Goal for the Ideal Official (Wouldn't it be nice to say)

- *He/she notices everything but is seldom noticed himself.*
- *He/she has resourcefulness and initiative.*
- *He/she has dignity of voice and manner but with no suggestion of pompousness.*
- *He/she is considerate and courteous without sacrificing firmness.*
- *He/she can control the players effectively and understandingly.*
- *He/she cooperates fully with fellow officials.*
- *He/she is physically able to be and is in the right place at the right time.*
- *He/she knows what the rules say and what the rules mean.*

Understand Why Coaches and Players Behave The Way They Do

- ❑ Frustrations with prior losses.
- ❑ Negative experiences with other referees.
- ❑ Unskilled players.
- ❑ Players injured due to lack of control.
- ❑ Inconsistency of rule application.
- ❑ Arrogance on part of the official.
- ❑ Too much advantage applied
- ❑ Unfair techniques or practices.

Use Your Ability to Teach, Communicate, and Motivate Players/Coaches

- **Apply the Rules correctly and giving proper signals**
- **Answer questions politely**
- **Motivate players to do favorable things by appealing to egos or using positive reinforcement tactics**
- **Be fair and always make player safety a priority**
- **Don't carry grudges**

What Players Expect From Officials:

- **Rule knowledge**
- **Being physically fit / proper positioning**
- **Enforcing rules fairly both ways / consistency**
- **Being fair and compassionate**
- **Don't carry grudges**
- **Officials show respect and consideration to coaches, players, and each other**
- **Allow to play but yet be firm and fair**

**Communication Is A Two-Way Street.
Referees, Coaches, and Players
Have a Responsibility To Make It Work!**

- **Keep communication channels open with the coaches, try not to alienate**
- **If player is polite, answer their question**
- **Don't make a player feel that he/she is less important than a rock or twig on the field**
- **Use ladder of control and try not to be too quick with the cards**
- **Officials should work together as a team**

Identify the School Game Setting

- **Age groups and related skills**
- **School rivalries**
- **School settings**
 - **Peer pressures**
 - **Parents/friends**
 - **The spotlight effect**

Differences in Administrative Techniques

- Handling of injuries/ejections: Reports must be filled out and faxed to Tony within 24 hours
- Importance of record keeping and handling of misconduct reports:
- Payment administration
- Dos and don'ts regarding before, during, and after the match.
 - Touching players: never touch a player
 - Socializing with coaches
 - Tighter control
 - Leave immediately after the match
 - Spectators in the stands, not on field

Very Important to Remember!

- ✓ Understand and Use the School's Administrators!
- ✓ The Schools are Responsible for the Players, Never Touch a Player!
- ✓ In High School Matches...Use Signals!
- ✓ Learn and Use the High School Rules!
- ✓ All Spectators in the Stands!

