



Coaches play a vital role in shaping the culture of youth and competitive sports. One of the most important responsibilities they carry is modeling respect for officials. Referees or officials of our great sport are essential to every game, and without them, competition simply could not take place. While disagreements and emotional moments are a natural part of sports, coaches set the tone for how players, parents, and fans respond to adversity and officiating decisions.

When coaches communicate respectfully with officials, they demonstrate professionalism, sportsmanship, and self-control. Players often mirror the behavior they see from their leaders. If a coach constantly argues calls or shows visible disrespect, athletes may begin to view officials as adversaries rather than neutral participants doing their best. On the other hand, coaches who handle disagreements calmly teach athletes valuable life lessons about composure, accountability, and respect for authority.

Respecting officials also helps create a healthier environment for everyone involved in sports. Many leagues across the country are experiencing shortages of referees because of verbal abuse and negative treatment from adults on the sidelines. Encouraging coaches to treat officials with dignity can help retain experienced referees and create a more enjoyable atmosphere for players and spectators alike. Competitive intensity should never come at the expense of basic respect and sportsmanship.

Referees are put in a difficult spot. One they agree to be part of to assist our league. They must deliver a quick assessment of the actions that transpire, often within milliseconds! We can also attest that when you think you are not getting calls, that is all you look for! When you think red, you see red.

Ultimately, coaches have the power to influence far more than the outcome of a game. By promoting respectful interactions with officials, they help build character, strengthen the integrity of sports, and ensure that athletics remain a positive experience for all participants.

Considering the high priority of instilling character in our athletes, please learn to be respectful of our officials. Do not teach young inspiring minds that they are victims of the sport. Teach them to face and overcome adversity and learn to hold them accountable.

Our CEO resides on board 122 for New Hampshire. He can assure us that officials in this board take their job seriously. They meet between 3-6 times per year to discuss efficiency, improvement, errors made and board growth. They take exams, watch instructional videos and take part in many improvement exercises.

We have incorporated many rule-based exercises in Journeyman. We even provide great handouts that help you understand the ever-changing rules of the sport. Rules that were in effect in 1980 have changed significantly. If you don't do the research to understand these rules, there is no room in Journeyman Basketball for you to negotiate them.