

## ***Why have you become a referee?***

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Is it to earn an income, for a challenge, because your friends are involved or just to see a different side of the game? No matter what the reason, you have given yourself the opportunity to gain confidence, courage, communication skills, knowledge and valuable experience from refereeing the game of basketball.

Now that you've taken the plunge it's time for you to get out on the court and have some fun!

## ***Purpose of the Game***

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All modern games including basketball should be seen as a substitute for warfare. Two groups come together on the 'battlefield' with the aim of proving that one is better than the other. In the case of basketball, scoring more baskets than your opponent does this.

On the battlefield the participants agree to conduct the 'war' according to agreed rules. Of course in the heat of the 'battle' the participants do not always remember the rules or play according to them.

## ***Role of the Referee***

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Hence we need referees whose job it is to watch the 'battle'. When in their opinion someone has broken the rules and gained an unfair advantage from this or placed a member of the opposition at a disadvantage, the official stops the game and awards penalties. These penalties may range from giving the ball to the non-offending side, to the extreme a player may be asked to take no further part in the game.

Referees can also be viewed as 'Policeman', 'Lawyer', 'Judge', and also as an 'Executioner'. They are 'Policemen', when they catch people breaking the law. They are a 'Lawyer' when they have to explain their reason, 'Judge' to determine the result and an 'Executioner' to give the penalty.

### **REFEREEING IS A DIFFICULT ART!**

- It is not a job that everyone can do!
- To do the job properly you need to be fit
- Many people don't have the personal attributes to become a good referee. Some do not have the necessary reflexes to see things and make a call.
- Referees need to exercise judgement as well as seeing things happen
- At higher levels of refereeing the secret to success is learning how to manage people

- You need to be thick skinned as not to become disheartened when mistakes are made or criticism is given. These are sometimes common traits viewed in the average game of basketball.

## ***Professionalism***

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As a participant who will often receive payment or incentives to be actively involved in sport is to be professional it is the responsibility of the referee to uphold an image both on and off the court that is accepted by all players, coaches and spectators. Referees are expected to give a high level of service to the game which is often judged and scrutinized by all participants throughout the sport. In order to gain respect and credibility referees need to be mindful of the following –

1. Preparation, 'Failing to prepare is preparing to fail'.
2. Be well presented, 'First impressions last'.
3. Your effort
4. Method of communicating with players participate
5. Knowledge and understanding of the game
6. Overall approach to the game.

### **Key Refereeing Traits**

1. Punctuality
2. Reliability
3. Ability to enjoy the game
4. Communication skills
5. Basketball knowledge. It is one component of your tools. The other 4 components say a lot about how you treat people (consumers)

And remember, someone is *always* watching.

## ***Referees Uniform***

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Refereeing begins even before you leave to travel for your game. One of the most important things you need to referee is your uniform. A referee should wear the following to officiate a game –

- black shorts/pants
- Black shoes
- Black socks
- Referees shirt

Referees should also be equipped with a -

- Whistle

- Black belt with pants
- Drink bottle

It is important that the referee is always in uniform and well presented for the game so that a professional image and impression is made even *before* the game commencements. *Always* be in uniform to referee.

### **Referee's Responsibility**

As refereeing is delivering of a service to customers (i.e. players purchase the service) see you as -

1. An employee
2. Someone who should give 100% effort at all times ( which is not unreasonable)
3. Someone who is open to criticism
4. Someone to blame

It is therefore necessary for referees to earn respect by being –

- Professional
- Well presented
- Serviceable
- Accountable
- Punctual
- Committed
- Reliable

Refereeing is considerably about image and how the referee conducts him or her self. Should the official choose an approachable manner and respectable presence the referee will be well on the way to officiating a good game.

### **Did you know HKBA had Quality Assurance Guidelines?**

The HKBA Quality Assurance Guidelines document has been developed in order to uphold the professionalism and accountability of referees within the Association.

As with any other position that requires the individual to be professional, certain rules and regulations need to be addressed so that 'An acceptable demeanour is set throughout the HKBA referees program and ultimately the whole of the Association'.

The aim of the policy is to: -

1. Continuously improve the overall standard of all referees
2. Promote a professional image to the customer
3. Improve the discipline as a person and a referee
4. Be able to treat refereeing as a job in a positive manner

HKBA is offering monthly incentives for referees that consistently abide by these guidelines according to the HKBA Referees Committee. If referees are identified as continually receiving these incentives and improving their overall performance on rostered games, those officials can be given an opportunity to graduate to a higher level of game and a review of their current refereeing grade.

The choice is up to you!

To obtain a copy of the Quality Assurance Guidelines please contact HKBA.