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IMPROVING YOUR GAME

Distribution of Umpires

	1%	<div> <div>↑</div> <div>Best</div> <div>Average</div> <div>↓</div> <div>Worst</div> </div>
 	2%	
    	5%	
           	12%	
                                                                	60%	
           	12%	
    	5%	
 	2%	
	1%	



The Art of Officiating



Science vs. Art

Science

- Systematized knowledge in general.
- Knowledge, as of facts or principles.
- Knowledge gained by systematic study

ART

- The principles or methods governing any craft or branch of learning.
- Skill in conducting any human activity.
- Quality or production of a behavior by a studied action



Build Your Schedule

- **The “Rookie”**
 - Struggle to get enough games to fill the schedule
 - Can become discouraged by the perception of “politics”
- **The “6/25ers”**
 - The competitive spirit kicks in
 - Desire to “move up” in level
- **The “Veteran”**
 - Become selective (picky) about game assignments
 - Can become complacent



Build Your Schedule

- **Don't be pushy about assignments.**
 - Be aware of the nature of assigning
 - Am I qualified?
- **Know how to turn back a game.**
 - Do it early
 - Offer a replacement
 - DO NOT LIE!!!
- **Pay it forward.**
 - If someone helps you out, help them out



Work Together

- **Develop the relationship with your partner**
 - Pregame is extra important if you have not worked together before
- **Put the horn back in its case**
 - Limit talk about the number of games you have worked or all of the “big” games you have called
- **A little goes a long way**
 - During the game, tell your partner when they make a good call.



Between The Lines

- **No set of written rules can completely cover a sporting contest**
- **Human activity necessitates human judgment**
- **Understand the “philosophy” of officiating**
 - Rules enforced with reason
 - Reflects the relative merit of play
- **Look like you’ve been in a jock strap before**
 - Game management techniques
 - Give the impression that you’ve been there before
 - Exercise appropriate enthusiasm



Self Portrait- Why do I do this?

- Money...anyone else not getting rich from this?
- To stay in shape...round is a shape!
- Associate with young people...half of whom will think of you as public enemy #1 on every close call!
- The love of the game...talk about co-dependency in an abusive relationship!
- IT PLAYS TO OUR STRENGTHS!
 - We have dominance characteristics
 - We like to be in charge
 - We like to make decisions under pressure
 - We are goal oriented
 - We are strong willed
- We are ripe for arrogance



The Cure For Arrogance

- **Humility**

- Deference is the heart of humility
 - Placing the needs and desires of others before my own
- Give credit where credit is due
 - Other officials who mentored you
 - Assignors
- Realize that there are other officials out there who can do as well, if not better, than you.
- Cultivation of the sense of providence