

This week, let's talk about Pre-Game Activities. What should you do when you arrive to the gym?

- Find your partner(s) and greet them.
- Talk basketball - get in the mood to officiate. Have you had these teams before? Know any players? Know the coaches? Had any interesting plays lately? Seen anything on tv?
- Ensure you fix your uniform – you only have one time to make a first impression. Make it a good one! Shirts should be tucked in. No jewelry. Get rid of your phone (not in your pocket either put it away!). Look and act professional.
- Discuss some things you want to work on today – game management, hand and arm signals, positioning, reporting procedures, good communications, slowing down, watching your primary area, etc.
- Check the gym – any dangerous objects that need to be moved?
- Greet the coaches – ensure their teams are ready to go at game time and have people ready for the table.
- Talk to the table crew. Are they experienced? Do they know how to operate the clock? Does the scorekeeper know how to keep the book – timeouts, individual fouls, team fouls, etc. Give them some quick training if needed.
- Secure a game ball from one of the teams. Ensure it's properly inflated and bounces to your elbow when dropped from shoulder height.
- Check the players to ensure they're not wearing any jewelry – no ear rings, no pins, no berets, no watches, no rings, no wrist bands, no hair beads etc. No safety hazards!
- Don't shoot baskets or dribble the ball around.
- Start the game on time!
- Smile! Enjoy yourself! Have fun!

Have a great season and see you in the gym!

- Rob Grunewald, National Federation High School, Certified Basketball Official

Questions or comments? Email Rob @ grunewar@yahoo.com