



## Basketball Referees: The Court Official

Basketball referees, also called officials, make sure rules are followed by watching players, calling fouls, and keeping the game moving smoothly.

To become an official, you need to get approval. This means passing a written test about basketball rules and often showing your skills on a court. Most basketball officials have played the game themselves. Having experience as a player helps referees understand the game better and recognize fouls more easily.

High school basketball typically has two or three officials per game. College games usually have three officials. Professional NBA games always use three officials to cover the faster, more complex play.

When officials make decisions during games, coaches can ask for explanations but cannot change most calls. In professional games, some calls can be reviewed using video replays, but this isn't common in high school games.

Good referees need quick reactions, excellent vision, and confidence. They must stay physically fit to keep up with players. Most importantly, officials need thick skin since players, coaches, and fans often disagree with their calls!