

From the September 2012 issue of Referee Magazine: If you gave a new official just one piece of advice, what would it be:

"You don't get paid by the call"

"Believe in yourself that you can do this job."

"Be patient; it gets easier"

"Remember to always keep learning. There is something to be taken, good or bad, from every game you work. Be a student of officiating".

"When you first go out there you will feel like a fraud because you have no experience. Just walk tall and look confident. Give it time. The game will slow down for you. And, smile and have some fun."

"Surround yourself with positive influences and mentors who care about you and your success!"

"Have fun. Develop elephant skin and mouse ears".

"Be confident and blow the whistle."

"Never say 'Yeah, but...' when someone tries to give you advice and help."

"Get insurance."

"Always move with purpose, and always keep moving."

"Listen and learn. Those before you do know better than what the rulebook can teach."

"Never act like you're done learning, because that's when you're done."

"Get earplugs."

"Take your time and don't rush making calls. Most mistakes occur because you rushed making the call."

"Never be bigger than the game."

9 Easy ways to kill your career:

1. Fail to adequately prepare.
2. Don't follow through on your word.
3. Trash talking (or biting the hand that feeds you) fellow officials.
4. Not accepting responsibility or taking ownership for **YOUR** success.
5. Don't pay attention to the assessor, assignor, or senior officials.
6. Don't be a fake, be credible.

7. Force the issue. Accept that to move up, someone has to see you. You won't progress until you're assessed.
8. Misidentify where you should be in your career. Time served is not the only justification for increased responsibilities or upgrades.
9. Don't self-analyze. Be honest with yourself about what has to change and commit to do it.