



Coaching and Officiating Case Study

Mentoring – Professional Development for a Referee



Ron is a basketball referee with his local association. He referees in the local under 18 women's competition. He has refereed for six years, and is a qualified referee after doing a course five years ago. He attends briefing sessions run by the association a couple of times a season, where the chief referee discusses rule changes and interpretations and all of the association's referees can ask questions and discuss issues.

Ron always tries to speak with the coaches after his games to get some feedback on his refereeing, but he often gets conflicting feedback from the coaches. He is starting to become frustrated, and decides to ask Chris (another referee from his zone) to come and watch some of the games he referees and give him some feedback. Chris suggests they have a chat before she watches a game so she can be clear on what Ron is hoping to achieve.

Ron decides he wants Chris to focus her observations and feedback on how he interacts with the coaches and players as they often argue with him after he has made a controversial decision. Ron feels he gets flustered in these situations and it then affects how he referees the rest of the game. Chris watches half a dozen of Ron's games and together they discuss some strategies that Ron can use 'in the heat of the moment' to better handle his interactions with coaches and players.

Ron is happy with the improvements he has made and does not ask Chris to watch any more games. Through the mentoring process, Chris has recognised that Ron is a very good technical referee with excellent knowledge of the rules. A few months later Chris asks Ron to come and watch her referee a senior men's game to give her some feedback on her interpretation of the offensive foul rules.