

PHILOSOPHY

How to Be a Great Crew Member

TCAOA 2026 Pre-Season Training | Week A

FOUNDATION: PREPARATION & GROWTH

01 Be Prepared

- Know the rules - not just the common ones.
- Review film from prior games before each game.
- Come to every assignment ready from the opening whistle.
- Preparation before the game determines performance during it.

02 Keep Improving

- Seek feedback after every game
- Refine your mechanics, your judgment, and your consistency.
- Study what went wrong, not just what went right.
- Improvement is not optional for an official who cares about the crew.

COMMUNICATION: BEFORE, DURING & AFTER

03 Communicate Clearly

- Strong pregame - set expectations before kickoff.
- Crisp, decisive signals throughout the game.
- Consistent crew dialogue on the field.
- If you have information, bring it. Don't hold it.

04 Debrief as a Crew

- After the game: all voices contribute.
- Cover what went well and what didn't.
- Resolve any tensions before you leave the field.
- The debrief is where the crew gets better week over week.

TEAM FIRST: SUPPORTING YOUR CREW

05 Be a Support of the Team

- we are not five individual game officials, we are one crew.
- Present a unified front to coaches and players at all times.
- Never let the sideline see division between officials.
- The crew's credibility is always collective.

06 Help Your Partners Look Good

- Give strong, clean signals your partners can read across the field.
- Relay information - don't keep it to yourself.
- Never put a partner down publicly.
- Protect each other.

ACCOUNTABILITY & DEPENDABILITY

07 Be Accountable

- Own your mistakes. Don't make excuses.
- Try not to deflect or rationalize.
- A crew that holds itself accountable improves fast.
- Accountability builds the trust that helps a crew function under pressure.

08 Be Dependable & Consistent

- Be where you are supposed to be.
- Be there when you are supposed to be there.
- Your partners are counting on you to hold your position on every snap.

PROFESSIONALISM & ENGAGEMENT

09 Demonstrate Professionalism

- Before the game: how you arrive, how you prepare, how you warm up.
- During the game: poise and appearance under pressure.
- After the game: how you handle tough calls and difficult outcomes.
- Professionalism is visible at every stage - someone is always watching.

10 Be Engaged

- Ask questions in training and meetings.
- Volunteer when needs arise. Don't wait to be asked.
- The engaged official improves the whole association.
- Show up, not just to games, but to the full process.

UNITY: CALLS, CULTURE & CREW SPIRIT

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Support Calls — Never Show Disagreement

- Publicly - default to backing the call.
- Handle disagreement in the crew conference, in the debrief, privately.
- Public division destroys crew credibility instantly.
- Support the call. Correct the course behind closed doors.

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Encourage & Uplift

- Provide positive reinforcement to your partners.
- A sincere compliment after a well-handled situation goes far.
- The best crews build each other up - not just on big plays.
- Culture is built one interaction at a time, over an entire season.