

Keeping The Game Fair, One Call At A Time

In sports games there are people that look like zebras and have no clue what they're doing. I have a goal in life to become a referee, "also known as," a zebra, but I will actually know what I'm doing. Every time I go to a sports game the officials get multiple calls wrong, but I've still always wanted to be one. I saw this "How To Contest" and thought it was a great way to learn more about it.

Refereeing football is a hard job because you are constantly running and walking. Also you have to have a good attention span because there is not a call on every play. You have to have good vision and have a good temper. You have to have quick reaction speed so you can get out of the player's way. Also you have to work well with people. Lee Dyer said, "Teamwork is vital in football and your ability to work with and get along with others."

There are many steps to becoming a referee and it takes a lot of time. First, pick the sport to referee and pursue it. People should start at the youth levels for that sport, in some local games. You should try different positions to get the most knowledge. Each position has a different thing to watch. As explained by Lee Dyer, "To maximize your success, you'll have to learn several of these positions well." When you do the youth level for a while, you should move up to the high school level. Then, I have to take the state's rules exam to prove that I know enough about the sport, so I can referee it at the high school level. After I pass the exam I can start refereeing high school games in my state.

Next, I will move up another level and get to the college games. When I make it, I will get assigned to a conference and referee games for that conference. I will spend many years at the college level to better my skills. After I spend many years at the college level improving my skills, I will apply for the highest level in my sport. (I might not get it on the first try because it is very hard to do).

When I make it, I have achieved my dream of becoming a zebra, “also known as” a Referee. According to Mike Cay, “Becoming an official in the NFL requires hard work and perseverance, but can be extremely rewarding.”