** PITTSBURGH ELITE OFFICIATING CAMPS - OFFICIAL AHL CORRESPONDENCE** [](http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=ahl&qs=n&form=QBIR&pq=ahl&sc=8-3&sp=-1&sk=#view=detail&id=C83F473ED1228AE0F9D87DAEAE5666A55A556A25&selectedIndex=0)  
**GOOD TO GREAT**   
  
We often use the phrase, “Be great when the game needs you to be great.” Being great is about possessing some important qualities and working towards excellence. Greatness is different for each of us and the accumulation of our individual greatness leads to and is the root of our collective greatness as a team. As elite officials we must push ourselves to be great because that is what the game demands of us.   
  
There is a distinct difference between good and great officials. Going from good to great is about having a higher level of understanding about the game and the rules. Good officials know the rules and great ones understand the intent of the rules. Great ones have a feel for the game and react to the ebb and flow of it. They know a phantom call is worse than one that is legitimately missed. They process the play and respond accordingly.

**Characteristics of great officials:**

* Great officials move smoothly and effectively giving them great functional movement.  By keeping the same tempo throughout the game they have a greater ability to scan and see more while displaying a controlled presence.
* Great officials always fight for good sight lines.
* A great official knows the mechanics of the job instinctively, allowing him to focus completely on the plays.
* Great officials have attention to detail every night.
* Great officials know how to adapt their personality to the climate of the game.  They know when to be loose and positive on the ice but they also have the ability to flip the switch to become firm and in charge when the game requires it.
* Great officials keep themselves in shape.
* Great officials have terrific communication skills and know when and how to use them.
* Great officials have thorough pregame preparation, eliminating variables before games (cell phones, late travel, outside distractions) in order to get mentally and physically focused for the task ahead.
* Great officials are prepared for the unexpected.
* Great officials have courage and do what is right for the good of the game.
* Great officials self evaluate and are aware of fine tuning that is necessary in certain areas.
* Great officials are humble and let their work speak for itself.

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