

# CHEATER!!!

## Fouls & Violations

*LIFE OF A REFEREE UNCOVERED*

*BY KEVIN SPARROCK*



**RULE 1: COURT AND DIMENSIONS**

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**RULE 1: COURT AND DIMENSIONS**

**A FOULS AND VIOLATIONS® Comic Strip Collection.  
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**ISBN: 978-0-9988020-0-8**



**My three kids, Asha, Kamau and Simone who  
laugh out loud at my jokes, even when I'm not funny.**

**To my wife, Ajaya my homie.**



# ***CHEATER!***

**“Cheater!” That’s what a fan called me. I didn’t know this person. I didn’t know the coaches, the players, or the fans. I never met the player’s parents or their cousins. I was asked to referee a game in the Bronx, NY. I’m a kid from Brooklyn. The only connection I had to anyone at the game was the guy who ran the tournament. But at 5:50 of the first quarter at a 4th grade kids game ... I was a “Cheater.”**

**I created this book because I wanted to read it.**

**I started writing Fouls and Violations in September of 1998. This was the year I began officiating Basketball. I knew right away that officiating was a great platform for a comic strip. Unfortunately, it took until the Fall of 2008 to publish my comic strip on line.**

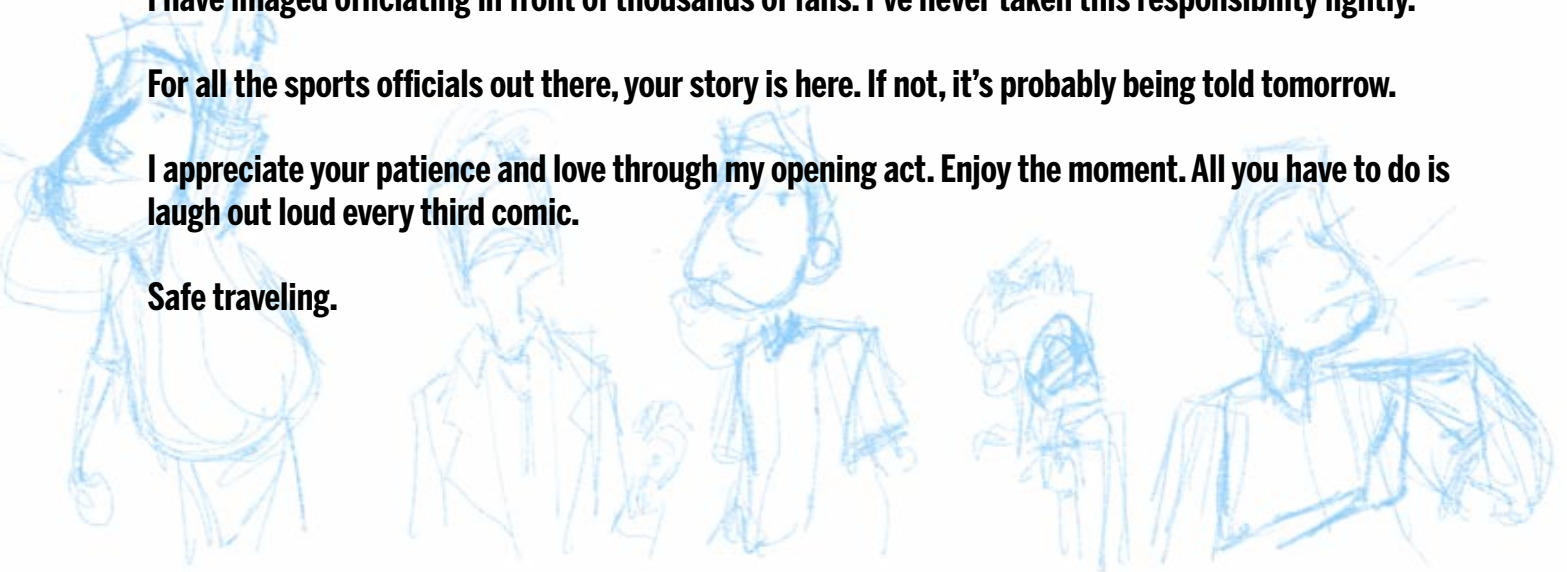
**I had a story to tell. Convincing the world that referees are honest, loyal and great people of integrity was never the inside story line for Fouls and Violations. That’s a no win battle. There will always be one person who thinks referees have pre-conceived agenda’s. But when a player goes 1 for 15 from the free throw line and a team looses by one point, you have to blame someone. Why not the referee? That’s easy and fun.**

**I have been blessed with two jobs; one is a ‘Great Job’ and the other is a ‘Dream Job.’ My Great job has been my ability to be creative. Whether that is with my graphic design skills or my comic strip, I love the creative process. My ‘Dream Job’, is refereeing Basketball. Not in my wildest dreams would I have imaged officiating in front of thousands of fans. I’ve never taken this responsibility lightly.**

**For all the sports officials out there, your story is here. If not, it’s probably being told tomorrow.**

**I appreciate your patience and love through my opening act. Enjoy the moment. All you have to do is laugh out loud every third comic.**

**Safe traveling.**



# THE CAST

In the game of Basketball, the highly criticized participants are the men and women in the striped shirts. They have many names. The Referee, Blue, Stripes, Zebra, Blind Bat, Bum, Idiot, You Suck, and Hey Stupid. The perfect game is their goal.

These are their stories... DUN! DUN!



## SLEEPY

He's the veteran official who awaits a second chance at big time basketball.



## FLEX

Nicknamed 'Flex Tech's. He's better known for his record setting 21 technical fouls and seven ejections in a state playoff game.



## WOOD

The young official who recently passed the referee test.



## PAULA

She's an up-and-coming official. She never turns down an opportunity to eject a hostile presence.



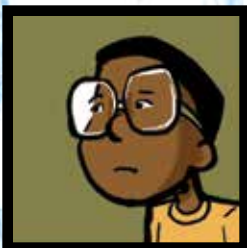
## NIA

Sleepy's wife.



## BOX

Jay's instant replay robot.



## JAY

Sleepy's genius son.

# The Beginning....

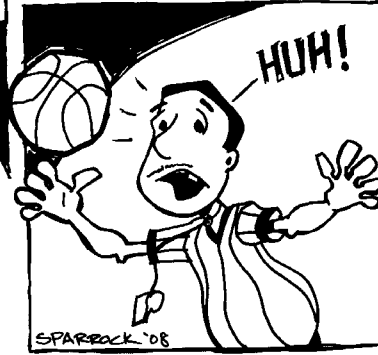
THIS IS SLEEPY. HE'S A BASKETBALL REFEREE.



HE WORKS HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE BASKETBALL.



HE DOESN'T KNOW IT, BUT TODAY HE'S GETTING FIRED!



GO AHEAD SLEEPY. PICK UP THE PHONE.



SUPERVISOR/REFEREE RELATIONSHIP: YEAR ONE

WE SEE GREAT IMPROVEMENT. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.



YEAR TWO

WE SEE GREAT IMPROVEMENT. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.



YEAR THREE

WE SEE GREAT IMPROVEMENT. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!



YEAR FOUR

SORRY SLEEPY, WE'RE RELEASING YOU. YOU HAVEN'T SHOWN ANY IMPROVEMENT.



I'M FIRED WHY!



THE TRUTH IS, I FIRED YOU FOR MY GARDENER. YOUR WAY BETTER THAN HIM BUT HE'S REALLY GOOD AT TRIMMING MY HEDGES. SO I HAD TO LET YOU GO.

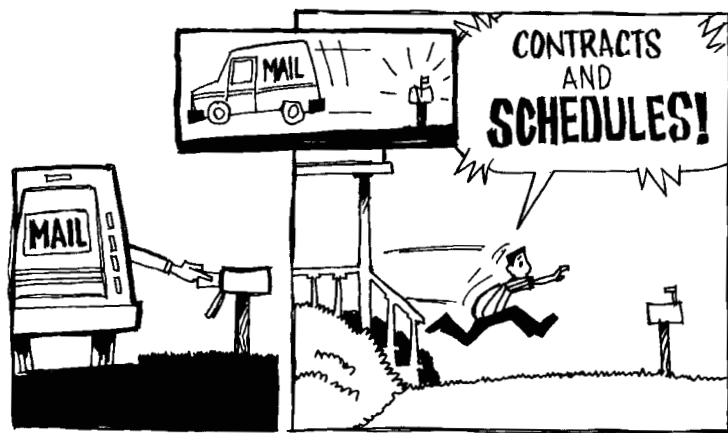
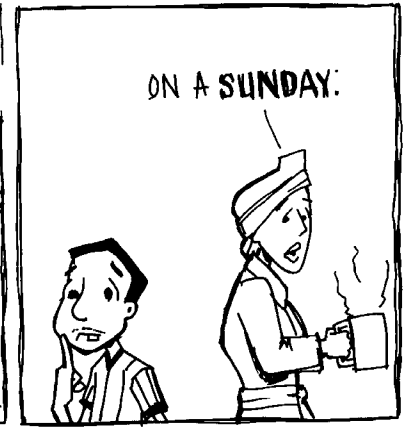
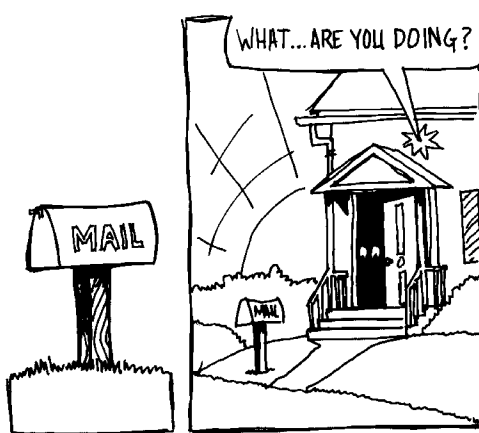


HE ALSO SHINES SHOES DO YOU NEED A REFERRAL?



AAAAARGH!!







## *Referee facts and isms:*

High School basketball games are 36 minutes long.  
College basketball games are 40 minutes.

In a 40 minute game, referees can run approximately 2.5 to 3 miles per game. During the season you can easily have four games in five nights. That's 15 miles of pounding the hardwood in five days. Most referees could probably run a half marathon if we stopped drinking beer.

To maintain good foot health, referees should replace their shoes midway through the season.

That never happens.

That's probably why we run like it hurts.







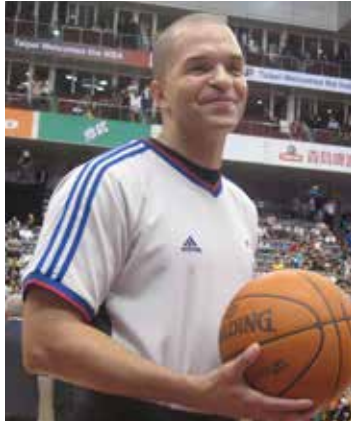
*Referee facts and ism:*

A fight in your game is not the worst thing that can happen to a referee.

Try being late...

...or forgetting your whistle.





## About the artist

Kevin Sparrock is an artist based out of Miami, FL. He is a Brooklyn, New York native who has worked as a Graphic Designer and Illustrator for 32 years and has officiated basketball for 22 years. He has worked basketball at the High School level, College Division 1 Men's, Division 1 Women's, the NBA Developmental League and the Woman's National Basketball Association (WNBA).



Read the daily strip online!  
[www.foulsandviolations.net](http://www.foulsandviolations.net)