

1135-B1-562

Andrew B Perry* (aperry@springfieldcollege.edu). *Statistical Evidence of Referee Bias in the NBA and NFL.*

In an effort to be transparent, major sports leagues such as the National Basketball Association (NBA) and the National Football League (NFL) are publishing lists of officials and referees who call their games. In some cases they are even publishing statistics for these referees, for example, the number of fouls called per game. Unfortunately, this data reveals some unpleasant truths. For example, some referees have an apparent bias toward the home team. Home teams win the games that these particular referees work at a highly improbable rate. Other statistical irregularities related to referees in basketball and football will be considered as well. For example, football penalties that are subjective and tricky to call, like “holding”, are rarely called at the start or end of games. This irregularity is not in and of itself evidence of impropriety, but it does raise questions. (Received September 08, 2017)