

LEGAL LINES

Officiating Safely: The IAABO Way



(By Alan S. Goldberger, IAABO Parliamentarian, Bd. 33 NJ)

There is no time like the present to review those sections of the rules, casebook, and officials' manual that deal with player safety. While you're at it, make sure to review all of the following areas of rules and mechanics with your partners for a safer officiating experience—for you and the players!

Safety and Liability Checklist for IAABO Basketball Officials— 2003–04

Pregame Mechanics

- Identify site manager
- Maintain *appearance* of impartiality
- 15 minutes before tip—review duties
- Rule 2–4–5: 2 questions—2 answers

Inspect Court and Surroundings

- Placement of benches and other furniture
- Padding
- Open doors that should be closed/Close doors that should be open
- Environmental conditions

Equipment

- Rule 3–5
 - Dangerous
 - Unnatural and designed to increase height or reach
 - Confusing or inappropriate
 - Elbow, hand, finger, wrist, forearm guards, casts, braces made of hard substance—even though covered
 - Knee/ankle braces unless all hinges covered
 - Guards/casts/braces on upper arm or shoulder must be padded
 - Jewelry
 - Headbands (rubber/cloth, unabrasive)
- Medic alert—taped
- Religious medal—taped under uniform
- Protective equipment—judgment of referee

- State association's call
 - Prosthetics
 - Medical device as required by licensed medical doctor
 - Religious headwear—nonabrasive, soft, securely attached
- Rule 3–7—fingernails or hair—"safety concern"

Game Control

- Trouble spots—keeping all players under observation
 - Post play
 - After a foul
 - Held ball
 - Throw in
 - The bomber
- Taunting and baiting—penalize without warning
 - Embarrass
 - Ridicule, or
 - Demean

Injury Mechanics

- Determine if player needs help
- If yes—beckon bench personnel immediately
- Don't render firstaid
- Don't discuss cause of injury
- Don't move player
- Medical/team personnel decide when to move
- Communicate with partner as to "unconscious"
- Blood—or not? Review rule
- Continue to supervise all players/both benches

Official Code of Ethics: Recognize

- The "unreasonably hazardous" situation
- The "emergency condition"

After the Game: Mechanics: Approve and Remove

- Remove lanyard
- Locate partner(s)
- Leave together
- Do not seek out coaches or anyone
- Do not be detained for conversation
- "Lock the door"
- Take good notes

The Morning After: Post-Post-Game Mechanics

- Report only to Board/Assigner
 - No public statements to media
 - Disqualification/Termination of Game/Technical Foul
- Reporting: Follow State Board No. 1 Procedures