

# Points of Emphasis

(By Peter Webb, IAABO Past President, Bd. III ME)

When reviewing rules, we frequently pay less attention to Points of Emphasis. They are not addressed in a comprehensive manner because the end result is not a “Rule Change.” As these points are normally circulated by a brief list, please find a complete explanation of the 2003–04 “Points of Emphasis” for your perusal. It just may clear up some misunderstandings.

## 1. SPORTING BEHAVIOR—TAUNTING/SELF-PROMOTION

- Players are increasingly directing their celebratory actions toward opponents
- These actions should be interpreted as taunting and baiting and penalized accordingly
- Players “playing to the crowd” are a concern
- Bringing attention to individual accomplishments is a concern
- While many actions are not specifically illegal by rule, extreme behaviors could and should be considered taunting and baiting of the opponents
- At the pregame meeting, the Referee requests that appropriate sportsmanship be demonstrated by all and the head coaches and captains agree to it.

## 2. FREE THROW ADMINISTRATION

### A. Lane space Requirements

- 4 defensive and 2 offensive players maximum
- Defense must be in the first spaces
- Other spaces may be alternated, if desired
- Fourth spaces must be vacant
- All officials responsible for proper alignment
- Lead official should check alignment before bouncing ball to the free thrower
- Infractions penalized according to 9.1.9 Penalty

### B. Simultaneous Violation

- Offense erroneously permitted to occupy the first two lane spaces and the defense is erroneously permitted to occupy the second two lane spaces
- Offense has 3 players in marked spaces and a defensive player is in the fourth spot
- Casebook play 9.1.2B

### C. Disconcertion

- Disconcerting the free throw shooter is a violation (9–1–5)
- Officials should pay particular attention to situations in which the free throw will become dead (first of two or first of three)
- Defensive players frequently employ tactics which serve no other purpose than to disconcert the shooter (instructing players to box out, waving arms, “I’ve got the shooter,” “Who’s your man?” etc.)

## 3. TIMEOUT ADMINISTRATION

- Several concerns have arisen regarding timeouts requested by the head coach during a live ball
- Officials should verify that it is indeed the head coach requesting the timeout and that the ball is in possession of the requesting team
- Just because a timeout has been requested, doesn’t guarantee it will be granted
- Officials have other responsibilities that may require their immediate attention
- If the ball is loose or is not “clearly” in team control, the re-

quest should not be granted

- Teams should remain in the “bench area” (defined in 1–13–3) during 60- and 30-second timeouts and players should remain standing during 30-second timeouts

## 4. SUBSTITUTING—PLAYER DISQUALIFICATION

- Coaches, officials and table officials should be mindful of the following:
  1. The official should first notify the head coach and then the player of the disqualification and then start the 30-second interval
  2. This is NOT a timeout period, it is for making a required substitution
  3. No timeouts may be granted to either team during this 30-second interval
  4. When the required substitute has reported to the table, the 30-second interval has ended and play shall resume immediately
  5. If the four players remaining in the game head toward the bench for instruction, they are to remain on the playing court
  6. Only the head coach is permitted to be standing during this interval
  7. If a substitute from the nonoffending team or a substitute from the offending team (other than the disqualified player’s substitute) reports to the scorer during the wait for the required substitute, they may enter the game
  8. If the head coach fails to make the substitution by the end of the 30 seconds, a direct technical foul is assessed

## 5. END-OF-GAME SITUATIONS/INTENTIONAL FOULS

- Officials must be aware of game situations in the closing moments of a contest
- Communications between officials on last second shots must take place
- Game ending procedures must be reviewed and discussed in pregame conferences
- When a player fouls an opponent and is clearly not playing the ball, an intentional foul must be called

## 6. END OF FIRST HALF (109a)

- Officials should assemble in an area approximately halfway between the center circle and the sideline opposite the table and remain there until teams and coaches have exited

## 7. DISQUALIFIED PLAYER NOTIFICATION (118)

- When a player fouls out, a partner of the calling official notifies the coach, the player and then signals to start the 30-second timer

## 8. “BIRD DOG” SIGNAL SHOULD BE USED FOR CLARIFICATION

- The “bird dog” signal may be used for clarification

## 9. LEAD’S BALLSIDE COVERAGE—CREW OF TWO (204)

- Lead should only move ballside, when the majority of players are on Trail’s side, or post play dictates
- Lead’s primary on-ball coverage is the area between the arc and the closest lane line, below the free throw line extended

## 10. PRIMARY COURT COVERAGE—CREW OF THREE

- The “dual” area has been eliminated
- The area inside the arc, below the free throw line extended becomes primary area for the Lead

## 11. LEAD INITIATES ROTATION—CREW OF THREE (314a)

- Clarified that the Lead should wait until all three officials are clearly in the frontcourt to rotate

## 12. NO LONG SWITCH ELIMINATED—CREW OF THREE (343)

- The official who calls the foul will go opposite of the table