

Midseason Review

These midseason notes are the result of questions and observations compiled during the first few weeks of the season. They have been observed by or shared with the IAABO office or the Coordinator of Interpreters. The questions and observations have come from many sections of the country, both within and outside of the IAABO community. Specific entries may not apply to each reader, but the notes can positively serve as reminders to all.

COMMENTS

- Officials, keep in contact with your board's interpreter. Keep him/her informed.
- Officials, take part in the IAABO website POW and MOW. An effort is being made to keep this fresh approximately every 12 days.
- Interpreters, share what crosses your desk with the IAABO office and/or the Coordinator of Interpreters. This will potentially be valuable communication to all boards and officials.
- Demonstrate professional pride in your officiating
- Display a positive attitude toward players and coaches
- Appear interested in your work and the game
- Have compassion for all involved, demonstrate patience
- Expect all to abide by the rules and enforce the rules
- Don't lecture or threaten
- Don't talk too much—"loose lips sink ships"

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

Are the following areas of the rules properly managed:

- Closely Guarded—when and where to apply the rule?
- Timeout—does a player have control of the ball; are you certain that the head coach requested the timeout?
- Players leaving the court—caring about it and penalizing as per rule?
- Unsportsmanlike conduct—"Flopping" and Lack of Self Discipline (verbal and unsuitable actions). Enforce these actions as expected by rule?

CONTACT

There is some legal contact as described by rule 4.27, however, it must be Incidental Contact. Incidental contact is not incidental simply because the contact is slight, etc. Incidental contact may be slight or severe. Simply stated, the rule is based on the question/observation—how does the contact impact on the players involved? If so, it demands a ruling accompanied by a whistle. An example is A-1, has stopped her/his dribble and B-1 moves in aggressively, knowing that A-1 is now confined to a pivot foot, B-1 crowds and bumps A-1.

Panicking from the pressure applied (bumping), A-1 illegally moves the pivot foot, loses the ball or throws a poor pass which is then intercepted. This contact is not incidental in nature, it is a foul and should be ruled as such. All too frequently this situation is ruled traveling or becomes a turnover by team A.

Bumping the dribbler or bumping the player who has ended a dribble is a foul. As a stationary player in control of the ball is confined to a pivot foot, or in certain instances has no pivot foot, the bumping of said player is a foul. Similarly, the bumping of a "cutter," is also a foul. The free official must observe offball coverage in their primary coverage area and eliminate "ball watching." Be mindful of the dribbler who pushes off. All of these contact situations must be monitored closely and ruled a foul. A physically aggressive team combined with an officiating crew that disregards such contact benefits the physical team who gains a distinct advantage.

TRAVELING

Before ruling on the use of a pivot foot, the official MUST identify which foot is the pivot foot (left, right foot, or no pivot foot at all—don't lose track of it!). To rule incorrectly on the use of a pivot foot, i.e., legal action penalized or illegal action not penalized, is a major concern. An unjustifiable change or retention of possession places teams at a tremendous disadvantage. Don't guess monitor the entire play.

Jump stop; the feet must contact the floor simultaneously (don't split hairs, if you cannot rule with a degree of certainty pass on the call) not by one foot then by the other.

PLAYER/COACH BEHAVIOR

Officials MUST penalize as per the rules. An official has no right to apply her/his personal "Threshold" to a situation. It doesn't matter if

the behavior bothers the official or not. The rules cite behaviors which are not to be condoned. One official must not set the behavior aside and another official penalize that same type of behavior. The behavior is either acceptable by rule or unacceptable by rule. Every occurrence is different, and there can be gray areas, but any time a player or coach charges an official, appropriate action must be imposed.

Interpreters/Supervisors should not be hearing from schools "that is the first time it's been called that way" or "where is the consistency?"

Toss

- By, rule the toss must be higher than either player can jump.
- The ball is often contacted on its way up—call the violation.
- Observers witness more poor tosses than satisfactory tosses.
- Seldom is there a request for a new toss by either the free official or official administering the toss?

CARE!—IT MATTERS!

- Interval of time allotted for replacement of player directed to leave the game due to disqualification, injury, blood issue, etc.
- This is not a timeout.
- The players must remain standing.
- Only the Head Coach and players may be standing.
- All bench personnel must remain seated.

OTHER

- If spectator issues arise, always process the concern through the Site Administrator.
- Officials should not speak to spectators directly.
- Indirect Technical Fouls are NEVER added to the Team foul totals.
- Player appearance, jerseys are to be tucked inside of pants and the pants worn above the hips. As soon as a single player is required to leave the game, for wearing a uniform improperly, officials will no longer have to rule on this issue as the players will recognize the rule is being enforced.
- Know where the ball is when preparing to rule that a 3-second violation has occurred. Is the ball in flight on a try for goal?

● Horn, by rule, shall be sounded to admit substitutes not simply the on-the-court official. Honor our table partners and their duties. We ask their cooperation; be certain that the substitute is ready; do not delay the game to admit a substitute.

MECHANICS AND SIGNALS

- Realize that many of the mechanics and signals are required by rule. They are not simply manual requirements/guidelines.
- Court and situation awareness is of importance at all times (stoppage of play as a result of injury, contact lens, etc.).
- Accuracy of counts (10 sec., 5 sec., etc.) care about it and the manner by which you count.
- Excess verbiage—“on the arm”; “on the floor”; “stay here”; “going that way”; “off white, blue”; “with a reach”; “fouls on;” “two shots ladies”; “with a hold”; etc.
- Not switching on all fouls (Crew of Two); bouncing the ball across the basketline (Crew of Two or Three)—neither should occur, convenience of the officials is not a factor to be taken into consideration.
- Get to the reporting area when reporting information to the table. Don’t walk and talk.
- Do not rush starting timeouts, check to be sure the players are nearing the bench area.

- Don’t turn your back on players (violation rulings; in transition from Trail to Lead; when visual freeze is required; etc.).
- Remain and Read (Manual page 6) prior to releasing for transition from Trail to Lead or Trail and Center to Lead and Center. Trail (Center) step toward the basket on any try for goal and final free throw.
- Stop the clock signal must occur every time the whistle is sounded for a foul, violation, timeout and jump ball.
- When making a foul ruling, the ruling on a foul call, the ruling official while at the site of the foul must inform a partner of who the free thrower will be. It is vital to have the right free thrower.
- Prior to administering throw-ins to start a quarter, after a timeout, unusual delay, when there has been confusion, etc., the official should sound the whistle, indicate the direction and verbalize the color of the throw-in team.
- The Lead official should not be positioned along the free throw lane line during free throws.
- Rebound coverage by the Lead, beyond the basket line must be cautioned. Often a “straightlined” issue exists. Don’t guess! Trust your partner.
- Shoes are to be all black and shined.
- Return to the court in sufficient time prior to the start of the second half.