



## NHSOA Basketball Newsletter

### January 2018

Basketball season has reached the halfway point of the 2017-2018 year. It's an interesting time of year for everyone involved in the high school basketball experience: coaches, players, and officials.

Coaches and players are at the point in the season where reality has really begun to set in. At the beginning of the season, every team has aspirations of holiday tournament, conference tournament, and state tournament championships. As January begins to wind down, coaches and players seem to be riding a wave of enthusiasm if they're having a lot of success, while on the flip side, teams that are struggling may be experiencing the frustration of a long season.

Officials are also at a point in the season where the long nights on the road away from families are beginning to wear on them. Our patience may not be what it was on the opening night of the season when we were fresh and eager to get out on the road. At this point in the season, we've seen a number of plays and situations, and sometimes our focus is not what it should be. We must continue to view video of ourselves on HUDL, get in our rules and case books, and discuss plays and situations with each other.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – 2017-2018 Rule Changes & Points of Emphasis

#### Rule Changes for 2017-2018:

1. 1-13-2
  - a. The coaching box shall be outlined outside of the court on which the scorer's and timer's table and team benches are located. The area shall be bounded by a line drawn **28 feet** from the end line toward the division line.

Comments: The coaching box started at 6 feet in 1989-1990, expanded to 14 feet in 2011-2012, and is now at 28 feet. Please remind coaches that as they gain more and more room to coach their teams that we need them to adhere to the 28 foot box and to remain completely off the playing floor to allow officials to work.

2. 2-9-1
  - a. The official shall verbally inform the offender, then with finger(s) of **two hands**, indicate to the scorer the number of the offender and the number of the free throws.

Comments: With two-hand reporting, the right hand is used for the tens and the left hand is used for the ones. Single digit numbers should be reported with the left hand. If the number 32 is being reported to the table, the official shall verbalize "thirty-two." (not "three, two")

3. 4-48

- a. A warning to a head coach/bench personnel for misconduct is an administrative procedure by an official, which is recorded in the scorebook by the scorer and reported to the head coach.

Comments: The new warning can be used to help diffuse a potential larger problem. If an offense is judged to be major, a warning is not required prior to calling a technical foul.

Major Editorial Changes for 2017-2018:

1. 4-4-7b

- a. A ball is at the disposal of the thrower or free thrower after it is bounced to him/her.

Points of Emphasis for 2017-2018:

1. Head Covering Worn for Medical/Religious Reason
2. Team Control on Throw-in
3. Intentional Fouls
4. Guarding

\*\*\*See pages 69 and 70 of the Rules Book for further information on these Points of Emphasis.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter – Pre-Game/Post-Game**

One of the goals of the NHSOA is to help younger officials get their start and begin on a solid path. Veteran officials, please take the opportunity to bring a beginning official with you to work a game or to sit in on your pre-game and post-game. Giving younger officials a good example of a solid pre-game will help them feel more comfortable participating in and eventually conducting their own pre-game.

Prior to the beginning of all games, officials should conduct a pre-game. This can and will eliminate problems or circumstances that may arise in the game. A solid pre-game sets the tone for how a crew will communicate over the course of the game. Communication prior to and during the game is something that is completely controllable by the crew.

There is a pre-game sheet on the NHSOA and NSAA website that can be downloaded for you and your crew.

Conducting a post-game is also very important. It is a perfect time to evaluate the job you and your crew members did. Crews can use this time to breakdown situations that arose during the game. There may need to be discussion on a rule application or situation that occurred that you rarely see.

There will be times that we make mistakes on the court; it goes with the job we are asked to do. By mentally preparing yourself, though, with pre- and post-games, we can help to eliminate a lot of the mistakes that are made. We should all strive to become better officials, and by having dialogue with officials each night, you will improve yourself and your officiating abilities.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – Observers' Notes

#### Todd Yorges

Todd shared with us some of the common items that he has been talking with officials about over the first few months of the year. Below are those items he seems to be reviewing on a consistent basis:

\*\*\*Be sure to stay in your Primary Coverage Area, which can be found on page 74 of the Officials Manual. Staying in your PCA shows trust in your partner. Maintain eye discipline and know what you should or should not be looking for.

\*\*\*Make sure that the Trail is starting at the 28-foot line as their base position. You can find that 28-foot mark by finding the top of the coaching box.

\*\*\*When a shot goes up, be sure that the Trail and Center officials are stepping down towards the baseline to help with rebounding action.

\*\*\*When reporting a foul, get to the foul reporting area. That can be found on page 83 of the Officials Manual. Sometimes we get lazy at this; then we end up in the Trail position right in front of the table anyway.

\*\*\*Give a preliminary signal at the point of the foul prior to reporting the foul to the table.

#### Larry Bornschlegl

Larry shared the following couple of items that he has observed both this year and in past years:

\*\*\*Officials moving from the trail to lead position, especially in a quick transition, MUST be watching the action over their shoulder. Avoid back pedaling, but watch the play. Quite frequently I see the new lead fail to see contact or an out of bounds play as their head is pointed to the baseline.

\*\*\*Moving again from Trail to Lead, the new trail cuts the corner of the court and moves to a position right by the lane. I encourage these officials to square corners and stay wide of the action in the lane. Often these officials get too close to the action and get blocked out. Stay wide and deep in the lead position.....unless that play is coming hard at you; then take it head on.

#### Kelly Classen

Kelly shared the following thoughts:

\*\*\*Work hard every time you step on the floor. Whether you are working a girls game or a boys game, a Class A or a Class D2 game, it doesn't matter. Our student-athletes and coaches deserve your best effort every time out.

\*\*\*Communicate with coaches and players in a professional manner. Officials must maintain their composure and their emotions at all times.

\*\*\*Communicate with the scorer's table and/or the official book every chance that you have. Be sure that all of the information on the board is correct; score, time, and fouls. Preventative officiating is a must.

\*\*\*Be good dead ball officials. You should continue to officiate after the whistle is blown. Many of the unsporting situations that we encounter in a game take place during dead ball times.

\*\*\*Peek at the clock before every throw in and every free throw attempt. Know if the clock is started or stopped correctly. Keeping the clock at the forefront of your mind will help you correct tough timing situations when they occur.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – Using HUDL**

NSAA basketball officials who are members of the NHSOA have access to HUDL to review game film throughout the season. This valuable tool should be utilized as a means of self-improvement.

Many times, the idea of viewing an entire game film is overwhelming. Most of the officials in our state have careers, families, and other recreational activities they enjoy doing. Sitting down to watch 25 to 35 minutes of a game film doesn't seem realistic.

Here are some tips on how you could potentially utilize HUDL without watching entire game films:

\*\*\*Make note in your mind of 2 to 3 plays you encounter over the course of a game that you'd like to watch on film. Try to get a time in the game when they occur so you know where to jump to in the game.

\*\*\*Talk with your crew in the post-game about potential plays that they feel they would want to take a look at. If each official has 2 to 3 plays they point out, you could find yourself 6 to 9 plays that you watch.

\*\*\*Breakdown those 6 to 9 plays on your own. Watch them 2 to 3 times each, looking through the entire play to see if you called the correct foul or violation, or if you handled a situation appropriately.

\*\*\*After watching the plays on your own, discuss the plays with your crew through a phone call, text message, or email. Get their thoughts on the play. If you have differing opinions on the play, discuss how you reached your conclusion using rule book verbiage.

\*\*\*If after discussing those plays with your crew, you still don't reach agreement, involve other officials in the conversation.

This simple process of viewing video can really increase your knowledge of rules and how you apply them to situations. It also increases the number of officials who are continually talking about situations and plays, which will only help the officials in Nebraska continue to improve on a play-by-play, game-by-game, and night-by-night basis.

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Scott Johnson

**Committee Members:**

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Michael Namuth	Brian O'Neal	Jeff Schwartz	Corey Uldrich
	Greg Warneke	Joe Wells	

**NSAA Observers:** If you have questions or concerns the observers are there to help. Please use these emails wisely and do not give them out to anyone. The observers are being kind enough to share any knowledge they have. Thanks!

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