

December 2011

Pregame

Welcome to the first edition of the winter season to "... on the Maples." This year's newsletter, and a great idea I might add, will be written by yours truly, Rich Rethwisch. That might be the bad idea ruining an otherwise good idea. The point of the newsletter is for information, so to introduce myself to those of you unfamiliar with me and give you your first big hit of information, I promise to stymie the babbling and simply say, I just retired from officiating after 32 years. I look forward to sharing any information that will better each and every one of you, and remember, any questions at any time feel free to call me at 4x2-649-0408 or [email me](#).

The Tip

My favorite tip concerning officiating basketball depends on the day. I will try to relay one of these a month that might help you along the officiating path. This month, communication seems to be in the back of my mind. Some of you might think I mean with your officiating partners, or your wife (spouse), significant other, etc., but this communication tip involves communicating with coaches. As most of you know, I have become an observer for the NSAA, and feel very blessed to be able to stay close to what I love. I have observed officials before at summer camps when Bill Lewis was NSAA supervisor and God bless his soul he was very good at what he did, and I was blessed to learn from him. What he shared as an evaluator was hard to beat concerning this one topic – "be able to talk with coaches in heated moments, not talk at." That tip alone, changed my outlook on why I was officiating. We are helpers, guiders, observers, and finally decision makers, but the ability to show empathy and passion during a rough part of a game, might separate many from the difference of being good or being great. Be able to let coaches give opinions – you have the "stop" sign to use when you think it is too much - work to understand they also have a job to do. Establish confidence in yourself to allow coaches to disagree with you in a positive manner and be able to communicate opinions without hostility, disinterest, or negative facial expressions. I said to coaches before games, "You can talk with me anytime we have a chance, just choose to not yell AT me." It seemed to work.

1st Quarter

The quarters of the newsletter will be used to cover any questions you have asked regarding situations. I believe we can come up with four different situations a month to discuss. The first one comes from Kelly Classen from Spencer, NHSSOA president, board member, shoe clerk, and night custodian. A1 is inbounding the ball directly under their basket and fires a pass to A2 at the top of the key. The ball deflects off A2's fingers into the backcourt where it is recovered by A3. Is this over and back due to the new team possession rule on inbounds plays? The answer: No, it is not. Both team and player possession must be established for over and back to occur on a throw-in.

2nd Quarter

Our second quarter question comes from Randy Svehla from Clarkson. Randy and his crew had two incidents happen and wanted to affirm their decisions. #1 – problem occurred with the book which resulted in a technical foul on one of the teams. #2 – we had a problem with an individual wanting to hang on the rim and show us his jumping ability resulting in a technical foul to start the game. Does the head

coach get to enjoy the game from the bench in both cases? #1 – The coach does not lose his ability to stand as this is an administrative technical foul. #2 – The coach DOES lose his ability to stand and must sit this contest with an indirect technical foul charged to the coach.

3rd Quarter

Greg Maschman from Lincoln brings us our third quarter discussion. Greg wants to know if pre-wrap can be any color and used as a head band if rolled? I went deep into the library for this one, both head and book. The head did not take long, but trying to find something in the case or rule book seemed a bit vague. Feel free to correct me if I am wrong, but pre-wrap is listed like any other head band material, so must be treated as such in color and width. I will take any arguments and might be convinced otherwise.

4th Quarter

Our fourth quarter extravaganza comes from your author. Team A is awarded an alternating-possession throw-in. A1's throw-in pass is illegally kicked by B2. Obviously, we know A1 gets another throw-in, but what I want to know, who gets the possession arrow? The answer can be found at the end of "overtime."

Overtime

This part of the newsletter will give time to discussion of what the evaluators are seeing and what they would like continued or corrected. I have evaluated quite a few officials and my perceptions are mechanics need work. I am seeing lots of angles, few of them straight. Think about doing some mirror work to sharpen your look and as I have said on some of my evaluations, "little" things lead to "big" things in officiating.

A perception I have is I truly believe high school is working hard to have the L lay off calls on C's side of the paint as much as possible. Over the years, it seemed college mechanics really wanted the L to lay off and high school seemed to just be "whatever." So, with the evaluating I have done and listening to other evaluators, it would seem we need to allow C first shot at something in the paint, but on the C's side. What I am hearing is it might be a good mechanic to help keep our eyes in our area even more.

Here is your answer to the 4th quarter extravaganza. Team A is awarded a throw-in because of the illegal kick by B. Team A also gets to KEEP the arrow as possession was not attained during the previous throw-in. Be aware of your operator on this one – we all know they change it a little quick at times and this is a play that happens more than we think.

Evaluator Jeff Wolf from Kearney wanted to make sure of three things: 1) Honor your contracts. If the NSAA is there to evaluate you, you might want to be present. 2) Only one technical per team per game for anything having to do with the scorebook. 3) Is everyone clear on when there is a possibility of a correctable error? Any of those can be used as fodder for next month's newsletter.

Sincere thanks for your emails and calls. There are always weird plays and it happens to all officials, no matter the years of experience, so please feel free to share with us, so we can share with our readers. Call what you see and see what you call and until next month, see you "on the Maples."