



2014, Basketball Newsletter: Issue 2, January

Basketball Newsletter on the Daily Grind

“Communication Between Basketball Officials and Coaches”

It is recognized that both coaches and officials play an integral part in the development of the game and its players. The game is about the players. Coaches and officials are expected to be role models to the players. It is understood that basketball is a competitive environment and that people will have emotional reactions. However, there is an expectation that all participants model acceptable behavior during competition. There is concern with the effect inappropriate responses, reactions, and communications have on the game and its players.

1st Quarter:

Communication between coaches and officials and officials and coaches should be done in a respectful and sincere manner.

- *Coaches and officials are reminded that it is both what you say and how you say it that delivers a message.

- *Be mindful of the tone you are using to communicate with each other.

- *Communication is not only the words you speak, but includes body language and gestures. There is no reason to use hand gestures when talking to a coach or to even show what happened, just explain yourself.

- *If you miss a call and the coach questions you do not be afraid to admit it. Coach I probably missed it, but at my angle I was not going to guess. Do not think you get every call right.

Communication should not be confrontational or on a personal level. Communication should be done in a respectful and professional manner.

- *Coaches and officials should not let their emotions get the best of them.

- *It is not acceptable for coaches or officials to be yelling across the court at each other.

- *Treat each other as professionals and adults.

- *Communicate in the manner that you want to be communicated to. If you are a coach and your first communication of the game is “Ref! That’s a travel!” or you are an official and your first communication is “Coach! That’s enough!” we are not communicating in an effective manner.

- *It is a good practice for the officials to introduce themselves to the coaches before the game. Both coaches and officials should look to create a positive working rapport.

2nd Quarter:

Coaches’ communication to officials should be done in order to gain information and for coaching purposes, not to gain an edge on the opponent or influence the official in future calls.

*Communication should be for clarification so that the coach can help his/her team improve or maximize their performance.

*Statements are not appropriate communication, especially when directive like “You must...” or “Call the...”.

*Both officials and coaches should understand that communication is to exchange information in a respectful and meaningful way but that does not/nor should it be expected to always result in a common acceptance.

3rd Quarter:

Communication should not delay the game.

*Officials should answer appropriate questions in a brief and polite manner.

*Officials should work at being both efficient and effective in their communications.

*Coaches should respect that after making their point and getting the official’s perspective that it may be a case of “agree to disagree” and move on.

*Communication should deal with the present not the past or future.

4th Quarter:

REMINDERS:

40 Point Rule Clarifications:

Clarification on the NSAA 40-Point Running Clock Rule: If the 40-point running clock is in effect and a foul occurs that would send a player to the free throw line as the clock hits 0:00.0 to end the game, treat it as you would a normal game. Allow the free throws to be shot just as you would at the end of any quarter or game by either team. Game simply over after the free throws are shot.

Basketball Points of Emphasis Reminder:

When contact occurs that affects the rhythm, speed, quickness and balance of the player, illegal contact has occurred. When illegal contact occurs, **fouls must be called**. Officials must not refrain from calling these type of actions that create an advantage for the opponent. Illegal contact must be called regardless of time and score.

From The NHSOA Director:

I hope the season is going well for everyone. Hard to believe next week is conference tournament time. For those NHSOA members that do not have their patch sewn on the left sleeve please get them on. Having the patch on lets the coaches, Ad's and NSAA observers know you are a member. If you need more patches e-mail Jennifer Blachford at the NSAA office jblachford@nsaahome.org

Cliff Keen and the NHSOA are working together to have a hospitality room for officials at the state basketball tournament. I will send out a mass email when a decision is made. Please contact me with your feelings about having a hospitality room. We will also be handing out plaques to NHSOA members, who have been a registered official for 25 years or more years at the state tournaments, more information on these award presentations will be sent out at a later date.

Thank You!

Kelly Classen
NHSOA Director

Food for Thought from our Observers:

On the Maples

Volume 3, No. 1 – Jan. 2014 Rich Rethwisch, NSAA Evaluator

The basketball seasons fly by and this year is no different. It is the middle of January and as you know it is the time of year we all look forward to. Conference tournaments are beginning and soon it peaks with sub-district, district, and state competitions. What have you done to prepare for this?

I was recently asked to comment on the “new” hand-checking rule and how it has affected the high school game. Some of my comments included watching early college contests on television as well as my role as a parent and seeing many foul-fests early in the season. I also commented watching early-season high school contests as a supervisor and a parent and my perceptions are the same. Many fouls early in the season and now most have settled into a routine and games are becoming more of exactly what they should be; games.

An evaluator from a different part of the state felt these fouls were being called early, but now officials are reverting back to allowing more hand checking. Maybe this will help in your determination on the floor; anything but a “hot stove” hand-check should be called. Our goal is to be uniform across the state.

Some early observations this season have brought me information on the following points: slapping of the backboard, block-charge, and lanyards.

The rulebook states unless it is intentional, there is no penalty for slapping the backboard. It further states no basket interference may be called if the backboard is slapped and the ball does not enter the basket. Simply assess a technical foul **only** if it is intentional, otherwise play continues, and please, know the intent of the player.

Block-charges continue to be somewhat problematic. As an evaluator, information regarding judgment is hard to discuss. But, block-charges are being missed too many times in my area of evaluating. Personally, I believe they cannot go either way and for us as officials there is only one way and that is the correct way. Some assistance for you is simply ask yourself as you are making the decision, who is causing this problem? My bets are this will help in your decision-making.

And finally, do we need to walk onto a high school basketball floor with our lanyards hanging from the side of our pants? I have some trouble wondering why we just do not have it around our neck with the whistle under our shirt or jacket ready to be used when needed? It is not an NSAA directive, but simply an observation.

We are fortunate to have some very good officials in our state. I see a tremendous amount of improvement in the area of allowing players to decide situations before we whistle and communication improvement. A reminder: when you have a tough call and it seems everyone in the gym sees it differently than you please do not be afraid to call in one or both of your partners. Take ten seconds to ask, “Do you have more information?” You would be amazed how that act alone “soothes” the masses.

Thank you for allowing me to share thoughts on a great sport and hope your year is what you want it to be. I would think fun should be the first word to come to mind. And as always, we will see you “on the maples.”

From NSAA Evaluator Larry Bornschlegl:

-My biggest emphasis this year is trying to keep the game from being so physical. A point of emphasis for the NSAA this year is, "When contact occurs that affects rhythm, speed, quickness and balance, illegal contact has occurred...make those calls." I saw guys early in the year calling the hand checking, pushing, and forearms in the paint, etc. Lately I see many people reverting back to a more physical game. My opinion is that if we have to call 45-50 fouls a game to clean it up, let's do it. Fans will not like that and neither will coaches, but I think we need to continue making the calls.

-Trail officials are sometimes working too high. Move down on all attempts so that rebounding activity can be closely observed. Officiating rebounding is critical in this position; without it we might as

well go back to a 2-man crew. As trail, on the 1st of 2 free throws position should be close to the scorer's bench and the 28' mark to control substitutes; not at center court or in the backcourt. On the second attempt, move down to closely observe the rebounding.

-Lead- avoid crowding the lane area. Stay wider of the action so that you can see the whole play, unless...the play is coming right at you; then kiss that paint!

The bottom line is work hard; even in the 40-point games. Keep mechanics and signals sharp and clean. HAVE FUN AND ENJOY EVERY GAME because your officiating career won't last forever!

A final comment:

Both officials and coaches should strive for quality communication that supports the development of the game and the players.

Both officials and coaches are expected to be effective, efficient, and respectful in their communications. Be sharp for post-season as it is around the corner and most importantly enjoy the game. Thank you for all your effort and time.

The NHSOA would like to thank you for taking your time to read through our quarterly newsletter. Listed below are the basketball committee members if you have any questions please contact someone from your district. If you are a beginning official and want advice on how to get games or have questions the basketball committee members will be a great resource for you.

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