

## November 2014 Newsletter

### “Physical or Physicality”

Welcome back basketball officials! It's hard to believe that we will be back on the field. The NHSOA welcomes you back for another great year of officiating Nebraska High School Basketball! The NHSOA is in its second season with basketball and things are going very smoothly. We want to keep everyone informed of events, points of emphasis, rule changes, and just play in general. We will continue to send out a quarterly newsletter to keep on top of items that are happening and being observed across the state.

The NHSOA would like to thank all of the officials that attended one of the sponsored NHSOA/NSAA basketball clinics. We once again had a great turnout at each of the 5 clinics that were held across the state as we were close to 150 officials. If you are not a member you can become one by completing the NHSOA membership application form that was included in your basketball packet from the NSAA. We have a few items that we need to clarify for you members. Please be sure to attach your NHSOA patch on the left shirtsleeve approximately an inch above the hem on a short sleeve shirt.

Also please utilize the Cliff Keen National Alliance Program. The NHSOA and NSAA have signed a contract with them to offer wholesale pricing on officiating apparel to the members of the association. Please log on to [www.nhsoahome.org](http://www.nhsoahome.org) to obtain the account number for Cliff Keen. Last but not least go out and have a great season and feel free to contact any of the NHSOA basketball committee members if you have a scenario or just a weird situation that you feel should go into next month newsletter that everyone can learn from.

### 1st Quarter

Officials please take a chance to help a younger official out this year. One goal of the NHSOA is to help younger officials get started and get down the right path. Do not be afraid to take a beginner to a game with you so they can sit in on your pre-game, watch you work, and sit in on a post-game. We challenge you to help others get better.

Please make sure that your crew goes through a pre-game. This can and will eliminate problems or circumstances that may arise in the game. The pre-game is especially important before the first game of the season since everyone involved, your crew, coaches and the teams you are officiating, are all participating in something that they haven't done in a while. Communication amongst your crew is a must along with coaches, players and site personnel. There is a pre-game sheet on the NHSOA and NSAA website that can be downloaded for you and your crew. Professionalism is needed from the time you walk on the court until the time you leave after the clock has expired. The biggest challenge officials have is to maintain focus for the entire game. If needed, during timeouts get together and talk (make sure it is something big enough at the time).

Conducting a post-game is also very important. It is a perfect time to evaluate yourself and your crewmembers. For example crews can breakdown situations that arose during the game. Face it, we will make some mistakes on the court, but by mentally preparing yourself with a pre and post-game we can eliminate a lot of mistakes. We all want to become better officials, and by challenging yourself each night you work to try to improve on one part of your game you can accomplish this goal!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

Rules Changes for the 2014-15 Year:

1. 3-5-3
  - a. Arm sleeves, knee sleeves, lower leg sleeves, and tights are permissible.
    - i. Anything worn on the arm and/or leg is a sleeve, except a knee brace, and shall meet the color restrictions.
    - ii. The sleeves/tights shall be black, white beige, or the predominant color of the uniform and the same color sleeves/tights shall be worn by teammates.
    - iii. All sleeves/tights shall be the same solid color.
    - iv. Meet the logo requirements in 3-6.
    - v. Note: In general, a brace is defined as anything that contains hinges and/or straps or an opening over the kneecap.

2. 4-19-3d
  - i. Intentional fouls include but are not limited to: Excessive contact with an opponent while the ball is live or until an airborne shooter returns to the floor.
3. 9-1-4g
  - i. A player occupying a marked lane space...may enter the lane on the release of the ball by the free throw shooter.
4. **10-6-12 NEW**
  - i. **The following act constitute a foul when committed against a ball handler/dribbler:**
    - a. **Placing two hands on a player. Automatic FOUL**
    - b. **Placing an extended arm bar on the player.**
    - c. **Placing and keeping a hand on the player.**
    - d. **Contacting the player more than once with the same hand or alternating hands.**

### **\*\*\*Reminders**

- Open Book test is due on November 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Rules' meeting closes November 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Closed book test will run from December 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.
- Post-season applications are due by December 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **2014-15 Point of Emphasis (Page 68 of rule book)**

1. Announcer Responsibilities
2. Correctable Errors
3. Frontcourt and Backcourt Status
4. Team Control on Throw-ins.

### **Second Half**

#### **Lets hear from a couple observers in the state.**

The round ball season isn't too far off and I'm looking forward to it. Needless to say, we will be looking at hand checking and use of hands, which is one of the points of emphasis. Play in the paint and defensive/offensive play in the post. Two hands by the defensive person is an automatic call as is an arm bar in the back of the offensive player. However, see the whole play and penalize that offensive man from backing in. We got to keep it from getting too **physical**.

It is important we are all on the same page and that starts with a good pre-game.

As a lead official try to avoid crowding the lane, move, stay wide, focus on bodies and not the rim. DON'T BE A BALL WATCHER in other words.

As a center have awareness of Primary Area of Coverage. Make sure you stay with your shooters all the way to the floor. If a body goes down lets make sure we can explain to a coach how he/she got there. Move for good angles. Close down on shots

Train-PAC, focus on rebounding, close down on shots. Avoid releasing too soon.

Mechanics, mechanics, mechanics... and floor communication is critical. Good, sharp signals, eye contact, avoid rushing at the point of a foul call, etc.

Larry Borschlegl

After perusing and thinking about the rules changes and emphasis, my perception would be we have a clearer way to officiate the ball handler and defender part of our game. I think most of you heard this summer, a defensive player may use a hand to "touch," but it must be like touching a hot stove. Two hands, an arm bar, and other obvious infractions must be whistled.

Personally, I am glad to see players lined up for free throws may cross the lane line on the release. A few years ago the federation eliminated the lower box, which was also a good decision to assist cleaner rebound action. This will assist even more.

I am going to wait and hear from the main office to comment on announcers. I would certainly hope that would not be something we police.

Be able to understand what a correctable error is. Google "high school basketball points of emphasis" and there is an excellent diagram when you are able to correct or it is too late. Please know and memorize the five circumstances.

Emphasis is also noted on frontcourt and backcourt status. Please remember, any ball in-bounded, simply pretend the division line does not exist. There is NEVER any over and back call on an in-bounds pass. When an airborne player gains possession during a throw-in, jump ball, or while on defense, they are considered to have NO status in relation to front or backcourt. The location where they land determines the location of both player and ball.

Hope this gives you some preseason thought as you start the year. Please feel free to call anytime as I enjoy bantering the difficult situations or rules application. It certainly makes us all that much better. Most importantly, please enjoy your season - they go way too fast!

Rich Rethwisch  
NSAA observer