

Connecticut State Tournament

March 18 & 19, 2011

Mohegan Sun Arena (8 games)

First, an acknowledgement that there were very obviously, very talented and capable officials within the tournament staff.

Secondly, a listing of areas/items needing attention/correction/improvement follows.

Mechanics

“Hit & Run” – foul rulings; ball goes out-of-bounds/violation; traveling rulings – why hurry?

At the site of the foul or violation – not stationary and thorough with required informational signaling

Lead official – watching ball beyond PCA; often leaving the free throw lane uncovered

Lead official in “A” position turning head toward sideline – not trusting partner; ignoring play in his/her PCA

Lead official – during free throw, lining up on the free throw lane line

Lead official – frontcourt end line throw-in, tossing ball to thrower-in or bouncing the ball

Lead official – a few signal a routine two point goal as counting

Lead official – signaling the number of free throws to the scorer – turning head from PCA – why signal?

Trail official – retreating on try for goal; retreating too quickly and too deep into the frontcourt when the ball and most players are located in the backcourt and upper section of the new frontcourt

Trail official – signaling to indicate a 3-point attempt when the ball is in the Center official’s PCA – equates to ball watching

Center official – retreating too soon on missed free throw – remain to aid coverage

Center official – positioned at the sideline on free throw; too far back from free throw line extended

Center official – signaling to indicate a 3-point attempt when the ball is in the Trail official’s PCA – equates to ball watching

Signals

Stop the clock – every whistle for time-out, foul and violation rulings must be accompanied by the stop the clock signal

At the site of fouls, violations, time-outs ruling approved informational signals are required

Thoroughness, timing (don’t hurry)

Always designate the throw-in spot, when required – violations, fouls, and no free throw, time-out, start of quarters, unusual delays

Always signal the direction and state the color of the throw-in team in the above instances

Use of Non-Signal

Hooking

Team-control signal with a player-control signal

Pointing to the bench to signal time-out

Snapping fist to start clock

Clap for blocked shots

Index fingers thrusts upward for jump ball

Rules

Free throw and free throw lane

Closely-guarded – lax; slow to begin; at times not applied at all

Contact – hands; chest & belly bumping unattended to

Contact – loose ball – bumping in pursuing; piling on

Contact – Verticality – rule applies equally to defense and offense (rebound play, try for goal)

Time-out requests granted and no player control – usually off the ball official; at times loose ball situations

Count all backcourt situations – even those uncontested

Continuous motion – the “shooter” is simply carrying out a basketball rules given right

Three seconds – care, it matters, it affects

Other

Care about tosses – too low; not straight; pulled back over head – no ruling for re-toss, why?

“Canary” whistles (sounding the whistle 3-9 times) why?

Lack of thoroughness

Use of non-signals

Wearing gold, silver belt buckle

Lack of eye-contact with partner(s) upon ruling a foul – does partner(s) have something else? Or some information to share?

Time-out – first horn & warning, one or two steps toward huddle – signal & verbalize; move to coverage position (eliminate badgering, clapping, etc.)

Player-control foul and time-out rulings often find the officials excitedly ignoring required signals and dashing while aggressively pointing a direction or to a bench

Officials not accepting that the high school “package” of rules, mechanics, signals are expected when accepting a high school assignment – have a professional approach and pride; honor the code that is in place; respect officiating (an indication of not being prepared for the assignment)

Coach at the division line; out on the court – not attending to situation; not penalizing

Not getting to the Reporting Area – fouls; time-outs; other occasions which arise

Watch the dribbler dribble – at times just run beside and count without regard to what the dribbler is doing

Talking to spectators and/or media table personnel – inattentive to pregame duties & unprofessional

Glaring Items

Neglect of the free throw rule and applying proper coverage

Collegiate officials not caring enough to respect a high school assignment and service the schools and game in a professional manner. Not a good example to display to other officials.