

CIAC Finals Observations 2016

The 2015-16 Connecticut high school boys/girls basketball season ended on the weekend of Mar 19 and 20, 2016 with 8 state final games at the Mohegan Sun. It was a fun and challenging 2 days for the 16 teams and the assigned IAABO officials. There were many challenging decisions made by CT IAABO assigned members. Many were properly handled. Below is a summary of observations that need improvement:

Officiating Observations That Need Attention

- IAABO high school mechanics are not always used. We need to avoid college signals & mechanics!
- There were significant multiple tweets with whistle. You only need 1 strong tweet and maybe 2, if you have to communicate to your partner. There is no need to sound whistle on every throw-in, only if there is an extended delay. There is no need to sound whistle for substitute as that is responsibility of the timer. A whistle should be sounded after every time-out to resume play including free throws.
- Obvious collision & knock-downs occurred with no fouls being ruled. When rulings were made, they were often incorrect.
- Closely-guarded counts are not begun properly, nor maintained. They usually begin at 2 ft. rather than 6 ft. rule.
- The horn/led light end the quarter by rule. There is no need for a whistle.
- 10-second backcourt count is rarely visible.
- Lead official was walking through the free throw lane to-and-from the reporting area and at times not getting to the reporting area to report foul.
- Lead, Center and Trail officials often were walking/talking rather than coming to a stop to communicate.
- Many still using double foul as signal for 60-second time-out. Think “taffy-pull”!
- There is no “full” timeout. Communicate 60-second time out when you report to table.
- Lead official needs to have more depth. When Lead rules a foul, his/her movement should remain out of bounds when communicating at spot of foul.
- Center and Lead officials position during free throw is often in wrong location. Review Crew of 3 manual.
- Many defenders were being ruled for fouls when they were in legal guarding position on drives to the basket. Ask yourself, “What did the defender do wrong?”
- Stop-clock signal not consistently used.
- Block, player control and team control fouls signals are often incorrectly demonstrated.
- Time-outs were granted with no player control. We must know where the ball is when granting a timeout to coach.
- Many members take eyes off playing court and players after ruling a travel.
- When transitioning from Trail to Lead position, you must look over your shoulder to watch actions.

CT IAABO members attend the CIAC tournament games to watch and learn from the assigned tournament officials. Many state/ask the following: “*Why are they not using high school mechanics? Their body language acts like they don’t want to be there?*” Obviously, this is not good role modeling by our tournament officials. Our members must be professional, have good health and use the proper IAABO mechanics.

The mistakes cited above should be addressed by all CT IAABO Boards. It is discouraging when members blatantly ignore these mistakes and do not properly enforce the rules of the game. Coaches and players will continue to try and gain unfair advantages *if officials do not* enforce the rules of the game and use the proper high school mechanics as written!