

IAABO Mid Season 2012 Observations

Officials must have the mind set of players and coaches - constant preparation, practice and review. That approach sets a tone for high expectations. Standards of quality officiating include fitness; rules knowledge; mastery of the manual's mechanics, procedures and signals; thoroughness; on the court presence; teamwork; professionalism; and personal attention to improvement. The entire package is a must as schools, coaches, players, spectators and media expect and deserve officials whose goal is officiating perfection. Respect for the game and for officiating is a must!

The crew of officials' game service begins with arriving at the game site well in advance of game time; checking in with appropriate school personnel; being in the dressing room well in advance of game time; taking care of personal preparation matters; having a thorough pre-game conference; leaving the dressing room in a professionally prepared frame of mind; thoroughly carrying out all pre-game on the court duties.

Pre-Game On The Court....Check the court and its surroundings. Check nets? Coaching boxes? An "X" at the scorer and timer table? Can't start a game without those markings in place. Referee, conduct professional and thorough instructions with the scorer and timer. Referee, lead a thorough but brief meeting of the Head coaches and captains – always ask the three (3) questions (2.4.5) and receive Head coach responses.

Rules Enforcement....Enforce the rules as written. Enforce all rules including the coaching box; jersey & pants worn properly; intentional foul; free throw lane Requirements; etc. To do otherwise results in a distinct advantage that is not within the spirit and intent of the rules. Those rules have equal status with rules pertaining to the pivot foot, 3-seconds, boundary lines, continuous motion, etc. Additionally, versions of the rules or individual philosophies of rule application and enforcement are not acceptable. Always keep in mind that there are two (2) teams and the rules and rulings affect BOTH TEAMS.

Communication With Head Coaches/Captains....When a situation will permit communication and doing so does not affect other game duties, such as the game cannot be held up, listen respectfully; if a response is applicable, make it short and use professional terminology then leave.

Communication With All Involved....Use ONLY approved signals....they are the language of the game. Deviation from using approved signals or the lack of using signals, as required by the rules book and manual, is unacceptable. Signals should not be over emphatic. Signals should be given in a manner which is composed, unhurried, dignified and professional. The approved signals are dignified, informative and meaningful.

Reminders & Items Needing Review and/or Attention

Time-Out...Hear and identify the request, if the situation will allow doing so; Check for player control prior to granting the time-out request. Too often, time-outs are granted when there is no player control.

Closely Guarded...Be prompt and accurate in applying the count and rule.

Throw-in and Nearest Spot...Accuracy is vital in identifying/indicating the throw-in spot which follows a time-out; other delay; a foul; a violation – CARE as it MATTERS!

Signaling the designated spot rule and they may move along the end line rule are in place to inform all players and others....the signal is not ONLY for the benefit of the thrower-in.

Free Throw Lane Lines During Free Throws ...The rule requires players occupying a lane space to not break the plane of the free throw lane line prior to the ball contacting the ring or backboard. The rule does not permit the players occupying a lane space to move outside of the lane space/move behind other lane spaces prior to the ball contacting the ring or backboard. The rule is different than the NCAA rule. Attend to and enforce the rule.

Act of Shooting...Officials must observe the entire play. A player, who has returned to the floor with one or both feet after the try is away, is no longer in the act of shooting.
Too often fouls are ruled and penalty administered as per Continuous Motion rather than simply a common foul ruling and penalty.

Loose Ball Situations & Contact...Pursuit of a "loose ball" does not permit undercutting, piling on, bumping, etc. Pursuit of a rebound does not permit pushing a player who is located in front of her/him or moving back and into the player who is located behind him/her. In both situations the official must see the entire play and monitor it for illegal contact just as with all other contact situations.

Violations...An attempt to score from near the end line resulting in the ball passing over the backboard from behind is a violation... Kicking must be an intentional act, a ball striking a foot/leg or a moving foot/leg being contacted by the ball are not illegal acts/not violations.

Undershirts...Shall be a single solid color similar to the torso of the jersey and shall be hemmed and not have frayed or ragged edges. If the undershirt has sleeves, they shall be the same length. A visible manufacturer's logo is not permitted on the undershirt. The sleeve length is per player, each player is not required to have the same sleeve length of his/her teammate.

Electric Equipment Use On The Team Bench...As per 10.1.3, such equipment can be used for only recording statistics. A state association may over ride this rule and rule some equipment legal or restrict all such equipment from bench use.