

Coaches and Officials: To this point I have heard many positive comments concerning the National Federation point of emphasis pertaining to freedom of movement and cleaning up **holding, impeding, pushing, diverting, slowing, rerouting and displacing (post play as well as obtaining rebounding position).**

Officials keep enforcing the rules as written, and coaches remind your players in practice concerning this point of emphasis, so they don't get themselves in foul trouble. I will say I'm still hearing that there are some officials who have not yet made this emphasis adjustment. If you are one of those please do so immediately, so we are all on the same page delivering the same message. We appreciate both parties' efforts to **STAY ON COURSE** with this, and we all will have a much better game! **Officials**, in your pre-game meeting with the coaches we do NOT have a "New Rule" concerning the above; it's a **point of emphasis**. The rules haven't changed, **the emphasis is on enforcing the rules in place**, officials need to enforce the rules as written and **coaches** need make their players understand the rules are fair for both parties participating.

SCORE REPORTING: Coaches/Athletic Directors following each home game please go to your computer and enter the final score on our member link scoreboard. A great number of fans and media count on seeing these scores and it takes less than a minute to enter. Put your score and your opponent's score in the appropriate boxes. There is also a box for you to use if the game went overtime; ex. just enter OT, 2 OT. **It is important to do this while the game is fresh in your mind – the scoreboard is what determines the seeding for tournaments. QuikStats can be done after the score report. The first check date will be after the Holiday Break.**

Tight With or Without Knee/shin Pad: Coach's & Officials: Joel Oswald (Girls Union) and I have discussed and agree with this National Federation rule regarding tights and the rule applies equally to both boys and girls basketball. Please understand full length tights, one or two legged, with or without built in knee/shin pads are **illegal**. We are experiencing some players around the state who are purchasing a knee pad that is similar to a one leg tight that goes from somewhere around the middle of the thigh (or higher) to the ankle. These are **illegal** (page 26 of the rule book compression shorts/tights shall be above the knee). Neoprene padded **knee sleeves** are legal that go from approximately the middle of the calf to about 4-6" above the knee, but **any leg compression sleeve tight with a built-in knee pad/shin pad that starts above the knee and goes to the ankle is ILLEGAL!** **The National Federation has ruled this garment as illegal equipment.**

Reminder, arm sleeves **must be worn for medical reasons and must be accompanied by a doctor's signed note and presented to the officials prior to participation each night**. Leg compression sleeves must be worn for **medical reasons**, **but NO doctor's signature is required, coaches integrity**. Arm and leg compression sleeves may be white, black, beige or a single solid school color. When worn for medical reasons, all team members, by rule, must wear the same color knee and or arm sleeve.

Splints, Guards, Casts and Braces: A guard, cast, splint or brace made of hard and unyielding substance, such as but not limited to leather, plaster, plastic or metal shall **NOT** be worn on the elbow, hand, finger/thumb, wrist or forearm, even though covered with soft padding.

Athletic Directors: We have had several calls, emails, etc of announcers at basketball contests maybe going beyond letting spectators know who committed the foul, and if shooting, who the shooter is. We all appreciate their dedication, but best said, let the radio take care of the play-by-play.

Legal Guarding Position: Once I establish two feet on the floor facing my opponent I can move backward and laterally and maintain a legal guarding position. People misinterpret the rule and say he/she is moving, the question you have to ask your self is, if one can't move legally on defense how would one ever play defense? If the offensive player attempts to go around the defensive player and the defensive player moves into the path and contacts the offensive player then the defensive player created the contact and has fouled. If the offensive player lowers the shoulder or uses his off arm to drive into the defender, the offensive player has committed a player control foul. Officials need to hone in on the defensive player when officiating these types of plays and then determine who created the contact. I think there are times when we penalize the defensive player during offensive drives to the basket and the defensive player has established a legal guarding position and continues to move backward and the offensive player ends up contacting the defender. This should be a no call if slight contact occurs (no advantage) or a player-control-foul on the offensive player. Anytime players go to the floor and contact has occurred, it is either a blocking foul or a player control foul, but not a get up and play on situation. When penalizing the defense, ask yourself what did he/she do wrong? If you can answer what the defender did wrong by rule, then the defender should be penalized.

Bench Decorum Rule: Basketball is an educational based activity and a coach is expected to abide by the bench decorum rule. Iowa does not have a coaching box; Coaches are to be seated and may stand when the clock is not running to confer with a player(s) when the clock is not running. Coaches are not to be up visiting with officials, but players only in front of where the coach was seated. Coaches are not to be wandering up and down in front of their bench or over in front of the scorer's table. If a coach has a question for an official he/she needs to be seated and if the official has the opportunity for a short question, the coach can ask the question while seated on the bench. Most officials will provide one warning for a violation of the bench decorum rule unless it is blatantly violated, but from that point forward a violating coach is subject to a technical foul. Head coaches, please keep in mind, assistant coaches are not to be visiting with officials concerning calls during the game, you are the head coach and if anyone is going to visit with an official it needs to be you and only in a professional manner. Officials be professional and enforce the bench decorum rule, just like any other rule is written.

Officials: Make sure you are completing your online **sportsmanship ratings** as the season goes along for VARSIITY games only, and that if you have a **player or coach ejection**, you go into your account and fill out the online ejection report for any 7-12 ejection you may have. **Ejection reports need to be done the following day or if it is a weekend game, the online ejection report needs to be filled out and submitted to our office on Monday.** Officials, see the entire situation pertaining to an ejection or

flagrant foul, don't have second thoughts later and want to take it back, it's too late at that point. Thank you for your cooperation.

Coaches and Officials: Three Seconds in the Lane: Calling three seconds in the lane is not a game interrupter; it's a rule, just like traveling is a rule. Think of it this way, it makes the game fair for both teams and it frees up the lane and keeps players moving in and out of the lane.

PLAY SITUATIONS:

Three Seconds:

Rule 9-7 Art. 3: Team A has the ball in their front court and A1 receives a pass in the lane, but has been in the lane less than three seconds prior to receiving the pass. A1 upon catching the pass makes progress to the basket and shoots and scores. **RULING:** Legal, allowance shall be made for a player who, having been in the restricted area for less than three seconds, to dribble in or move immediately to try for a goal.

Player Location:

4.35.2 Situation: Thrower A1 inbounds the ball to A2. A2 immediately throws the ball back to A1. When A1 touches the pass, he/she has: (a) both feet touching inbounds; (b) one foot touching inbounds and one foot is touching the floor out of bounds; or (c) one foot touching inbounds and the other foot in the air coming in bounds. **Ruling:** The ball remains live in (a) and (c), but A1 has caused the ball to be out of bounds in (b). (4-4-4)

Fouled While Shooting at the Opponents Basket:

4.41.2 Situation: A1 becomes confused and throws the ball at the wrong basket. A1 is fouled by B1 and the ball goes into the basket. Is this a successful basket? If missed, would A1 be awarded two free throws for the foul by B1? **RULING:** No goal. The ball became dead when the foul occurred. When a player throws at an opponent's basket, it is not a try. If the team is in the bonus when B1 fouled A1, A1 is given either a one-and-one attempt or two free throws if they are in the double bonus, at team A's basket. If team A was not in the bonus, then the ball is awarded to team A for a throw-in at the out-of-bounds spot nearest the foul.

Three-Tenths of a Second or Less:

5.2.5 SITUATION A: The game clock shows three-tenths of a second or less in the third quarter when A2: (a) taps the ball; or (b) grabs A1's missed free throw or throw-in pass and quickly shoots. In both cases the ball leaves A2's hand(s) before the end-of-period signal and goes through A's basket. **RULING:** count the goal in (a), but not in (b).

Player Control Foul:

4.8.2 SITUATION: (a) A1 is charged with a player control; or (b) a team A member dunks during the pre-game warm-ups. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b) the foul counts toward disqualification and it counts as one

of the seven team fouls to reach the bonus. In (b) a technical foul is also charged indirectly to team A's head coach resulting in the loss of standing and visiting with a player(s) in front of where the coach was seated when the clock is not running. Meaning he/she can no longer stand up and visit with his players when the clock is not running. The coach is still allowed to stand to request a time out, or go to the bench for a correctable error.

Airborne Shooter:

4.12.1 SITUATION A: A1 drives toward the lane and goes up in the air for a jump shot. Before A1 becomes airborne, B1 obtains a legal position on the court that is directly in line with A1's drive. (a) **Before;** or (b) **after releasing the ball,** A1 illegally contacts B1. In both cases, the ball goes through the basket. **RULING:** A1 has committed a player-control foul in both (a) and (b). There is no goal in either case. Player-control foul provisions in (b) continue until airborne shooter A1 returns to the floor. Team B is awarded the ball for a throw-in at the out-of-bounds spot nearest the foul. (7-5-3a)

Dribble--Legal and Illegal Movement:

4.15 COMMENT: It is not possible for a player to travel during a dribble. A player is not dribbling while slapping the ball during a jump, when a pass rebounds from his/her hand, when she fumbles, or when a rebound or pass away from other players who are attempting to get it. The player is not in control under these conditions. It is a dribble when a player stands still and bounces the ball. It is not a dribble when a player stands still and holds the ball and **touches it to the floor once or more than once.**

Intentional Foul

4.19.3 SITUATION A: B1 is charged with an intentional foul on A1 whom is in the act of shooting: (a) a successful two-point or three-point try; (b) an unsuccessful two-point try; or (c) an unsuccessful three-point try. **RULING:** In (a) and (b) A1 is awarded two free throws. In (c) A1 is awarded three free throws. In all situations following the free throws, Team A is awarded a throw-in at the out-of-bounds spot nearest the foul.

Kicking the Ball:

4.29 SITUATION A: During A1's attempt to pass to A2, B1 (a) intentionally uses his thigh to deflect the pass; (b) intentionally kicks the ball with his foot; or (c) has the ball accidentally his lower leg. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), there is a kicking violation and Team A will receive the ball out-of-bounds nearest the violation. In (c) the ball remains live and there is no violation. (9-4)

Traveling or Not:

4.44.2 SITUATION B: Airborne A1 and A2 jointly grab a rebound and each alight simultaneously on both feet. A1 and A2 each move one foot in attempting to wrestle the ball from each other before realizing they are teammates. A1 lets go and A2 dribbles away. **RULING:** Legal. There has been no violation as neither A1 nor A2 moved their pivot foot while they were in joint control.

Player Sliding on the Floor; Traveling or Not:

4.44.5 Situation B: A1 dives for a loose ball and **slides after gaining control**. A1 is in a position either on his back or stomach. What can A1 do without violating? **RULING:** A1 may pass, shoot, start a dribble or request a time-out. Once A1 has the ball and is no longer sliding, he may not roll over. If flat on his back, A1 may sit up without violating. Any attempt to get to his feet is traveling unless A1 is dribbling. It is also traveling if A1 puts the ball on the floor, then rises and is the first to touch the ball. (4-44-5b)

Coaches, Officials & Administrators: On behalf of Mr. Wulkow, the IHSAA staff and Board of Control, we want to wish each of you a **Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!** Make sure over the holidays you take special time out of your busy schedule to spend with family, friends and loved ones!

Sincerely,

Roger Barr