

Third Basketball Memo

January 29, 2014

Well Old Man Winter has found Iowa and many other states. Some areas of Iowa have lots of snow on the ground and others have little or no snow on the ground. As we head down the home stretch of the basketball season, I want to send out a few reminders and observations.

To this point we have had ten basketball coaches and twelve players ejected. This is more coaches and players than we would like to see on this list, so let's **all** make a bona fide effort for the remainder of the regular season and tournament trail to provide our best sportsmanship effort. While we are on the **sportsmanship** topic, I just want coaches and officials to work together if we have a player whose sportsmanship is not meeting your expectations. Intervene Coaches, if you see this, I encourage you to address this, and officials if you do warn a player make every effort to share that information with the coach as soon after the situation as possible. Sometimes coaches aren't always aware if something was said or done, but **Mr. Official, make it a point to inform the coach**. Both parties taking care of a potentially technical foul situation will hopefully keep a player(s) on the floor for the right reasons and participating by the rules.

Coaches and Officials: Post Play: From what I have seen, coaches have done a pretty good job of informing players that hand-checking is not going to be a part of the game and I even hear coaches saying keep your hands off. Coaches and officials need to keep that mindset and express that freedom of movement for all players is important. My concern is **Post Play**: A player is entitled to a position on the floor he establishes legally within the frame of his body from floor to ceiling. Offensive players, who extend their arms beyond the frame of their body to hold off an opponent from playing on the side of the opponent or getting around to front that player, are subject to being called for holding. Defenders who use the swim move to get through or around an offensive player should be penalized with a foul. Defensive post players **are not to put a forearm in the back** of an offensive post player when defending a player, one might say "why is that illegal"?, and the question back is, why do you need it there if you aren't going to use it. Second, that is another form of hand checking only with a forearm.

Basketball is a sport of freedom of movement and talent. The rules provide a balance between offense and defense, where no advantage is permitted by either the offensive or defensive players. Another part of the post play we need to address is when the ball is entered into the offensive post player. If the defender has established a legal guarding position, the offensive player should not be allowed to back the defender out of a legal position established, that is displacement. This is why the rules are written for a balance between offense and defense.

The last topic on this is when an offensive player is out of control and enters the lane area, we more often than not penalize a defender who has established a legal guarding position (defender has hands above the shoulders, not angled out). We penalize the defender who holds his ground or moves backward to keep from taking the illegal contact from the out-of-control offensive player. One has to ask, what did the defender do wrong? Too often I see officials penalizing defenders for establishing and maintaining a legal guarding position when the out-of-control offensive player crashes into the defender. I ask who created that contact. The answer is the offensive player. The defender should be

penalized if he illegally contacts the offensive player or attempts to establish a new defensive position by moving into or under the offensive player who has left his feet. We must remember the defensive player has to establish a legal guarding position, two feet on the floor facing his opponent, from there he may move backward, and not have both feet on the floor and maintain a legal guarding position. Use all the tools available to clean up post play. Three seconds, preventive officiating; etc can be used affectively when an **ILLEGAL ACT** occurs offensively or defensively, and officials must be ready to blow the whistle and make a call. Do not allow post play to become a wrestling match and do not allow either player to use size and strength to gain an advantage. Award basketball skills and **Do NOT REWARD ILLEGAL PHYSICAL PLAY!!**

Coaches and Officials: Violations and Penalties: **Free Throw:** I have had several phone calls pertaining to the **shooting of a free throw and if the ball is required to touch the rim**. Rule 9.1.Art. 3a... After the ball is placed at the disposal of a free thrower: a. he/she shall throw within 10 seconds to cause the ball to enter the basket or touch the ring before the free throw ends. We all understand the ball on a shot does not always make contact with the ring, it's all nylon. If a shot is missed intentionally or not on a free throw attempt, the ball on a miss must make contact with the ring or it is a free throw violation. If this occurs during a multiple free throw situation, we would proceed to the next free throw(s). If it is the only free throw or the last free throw attempt, it becomes an immediate dead ball violation and the ball is awarded the opponent at a designated throw-in spot closest to where the violation occurred.

Officials: There are times when we have a player drive from the C's position on the floor to the basket and the lead reaches across the lane and makes the foul call. Learn to trust "C", your partner, and provide them the first opportunity to call a foul and if they pass and the lead is 100% sure he/she is fouled then make the call.

Officials: Lead officials, in my opinion, need to work deeper on the baseline when room permits. Being deeper provides a wider view of the play and allows you to see a bigger picture. When the ball is taken to the basket from your primary provide a patient whistle, let the defender have the opportunity to block or make a play on the shot, and let the contact take you to the whistle. I think there are times when we anticipate a collision or contact and a defender blocks the shot and we already blew a whistle for what we thought was going to be a foul. C's have to have this same patient whistle when they are covering a drive to the basket from their primary.

Officials: Center officials, when the ball is established in the front court centers should be located near the free throw line extended and if the ball is in the lane below the free-throw line, centers need to work toward the end-line (between the free-throw line and the end-line). When a shot goes up from beyond the free-throw line, centers need to walk toward the end-line and look through the rebounders for push-offs by either team or illegal contact from behind. Don't penalize a taller player who may go over the top of an opponent in front of them-short of contact. This position will also provide you a great opportunity to observe either inside player (offense or defensive player) from jumping back into an opponent who has gone straight up for a rebound and becomes displaced by the inside player. Obtaining inside rebounding position doesn't afford the inside player the opportunity to displace a

player behind them, as long as the player behind has established a legal position and is straight up and down (floor to ceiling).

Officials: Just so all tournament eligible officials know we will be playing four schools at a district site in Class 1A, 2A & 3A and using the same set of officials to work both games. Understand, we may have some first round games in Class 1A where there will be only one game played. In District and Sub-State finals assigned crews will only work one game, even if two games may be played at one site.

Trail Official: While we are on position coverage, I believe our trail officials often have a tendency to work too deep. When the ball is in the front court and all players are at the top of the free-throw circle or closer to the front-court end-line, the trail official should be no deeper than the top of the free-throw circle extended. Trail is responsible for assisting the lead on travel calls and long rebounding situations beside his/her other primary/secondary responsibilities.

Held Ball: Case Book Play 4.29 SITUATION: A1 jumps to try for a goal or to pass the ball. B1 leaps or reaches and is able to put his/her hand(s) on the ball and keep A1 from releasing it. A1 (a) returns to the floor with the ball; or (b) is unable to control the ball and drops it to the floor. **RULING:** A held ball results immediately in (a) and (b) when airborne A1 is prevented from releasing the ball to pass or try for goal.

Kicking the Ball: Case Book Play 4.29 SITUATION A: During A1's attempt to pass to A2, B1 (a) intentionally uses his/her thigh to deflect the pass; (b) intentionally kicks the ball with his/her foot; or (c) has the ball accidentally hit his/her 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.

Blood Kit: Coaches/A.D's; Make sure we have a blood kit available when hosting a game. Keep a kit at the scorer's table for emergencies like this.

IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION REVIEW OF BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGEN PROCEDURES

I. **Host schools** are expected to ***designate a trained individual to properly handle situations involving blood and other body fluids which contaminate any part of the facilities being used.***

The facilities may include: wrestling mats, **gym floor**, pool area, locker room area, and any other areas being used by participants or spectators.

II. **Host schools** are expected to ***have available the necessary disposable supplies for cleaning the facilities without delay.***

These supplies should include: disinfectant, protective gloves, and containers labeled for hazardous waste disposal.

III. **Participating schools** are expected to ***have a trained individual to handle the cleaning of blood and other body fluids from their own athletes***, and to ***use universal precautions*** when doing so.

IV. **Officials shall not be involved in cleaning blood** from the facilities or athletes. Officials should not handle blood and other body fluids, *except in cases where emergency first-aid is needed and the official is the most qualified person to provide that first-aid, ie. EMT's, athletic trainers, physicians, etc.*

NOTE: *These procedures should be followed during all regular season contests and during Iowa High School Athletic Association post-season tournaments.*

Sincerely,

Roger Barr