

DEAR BASKETBALL COACHES & OFFICIALS, November 13, 2008

Athletic Director: Please have all levels of your basketball coaching staff read these basketball letters on line throughout the season or make copies and distribute them throughout the season. Thank you for your cooperation.

Reminder, Spalding ZK PRO basketball will be used for all state sponsored tournament games.

Instructions and duties of the scorer and timer can be found under basketball on the IHSAA website.

I hope each of you had an opportunity to attend one of the IHSAA state sponsored basketball rules meeting or official's clinics. This letter will serve as a refresher to those of you who did attend and for those of you who were unable to attend, this letter will inform you of this year's rule changes and points of emphasis.

EJECTIONS: Officials be sure this a solid decision on your part. Don't go to your locker room after the game or get in your car and on the way home decide you made a bad decision when you ejected a player or coach. Make this be a 110% solid decision on your part. Official's ejections should be reported on line. Go to your personal IHSAA website by using your password (same site you will enter your varsity game sportsmanship ratings on a regular basis) and go to ejections and fill out the ejection report. Coaches, make sure your players understand what takes place when a player or yourself is ejected. If you or one of your players put themselves in a position where this may occur, you have to understand the consequences. There are no appeals to ejections!!

IHSAA BASKETBALL OFFICIALS

The IHSAA is providing you the opportunity to join in the fight against Cancer by partnering with the "Calling for a Cure" campaign the week of January 12-17. All basketball officials that wish to participate should go to www.foundationsresourcegroup.com and order a Pink Fox 40 whistle for \$5.00, which will then be shipped directly to you. The IHSAA will provide the media information pertaining to this week and we ask all officials wishing to participate use their Pink Whistle in all games you work (all levels) during that week. You will be invited to make a voluntary contribution of up to 25% of one of your game fees even if you work more

than one game that week to “Calling for a Cure.” All funds raised will be donated to the American Cancer Society in the name of the IHSAA Sports Officials. I would encourage individuals or crews who wish to take part in this “Calling for a Cure,” get on line ASAP and place their orders to be sure to receive your whistle(s) in a timely manner. With the estimated officials interested in participating, this should raise over a million dollars for cancer research.

OFFICIALS: I hope you have taken time to get yourself into good physical condition for the upcoming season. Just as important as good physical condition is having yourself mentally prepared for the season. Preseason study and review, as well as a solid pre-game (making captains understand their importance to you, the official, and their leadership role) before every game will be a great asset to you having a successful season. Officials and coaches need to work together for common goals, respect for the game and each other and their jobs at hand.

COACHES: I hope each coach at every level of basketball takes time on a daily basis, or at least a weekly basis, to remind your players of your expectations as it relates to sportsmanship, citizenship and conduct. Make them aware of your philosophy and your expectations pertaining to how they represent your program, school and community. It will only take a minute or two, **but hopefully the dividends will outweigh the unwanted.** Today, more than ever, coaches and athletes are held to a higher standard. We are responsible for our actions, whether it is during a game or not. You must provide consistent and appropriate behavior on and off the court.

OFFICIALS: You are responsible for your actions just like any coach is, on and off the floor. You are held to a higher standard as well. It is important that all officials enforce the rules, manage games and build relationships through consistent and appropriate behavior. For those officials who attended one of our 2008 basketball clinics, remember the game management session and put those suggestions to good use. It will hopefully elevate you to a higher standard!!

**“NEW” VARSITY ONLY BASKETBALL COACHES STATISTIC
MANDATE**

VARSIY BASKETBALL COACHES: Now required to post your **team and individual** varsity game **STATISTICS** on www.quikstatsiowa.com following each contest. Per our recommendation at the rules meeting, if you feel you can not personally do this, please find someone on staff or in your school system who enjoys working with statistics and have them enter these stats for you.

Please keep in mind that coaches who do not meet this requirement will be held accountable for failure to fulfill this requirement:

FIRST OFFENSE: Letter/email to Head Basketball Coach.

SECOND OFFENSE: Letter to A.D., with copy sent to Principal and Superintendent, from the IHSAA Executive Director.

THIRD OFFENSE: IHSAA member school expense allowance will be withheld by the IHSAA in the sport in which the third offense occurred.

Statistics must be completed by **Monday @ 3:00 PM** on the following dates:

December 8th, 2008

January 5th, 2009

January 19th, 2009

Stats must be entered after each game of the post season tournament.

Any quick-stat questions should be directed to Bud Legg or Dave Anderson here in our office. We thank you for your cooperation pertaining to this new policy.

OFFICIALS WANTING TO BE TOURNAMENT ELIGIBLE: You must have turned in your sportsmanship ratings last season in a timely manor on line, attended a rules meeting this year or IHSAA state sponsored officials clinic/rules meeting and filled out the on line individual **Basketball REQUEST FORM** (this years schedule and any conflicts) by **November 20, 2008.**

TEMPORARY OFFICIALS: If you were a temporary official last year, you must take the Part 1 exam before you officiate any games in the 2008-09 basketball season. You will not be licensed to officiate until the Part 1 exam is completed and passed and your dues have been paid (on line).

If this is your **FOURTH YEAR** as a Temporary Official, you **MUST** take and pass the **Part 11 exam** if you want to maintain your officiating license and work varsity games. You may still officiate if this is your fourth year and you fail the Part 11 exam, by becoming a circle T official. **Circle T officials may only work contests below the varsity level.** If you are within your three years of being Temporary Official or Circle T Official, you are required to take the part 1 exam and pass with 75% or higher. The Part 1 exam is only offered ON LINE.

Basketball Part 11 test will be given on Monday December 1 and Wednesday December 3, 2008 at 7:00 PM. Sites for these two dates may be obtained from your 2008-09 Officials Manual on page 24. Please read your Officials Manual if you have any officiating questions, it will more than likely answer a question you may have and save you an email or phone call.

BENCH DECORUM RULE: A coach will be allowed to stand and confer with a player(s) whenever the clock is NOT running. Communication shall be done in a positive manner and shall take place **directly in front** of where the coach was seated. When the clock starts following a throw-in or last missed free throw, the coach shall immediately return to his/her seat. The officials will not delay a throw-in administration to permit a coach additional dead clock time to visit with player(s). Coaches and officials must understand communication is to be kept to a minimum. Coaches are NOT to be up when the clock is not running to visit with officials. Coach, the opportunity for you to stand up and coach when the clock is not running is an opportunity to "COACH." Please do not misuse this privilege by using this opportunity to communicate with officials.

This rule will allow coaches additional opportunities to stand-up and instruct players while the clock is NOT running during the game. **If a coach receives a direct or indirect technical foul he/she now loses the privilege to stand and coach while the clock is not running.** Coach will have the opportunity to stand and leave the bench for the 8 items below. Coaches are not to stand and show displeasure regarding any situation they may not approve of. This unsportsmanlike behavior is subject to a technical foul being called. This bench decorum rule does allow coaches an opportunity to coach and teach whenever the clock is NOT running.

Besides the above mentioned, coaches may stand or leave the bench for:

1. Charged time-out, confer with players
2. In case of injury, if beckoned by officials, attend an injured player
3. Intermission
4. Prevention or notification of a correctable error 2-10
5. Stand up and show approval of an exciting play
6. Stand up and call time-out when team is in possession of the ball
7. Stand up to congratulate a player being substituted for
8. Confer with personnel at the scorer's table regarding a timing, scoring or alternating possession error

DISQUALIFIED PLAYER: Upon the head coaches notification of a disqualified player, the coach may stand to congratulate the disqualified player and may walk the confines of his/her bench to select a replacement for the disqualified player.

Reminder, assistant coaches are not to address officials at any time throughout the game.

COMPRESSION SLEEVES: If worn on the fingers, hands, forearms or above the elbow (Allen Iverson sleeves) must be worn for medical reasons and must be accompanied by a written statement. Statement must state required sleeve and prescribed medical person's signature.

KNEE & ANKLE BRACES: If knee or ankle braces have exposed hinges (plastic or metal), they must be covered with a sleeve or elastic wrap.

Guard, cast, or brace made of hard and unyielding leather, plaster, pliable (soft) plastic or any other hard substance may NOT be worn on the elbow, hand, finger (splint metal, wood or plastic), wrist or forearm, even though covered with soft padding. If a player has a sprained or broken finger(s), splints are not permissible no matter how much padding is used.

PRE-GAME CONFERENCE: Head coaches of the level of competition being played are required to participate at the pre-game conference. Official, if the head coach refuses to attend you are to notify the IHSAA office of any non compliance.

2008-09 NATIONAL FEDERATION RULE CHANGES

NEW NATIONAL FEDERATION RULE CHANGES: Head band is any item that goes around the entire head. Included by definition to be considered a head band are elastic strips, elastic bands, pre-wrap, moisture-absorbing terry cloth.

Headbands and sweatbands must be white, **black, beige** or a single solid color similar to the torso of the jersey and **must be the same color for each item and all participants**. Only one item is permitted on the head and on each wrist/forearm (wristbands must be worn below the elbow). Items must be moisture-absorbing, nonabrasive and unadorned (except for school logo or manufactures logo, **NO NUMBERS**).

FREE-THROW LANE SPACES: All boys' basketball players will be moved up one lane space (same as our Girls Union rule has been). Two spaces closest to the end line now remain vacant. There are six **marked** lane spaces; The two **MARKED** lane spaces closest to the basket must be occupied by opponents of the free-throw shooter. Up to four opponents of the shooter may occupy marked lane spaces and two teammates of the shooter may occupy the two middle lane spaces. Every player **MUST** be inside one of the marked lane spaces, not touching any part of the block or another lane space closer to the basket.

TECHNICAL FOUL: A maximum of one technical foul is charged directly to the head coach when a participant wears an illegal jersey, illegal pants/skirt or an illegal number.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS 2008-09:

1. Legal Uniforms (page 68 rule book)
2. Rough Play (page 68-69 rule book)
3. Time-outs (page 69 rule book)
4. Slapping the Backboard (page 69 rule book)
5. Officials Mechanics and Signals (page 69-70 rule book)

SLAPPING THE BACKBOARD: The incidents of players slapping the backboard are increasing throughout the country. The rules specify that “intentionally slapping or striking the backboard” is a technical foul (10-3-5). The spirit of the rule is to penalize a player that draws attention to themselves or use it as a means of venting frustration. **A player who strikes the backboard in a legitimate attempt to block a try for goal should not be penalized.** Basket interference only occurs if the ball is interfered with while in the cylinder above the basket ring or by touching either the ball or any part of the basket while the ball is on or within the basket.

Athletic Directors: Music/sound effects and artificial noise makers. National Federation rules prohibit “artificial” noise makers during the season including, but not limited to no megaphones in the crowd; cow bells; sirens; clackers; cans with marbles; and varied other creative devices are all prohibited. Cheerleaders may use megaphones when performing their cheerleading duties.

COACHES & OFFICIALS PRE-GAME DUTIES: Head coach of the level of competition being played must meet with the captains and game officials (approximately 13 minutes prior to game time, it would assist officials if any music was not played during this short pre-game meeting). Officials should also meet with the cheerleaders and remind them of their role in promoting good sportsmanship throughout the game, and the location of the cheerleaders, so they do not interfere with officials working the game for safety reasons of everyone involved. Cheerleaders are prohibited from doing cheers on the floor during 30 second timeouts. They may cheer in front of their crowd, but not on the court.

COACHES & OFFICIALS-THROW-IN PROVISION AFTER A

SCORE: To prohibit the team that just scored from gaining an advantage, rules permit a team to run the end-line on a throw-in when either a foul or violation is committed by the scoring team immediately following a made basket or on the ensuing throw-in (7-5-7b). This provision only applies when the spot of the throw-in would be at the end-line.

OFFICIALS: Scorers and timers duties are listed under basketball on the IHSAA website. Please review these duties before the season starts so you can better prepare yourself when you visit with bench personnel pertaining to their duties and points you need to discuss with them before game time in order to make the game run smoothly.

SMOOTH OUT ROUGH PLAY IN BASKETBALL

The National Federation rules committee continues to be concerned with the increasing level of physical play being permitted. Officials and coaches are charged with promoting good sportsmanship, encouraging fair play and minimizing the risk of injury to student athletes. Rough play creates conflict between players and increases opportunity for injuries.

POST PLAY: The key word is displacement. If a player is displaced, it is a foul! Offensive players creating space by “backing down” a defender, or a defender moving an offensive player off his or her spot on the floor are examples of post play fouls that must be called.

Trail and center officials movement allows the lead official to observe post players’ off-ball, which is the critical component in combating physical play. Trail officials have a lot of responsibility due to the fact the trail official is connected to the lead official. The lead officials’ primary coverage area in the front court is the post play, in the paint area. Clean up the rough post play early, it will make a smoother game to officiate. Lead official movement is critical to watching low-post action and it’s paramount to game control. Game control starts with post play and works its way to the perimeter.

HAND CHECKING: Defenders are not permitted to have hand(s) on the dribbler or any offensive player away from the ball. Hand checking is not incidental contact, it gives a tremendous advantage to the person using illegal hands or body to push off in order to create a more favorable position for the defender. Regardless of where it happens on the floor, when a player:

- Continuously places a hand on the opposing player-- it is a foul.
- Places both hands on a player—it is a foul: Continuously jabs a hand or forearm on an opponent—it is a foul.

BLOCK/CHARGE: With three person officiating mechanics being utilized at the varsity level by most schools, we can do a better job of officiating the block/charge. It is important to understand primary coverage and **read the defense** so we know who created the contact. In situations when the contact is not a foul but the defense is attempting to bait the official into calling a foul, a warning should be issued. When a player takes the ball to the basket and there is a collision or a player is displaced, we should have a player control foul or a blocking foul. If a player bails on you, a warning should be issued to the player who bailed. Coaches should always be notified at the earliest opportunity if a player warning has been issued for fake falling. This will help you, the official, in two ways: It will give the coach an opportunity to tell his player to discontinue this behavior and it will send a message to the coach that you are not going to tolerate this type of action or behavior tonight. If a warning has been issued for faking a fall, a second offense by the same team would result in a technical foul being called on the player who fakes the fall the second time.

Remember once the defensive player has established a legal guarding position (two feet on the floor facing their opponent) the defensive player can move backwards or laterally and maintain a legal guarding position. The key now is “who created the contact,” offense or defense.

REBOUNDING: A player has a right to any spot on the floor he/she gets to legally. Once a player has established a position legally on the floor, he/she is entitled to that space from floor to ceiling. It is vital when officiating rebounding you achieve a position in which you can see between the two players to be able to determine if a player gained an advantage or not. Official’s position is key, because angles can be deceiving. If two players are attempting to rebound side by side, there will more than likely be some

contact. Do not penalize a taller player or a good leaper because they may have reached over the top of his/her opponent to retrieve a rebound and gained no advantage through contact. If either player gains an advantage through contact, a foul should be called. Sometimes we penalize the player from behind, when the contact is initiated by the player in front, because the player in front had to jump back because the ball went over their head. Do not penalize an individual who is jumping straight up and down, they are entitled to occupy this space from floor to ceiling if they established this space legally. Key for the center official is to not bail until the rebound has been secured and the first outlet pass has been made. Trail and center officials must close down on rebounding action (center below free throw line extended), because ignoring it and backing away leads to increased physical play and too much action for the lead official to cover.

SCREENING: A screen is legal action by a player who, without causing contact, delays or prevents an opponent from reaching a desired position. To establish a legal screening position:

- **The screener may face any direction**
- **Time and distance are relevant**
- **The screener must be stationary, except when both are moving in the same path and the same direction**
- **When screening a stationary opponent from the front or side, the screener may be anywhere short of contact**
- **When screening a stationary opponent from behind, the screener must allow the opponent one normal step backward without contact**
- **When screening a moving opponent, the screener must allow the opponent time and distance to avoid contact. The distance need not be more than two strides**
- **When screening an opponent who is moving in the same path and direction as the screener is moving, the opponent is responsible for contact if the screener slows up or stops.**

Coach & Official

Coach, when your team enters the court for pre-game warm-up, before the game or to start the second half from the locker room, players are to go the most direct route to your warm-up end. Do not circle your opponents or run your opponents end line on the way to your basket. Officials are to notify the IHSAA if this should occur, there is no penalty, but the school administration will be notified of this violation.

Loose Balls: Rough play and excessive contact while attempting to secure a loose ball continues to be a concern. Coaches, players and officials must understand that a loose-ball situation is not consent for a player to “jump on” an opponent on the floor in an attempt to create a held ball. Likewise, merely because a player is “going for the ball”, does not give that player permission to “take out” an opponent who is in a more advantageous position. Incidental contact (4-27) allows for contact when players are in equally favorable positions.

EFFECTIVELY RESPOND TO COACHES: Times are changing. While basketball officials were once warned to avoid unnecessary talking with coaches, they are now encouraged to participate in “meaningful dialogue.” Understanding this philosophy shift requires a significant change in officials’ attitudes and training. There is an increased importance on managing, or better yet, communicating with the coaches **when necessary**.

Officials need to develop their own skills and dialogue. Coaches must understand officials are not going to allow a head coach to carry on a conversation or dialogue throughout the entire contest. Officials should not engage or initiate a conversation, unless you are proactively warning a coach about a player or need to draw the coach’s attention to something happening in the game.

The following principles should influence any contemplated reply.

- Listen to what is being said. Understand the concerns of the coach. If the concerns are legitimate, express that understanding.
- Answer questions not statements. Some comments can and should be ignored. Be a responder, not an initiator.

- Exhibit calmness. Do not threaten.
- Do not attempt to answer a question from an out of control coach. Deal with the behavior first.
- Be in control and speak with calm easy tones. Be aware of your body language; maintain positive and confident body language. The closer you get to the coach the lower the volume. Back up to the coach don't face the coach, face the floor and listen to their concern as he/she sits on the bench.

Some officials have a unique ability to use wit and humor to defuse a tense situation. Unless you have that rare skill, stick to positive, easily understood and hard to misrepresent replies. Usually answering a question by rule defuses the situation. A wrong word can add fuel to the fire. Always remember, silence can never be misquoted. Sometimes it's just better to listen and respond with "well take a look coach."

MECHANICS, CONSISTENCY A PRIORITY: Communication and consistency remain the most important elements of good officiating. It is essential for officials to be familiar and comfortable with proper NFHS mechanics and signals. The primary reasons for utilizing only approved NFHS mechanics and signals are:

- Effective court coverage related to primary coverage areas
- Effective communication between officiating partner(s)
- Immediate information and feedback to coaches, players, scorers, timers and spectators.
- Communication---not to call attention to the official.

The majority of signals are used to indicate what has or is happening. Approved NFHS signals are dignified, informative and meaningful. The use of unauthorized signals frequently confuses, because the meaning is unknown. Problems also arise when officials engage in "hit and run" officiating. This is when an official blows the whistle and immediately leaves the area without taking the time to follow the proper procedures for calling a foul or violation. Signals should be given in a manner that is calm, under control, unhurried, and professional.

GENERAL REMINDERS

If you ever encounter any vocal or inappropriate comments or behavior with a spectator(s), DO NOT deal with the individual(s). Let the administrative person in charge work with the spectator. Never show your displeasure with a spectator or coach, remember facial expressions can speak louder than words. When you arrive at the game site, make sure you know who the administrative person in charge is and where you may find them if any unusual situations should arise. If you have problems with a player(s) on the floor, make sure the coach knows. Inform the coach at the earliest opportunity, and allow he/she the opportunity to get the situation corrected. Everyone is not going to agree with every call, but you should not take this personally. Sometimes you just need to let comments be comments.

Understand your primary coverage area and responsibilities and develop a mental impression of each primary coverage area. Learn to accept the ball when it enters your primary coverage area, and learn to give it up when the ball enters your partner's PCA. That's called TRUST. Make sure you understand your floor coverage responsibilities.

During time-outs, be alert. **Dead ball time matters;** problems can arise during this time. Officials seem to be in a habit of gathering during time-outs. This should only be done when absolutely necessary.

POSITIONS DURING TIME-OUTS AND QUARTER BREAKS (three person crew): One official should be stationed at each free-throw line extended furthest from the bench, the third official should be at the inbounds spot, where the ball will next be put in play, regardless if it is a 30 or 60 second time-out or quarter break. Following the first horn, the two officials at the free-throw line extended should step forward and indicate to the team in front of them, first horn, then resume your position on the floor for the game to continue.

BE PROFESSIONAL: Professionalism is the understanding that each official and coach must be the game's most meaningful ambassador both on and off the court in the community. This entails having a quality approach, both on and off the court, that is a credit to the game and your profession. Remember, you represent an entire community of coaches and officials. **The work you perform is not only a reflection of yourself, but every coach and official.** People will judge coaches and officials by what you do and

how you act and react. You must be willing to accept that responsibility. Each game deserves your maximum effort. No matter what level of play you coach or officiate, no matter what the score may be or the time remaining in the game, you must have a dedicated purpose. Professionalism is one aspect of being prepared mentally. Coaches and officials must always remember that they are in the public eye both on and off the court. You are recognized for what you do, but you are accountable for who you are.

OFFICIALS & COACHES, BOTTOM LINE: Officials hustle, be a good communicator (with coaches, players and fellow officials), be fair and call the game as if your own son or daughter were playing on both teams. Always remember, no one came to watch an official officiate or a coach coach, they came to watch these young people play the game.

CONCENTRATE AND CARE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE INVOLVED.

HAVE A GREAT SEASON!!!

Sincerely,
Roger Barr
IHSAA