

Dear Basketball Coaches and Officials,

February 9, 2009

Basketball season is winding down fast and the tournament trail will be here before we know it. With all this said we all need to take a deep breath and step away from the game and think about why we are coaching or officiating and how are we doing this. Coach, is it for the **W** or officials if it is for the recognition, if that be the case, we all need to step back and reevaluate ourselves. We all want to be there for the right reasons. Our jobs are promoting **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, character** and **integrity** and the continued effort to teach student athletes about the game of life and that this activity is merely an **extension of the classroom**.

Administrators: Several weeks ago there was an incident at a college game where a spectator came out of the crowd onto the floor, fortunately no one was injured and no incident took place. It will be better if we are all proactive and have people stationed at the doors and be knowledgeable of our surroundings.

Officials: With the above mentioned, if you encounter a spectator who is out-of-line, do not directly approach the spectator. At the earliest stoppage of the game, get with the on-duty administrator and allow them the opportunity to deal with the spectator. If it is an opposing spectator, the administrator will contact their administrator and ask them to handle this situation. If the opposing opponent has no administration at the game the host school will deal with the spectator. **Bottom line, officials do not deal directly with a spectator, leave this to the host administration.**

Coaches and Officials: When the offensive players rhythm, speed, balance or quickness are interrupted due to a hand check or illegal contact and the defensive player is not in a legal guarding position, a foul should be called.

Officials: Conference titles in some leagues are still on the line. **Work hard,** call the obvious and finish strong.

Lets cover some areas of concern.

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

- a. The screener may face any direction.

- b. Time and distance are relevant.
- c. The screener must be stationary, except when both are moving in the same path and the same direction.
- d. The screener must stay within his/her vertical plane with a stance approximately shoulder width apart.

When screening a stationary opponent from the front or side (within the visual field), the screener may be anywhere short of contact.

When screening a stationary opponent from behind (outside the visual field), 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 by stopping or changing direction. The speed of the player to be screened will determine where the screener may take his/her stationary position. The position will vary and may be one or two normal steps or strides from the opponent.

When screening an opponent who is moving in the same path and direction as the screener, the player behind is responsible if contact is made because the player in front slows up or stops and the player behind overruns his/he opponent.

A player who is screened within his/her visual field is expected to avoid contact by going around the screener. In cases of screens outside the visual field, the opponent may make inadvertent contact with the screener and if the opponent is running rapidly, the contact may be severe. Such a case is to be ruled as incidental contact provided the opponent stops or attempts to stop on contact and moves around the screen, and provided the screener is not displaced if he/she has the ball.

A player may not use arms, hands, hips or shoulders to force his/her way through a screen or to hold the screener and then push the screener aside in order to maintain a guarding position on an opponent.

Traveling: Traveling (running with the ball) is moving a foot or feet in any direction in excess of prohibited limits while holding the ball. The limits are as follows:

If both feet are off the floor and the player lands:

1. Simultaneously on both feet, either foot may be the pivot foot.
2. On one foot followed by the other, the first foot to touch is the pivot foot.
3. On one foot, the player may jump off that foot and simultaneously land on both. Neither foot can be a pivot foot in this case.

If one foot is on the floor:

1. It is the pivot foot when the other foot touches in a step.
2. The player may jump off that foot and simultaneously land on both. Neither foot can be a pivot foot in this case.

After coming to a stop and establishing a pivot foot:

The pivot foot may be lifted, but not returned to the floor, before the ball is released on a pass or try for goal.

If the player jumps, neither foot may be returned to the floor before the ball is released on a pass or try for goal.

The pivot foot may not be lifted before the ball is released to start a dribble.

After coming to a stop when neither foot can be a pivot:

One or both feet may be lifted, but may not be returned to the floor before the ball is released on a pass or try for goal.

Neither foot may be lifted before the ball is released, to start a dribble.

A player holding the ball:

May not touch the floor with a knee or any other part of the body other than the hand or foot.

After gaining control while on the floor and touching with other than hand or foot, may not attempt to get up or stand.

On behalf of the Iowa High School Athletic Association Board of Control and the Iowa High School Athletic Association, we want to thank you for what you do for the student athlete in and out of the classroom. Your input does make a difference, the difference is you!!

**Sincerely,
Roger Barr
IHSAA**

