

# GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



## BASKETBALL OFFICIALS DEVELOPMENT CAMP

### **Training Guide Booklet**

# GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION 2016 Basketball Officials Training Camp

## Camp Policies & Procedures



### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Director, Clinicians & Evaluators
- Attending Officials

### ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- Registration
- Lodging & Meals (If Applicable)
- Classroom Training Schedule
- Camp Structure
- Game Sites/Court Numbers
- Camp Game Rules
- Game Assignments

### IMPORTANT CAMP ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Maintain A Professional Image At All Times During The Camp.
- In Order To Receive GHSA "Camp Credit" The Official Must Attend The Entire Camp.
- Become A Genuine "Student of the Game." Listen. Take Notes. Ask Questions.
- No Alcoholic Beverages Are Allowed On Camp Site Property.
- No Form of Tobacco Is Allowed On Camp Site Property.
- No Fraternizing With Coaches or Players During Camp.

### EVALUATORS & EVALUATION SYSTEM

- Evaluation Cards
- Evaluation Grading
- Evaluation Comments
- Tier Level Comments

### TRAINING MATERIAL

#### AREAS OF CONCERN

#### COACHES/CAPTAINS' MEETING

#### DEAD BALL EFFICIENCY

#### SPORTS WITHIN EDUCATION

#### PREGAME CONFERENCE CHECKLIST

#### RULES & RULES ENFORCEMENT

#### NFHS & GHSA MECHANICS

#### NFHS SIGNALS & SIGNALING

## TRAINING MATERIAL

### CAMP PURPOSE

The purposes of the GHSA Basketball Development Camp Program are to provide an opportunity for officials to enhance their ability to competently officiate GHSA basketball games. Another important purpose is to provide an opportunity for the GHSA to monitor the development of game officials. In addition, the Camps provide Game Officials the opportunity to complete one of the requirements in order to be considered for post-season game assignments.

The GHSA has provided a tremendous opportunity for dedicated officials to learn and grow through the knowledge and experience offered by successful and time-tested veteran officials. The Camp Clinicians and Evaluators serving the GHSA Camp Program, have an abundance of officiating wisdom and experience to share with Officials, regardless of their Tier Rating. Their only goal is to help the Officials to improve their officiating skills.

For them to be able to achieve their goal, the Official must be receptive to their instructions, critiques, recommendations, and praise throughout the entire camp experience. Always be respectful and accept their comments in the spirit in which they are offered.

Let's always be reminded that, ***"You must be a good student, before you can be a good Official."***

### CAMP GOALS

We are confident that the officiating skills of all attending Officials will improve due to the training received at the GHSA Camps. Every Official is encouraged to become like a "sponge" and attempt to retain as much information as possible and apply it in the upcoming season. The success or failure of an Official's camp experience will be obvious by the Official's interaction with the Clinicians. So, be a real "student of the game" and apply the training immediately during the camp, summer games and next season.

### OFFICIAL'S GOALS      ***"A Goal That Is Not Written Down, Is Just A Wish."***

At what level of officiating do I wish to attain over the next 5 years? \_\_\_\_\_

What do I feel are my strengths in officiating? \_\_\_\_\_

What do I feel are the areas on which I need to improve? \_\_\_\_\_

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### GHSA MECHANICS & SIGNALS

GHSA Officials Performance Requirements Include:

- NCAA Women's 3-Person PCA Coverage (See Enclosed Chart)
- NFHS 2-Person PCA Coverage (See Enclosed Chart)
- NFHS Signals (See Enclosed Chart)
- GHSA Unique Mechanics & Signals Include:
  - 2-Hand Reporting
  - Walking While Reporting
  - Trail "Chops Time" On All Throw-Ins
  - Administering Official Sounds Whistle On All Frontcourt Throw-Ins





## OFFICIATING AREAS OF CONCERN

### INTERACTION WITH HEAD COACHES

There are two skills required to successfully deal with Coaches during a contest. One is the ability to understand the difference between *“communication and confrontation.”* The second skill is to not allow even acceptable communication to become a distraction to one’s ability to effectively officiate.

If a Coach asks a reasonable question, in an acceptable manner, answer it in a concise and respectful manner, when the timing is right to do so. Remember, Officials are not always correct in their rulings, but the game must proceed based on the decisions of the Officials. Don’t allow Coaches to question every ruling made during the game. At some point and time during the contest, an Official may have to express to a Coach that his/her behavior must change immediately. Once the official puts up the **“Warning Stop Sign”** and informs the Coach that he/she has *“heard enough,”* it is incumbent to inform the other crew members that the Coach has been warned. If the Coach then chooses to *“run the stop sign,”* the penalty is a Direct Technical Foul. This ruling is made with composure, dignity and professionalism.

The **Coaching Box Rule (10.5.1.a.)** is to be enforced. Officials shall **know** when the Head Coach is **not** in the Coaching Box. Officials shall enforce the Rule whether the Coach is *“bothering you or not.”*

Coaches respect an official who displays confidence in her/her decisions made on the court. However, arrogance is never liked, even if the rulings are accurate. Be confident. Be polite. Be courteous. Be approachable. And...Be Accurate in your rulings.

### SPORTSMANSHIP

As has been widely reported, sportsmanship has become a major concern of the GHSA. GHSA contest officials are expected to have a *“zero tolerance”* for unsporting acts. If an attempt to talk to a player or coach concerning their behavior is ignored and they choose to disregard the advice, the next sound they hear should be a whistle.

When a situation arises concerning an unruly spectator, who has become a distraction to the game, request the assistance from the Game Manager to control the situation. It is **NOT** the job of the officials to go into the stands and tell a spectator to leave the gym. Allow the Game Manager and security personnel to handle those situations.

### GAME AWARENESS

Simply put: Don’t get surprised! **Be aware** when the next foul puts a team in the bonus. **Be aware** of the clock and timing issues. **Be aware** of injured and/or bleeding players. **Be aware** when a coach is approaching the boundaries of violating Rule 10.4-5. **Be aware** when substitutes are at the table. **Be aware** that the correct player is at the free throw line. **Be aware** that players are lined up correctly during free throws. **Be aware** when it is a designated spot throw-in, or the team can use the entire end line. **Be aware** of who, where, and how play will resume following a timeout.

All these situations...and more...require the Official to have an **uninterrupted focus** throughout the entire game; regardless of the score or time on the clock. **Game Awareness** is often the skill that allows one Official to advance, while another stays home during the post season.



## **TABLE CREW COMMUNICATION**

A critical part of game administration is recognizing that there are two additional Crew Members at the Table. The Referee assigned to the game has “officially declared” which persons will serve the game as the Official Scorer and the Official Timer. It is very important that these two Table Officials “feel” as though they are Members of the Crew of Five (or four) that it takes to officiate the game in the manner that is expected by the NFHS and the GHSA.

This responsibility begins when the Referee goes to the Table at the 12:00 mark, before the scheduled starting time. The Referee should be friendly, cordial and respectful of the two individuals and thank them for serving in their respective roles. The Referee should have a thorough “checklist” that is discussed with the Scorer and Timer, who are both present and together for this Pre-Game Meeting. If the Referee assumes that either of these two Table Officials “knows what they are doing” and fails to deliver the required information to them, the game is already off to a bad start. If they are very experienced, you can avoid insulting them by simply stating, “It is so nice to have experienced table officials and I’m sure you know what to do, but let me go down my mental checklist with you before we get started.”

Much of the success in officiating the game depends upon the quality of communication between each of the five officials. Our goal should be to have excellent communications, both verbal and non-verbal.

### **Here Are Some Major Items To Cover With The Table Officials:**

#### **OFFICIAL SCORER**

- Recommendation: Be Seated Next To The Timer
- Wear A Black & White Striped Garment, Preferably, An Official’s Shirt
- Establish And Maintain Eye-Contact With The Reporting Official Until Report Is Complete
- When In The Bonus, Show The “One & One” Or “Two Shots” Signal To Reporting Official
- After The Report...Enter The Reported Information Into The Official Scorebook
- Note That The “Running Score” Is The Most Important Information Entered
- Each Team Is Allotted **Three** 60-Second & **Two** 30-Second Time-Outs Per Game
- Let The Nearest Official Know When A Team Has Used All Of Its Allotted Time-Outs
- Check All Substitutes Into The Game Before The Timer Sounds The Horn
- Instruct Substitutes To Remain At The Table Until Beckoned By An Official
- You Are Responsible For The Accurate Direction Of The Alternating Possession Arrow
- Record The Direction Of The Alternating Possession Arrow In The Official Scorebook
- All Goals Are Two Points, Unless Otherwise Signaled

#### **OFFICIAL TIMER**

- Recommendation: Be Seated Next To The Scorer
- Always Keep Your Eyes On The Officials And A Hand On The Start/Stop Device During Play
- Must Have Stop Watch Or Second Hand On Watch
- There Are Four 8-Minute Quarters, With A 60-Seconds Intermission After The First & Third
- Half-Time Intermission Is 10 Minutes. Recommendation: Sound The Horn With 3:30 Remaining In Half-Time Intermission
- Sound The “Warning Horn” With 15 Seconds Remaining In Each Intermission
- Extra Periods Are 4-Minutes (Half Of A Quarter)
- Sound The “Warning Horn” With 15 Seconds Remaining In Each Time-Out And Also Sound The Final Horn At The End Of The Time-Out. (“Yes, The Final Horn Should Sound.”)

(When The Official Is Ready To Resume Play **BEFORE** The Final Horn...Be Careful Not To Sound The Horn After His/Her Whistle.)

- Substitutes Are To Be Checked Into The Game By The Scorer Before Sounding The Horn
- Start The Clock On Touch, Following A Jump Ball, Throw-In Or Unsuccessful Free Throw  
(If Not Followed By Another Free Throw Or A Throw-In)
- All Goals Are Two Points, Unless Otherwise Signaled
- Always Be Aware Of The Time On The Clock By Glancing After Each Score And Whistle

## PROFESSIONALISM

### The Keys To Projecting A Professional Approach To Officiating

1. Professionalism is a **state of mind** and a consistent manner of behaving that should be second nature to officials. Basketball officials are expected to be accurate in their rulings, have good eye sight, have a healthy appearance, rules knowledgeable, consistent accurate rulings, prudent, decisive, honest, truthful, tolerant of diversity, and possess the ability to make quick decisions.
2. **Be dependable, trustworthy and reliable.** Attend local association meetings, accept only the games that you can logically officiate and turn back the games that appear to be a “*stretch*” for you. Be an excellent communicator with your crew partners and the leadership of your local association. Be on time at all your meetings and assignments.
3. **Avoid controversy** within your association and at game assignments. No one wants to officiate games with, or be associated with, someone who is a “*controversy magnet.*”
4. **Take pride in your officiating appearance.** Dress in an appropriate manner to and from game assignments. Stay physically fit and wear your officiating uniform in the manner directed by the GHSA. Be aware that your **APPEARANCE** is the first thing on which players, coaches, and spectators will judge you. This is the **FIRST IMPRESSION** you make.
5. **Be a “student of the game.”** Know and enforce the Rules as written in the Rules Book. Attend clinics, training sessions, and camps that will enhance your officiating ability. The game is much easier to officiate when you have knowledge of the rules and are able to accurately apply them.
6. **Control your emotions.** Be composed at all times. Don’t allow your emotions to adversely affect your ability to officiate the game. Everyone at the game is emotionally involved **EXCEPT** the Game Officials.
7. **Just do your job.** People didn’t come to the game to watch you officiate. An official should never try to be the center of attention. Don’t do things to draw attention to yourself. Officials who make a conscious effort to draw attention to themselves, find it hard to find partners who want to officiate with them.
8. **Assess yourself.** At some time following the game do a self-evaluation of your performance. At the conclusion of the season, reassess your season, your over-all performance and the goals you set for yourself prior to the season.
9. **Be accountable** and take responsibility of your actions. Don’t blame your partners, local leadership, or the state office for your inability to advance as an official. If you place the blame on others, you will merely make the same mistakes next season.
10. **Cooperate with people in positions of authority.** Unless you are in a position to dictate policies and procedures...follow them. When you display resistance to rules and regulations, you display a spirit of rebellion. Local and state leaders will be reluctant to help you advance, if they read this characteristic in you.



## **PROFESSIONALISM**

### **ENFORCE THE RULES ~ MASTER AND APPLY PROPER MECHANICS ~ MASTER AND USE APPROVED SIGNALS**

Officials must appreciate the skills of players and the preparation/practice efforts put forth by coaches and players. This complex game and its participants deserve a crew of officials who have “*mastered the RULES*” of The Game.

Accurate rulings can't be made by officials who do not know the rules. **You can't enforce them if you don't know them.** Learn the rules and then enforce them. **“Stop looking for substitutes to replace them.”**

The Rules Guarantee Fair Play, with a balance between Defense and Offense. At times it is very delicate.

#### **Enforce The Rules As Written, With No Regard For:**

- The score of the game.
- The time remaining in the game.
- The situations player(s) and team(s) are confronted with.

Officials are not to warn players or coaches beyond the four approved warnings.

The game and its participants deserve a crew of officials who have “*mastered the PROPER MECHANICS*” (coverages and procedures).

The game, its participants and all others involved in the game deserve a crew of officials who have “*mastered and use only the APPROVED SIGNALS*” (the major form of communication). Each crew member should present the same signal in as close to identical manner as possible. Signaling should be composed, sharp/crisp, timely and presented in a professional manner.

Upon accepting an assignment to officiate a schoolboy or schoolgirl game, an official has accepted the responsible role of being **part of the education process**. Bring a professional officiating High School package, which assists the schools and its participants in reaping a positive experience.

There is no room for an official's **individual threshold of tolerance** when observing violations, contact or behavior. It is not whether the behavior “*bothers*” the official; it is a matter of the **behavior is or is not to be condoned by the Rules**. Tolerance favors one of the teams every time. And....never forget there are **TWO TEAMS INVOLVED** in each situation. So, think of both teams prior to arriving at a Ruling.

Officials “*reap what they sow.*” What is not enforced is encouraged. What officials “*let go*” leads to more of the same and even comes back to “*haunt*” the game and the officials.

Realize that officials are to **FOLLOW BASKETBALL'S OFFICIATING PLAN**. Officiating is not about the official. Be selfless and understand and demonstrate that it is not about us. It is only about **THE GAME** and its participants. To view it in any other way is unacceptable. **So serve basketball and officiating and not every whim or whine that comes along.**

**Again, don't look for reasons not to enforce the rules.** Monitor the activity of the game from the proper coverage positions and make your rulings based upon the Rules of the game.

## **THE PURPOSE OF SPORTS AT HIGH SCHOOLS**

*“As Basketball Officials, It Is Our Obligation To Assist The Schools In Carrying Out Their Mission Statement.”*

Schools sponsor sports & other extracurricular activities, because of the **ADDITIONAL EDUCATION** received by the students when participating. This **ADDITIONAL EDUCATION** is in the form of **“FAVORABLE MESSAGES”** the participants can receive as a result of their experiences.

Some, But Not All, Of These Very Valuable and **“Favorable Messages”** Are:

- Good Sportsmanship
- Fair Play Competition
- Learning to Follow Instructions
- Striving to Accomplish...& Succeeding
- Learning To Lose Graciously & With Dignity
- Goal Setting
- Adhering to Standards
- Dress Codes
- Abiding By Rules
- Working with Others (Teamwork, Group Conduct, Public Conduct, etc.)
- Respect for Authority
- Controlling Emotions
- Discipline

**EVERYONE INVOLVED** In The Game Of Basketball Should Be Working As A Cohesive Unit And Accept Responsibility For Assisting The Student Athletes, In Achieving These **“Favorable Messages!”**

These **“Favorable Messages”** Must **TAKE PRIORITY** Over Learning The Individual Skills Of Basketball And Also **TAKE PRIORITY** Over The Attitudes Of *“Winning The Game At All Cost.”* The Game Of Basketball And This Responsibility Belong To **EVERYONE INVOLVED** In The Game:

- **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS**
- **COACHES**
- **PLAYERS**
- **MEDIA**
- **SPECTATORS**
- **AND, “YES”...EVEN THE OFFICIALS**

**EVERYONE INVOLVED** is responsible for maintaining certain **STANDARDS** and for maintaining the **INTEGRITY** of the game. **EVERYONE INVOLVED** must realize and accept the fact that **COACHES AND OFFICIALS** are a **VITAL PART** of the **EDUCATIONAL PROCESS**. It is crucial that **EVERYONE INVOLVED** understands that the **COACHES AND OFFICIALS** are **SERVING** the high schools in their respective roles.

When there is a breakdown in cooperation or negative criticism of one group by another...**EVERYONE LOSES**... including the game of basketball. It is very much the **DUTY** and **ROLE** of the **COACH AND OFFICIAL** to **CARE ABOUT, MONITOR and ENFORCE RULES** pertaining to Appearance, Verbal & Physical Conduct and Sportsmanship in general. **Sportsmanship is a priority**. The **Coaches Code of Ethics (Page 83)**, the **Officials Code of Ethics (Page 84)**, the Rules Book and the Officials Manual make this very clear to the **COACHES AND OFFICIALS**.

Again...there is a **“BIG PICTURE,”** which is the purpose of this non-classroom activity, and that is to have the student athlete receive and *“take away”* **“FAVORABLE MESSAGES”** from the experience of participating.

**COACHES AND OFFICIALS** are **REPRESENTATIVES** and **GUARDIANS** of the game. The major charge to these **“GUARDIANS”** is the maintenance of **STANDARDS, DIGNITY and INTEGRITY** of the game and its purpose. **COACHES AND OFFICIALS** should aid the schools in blending competitiveness, hard work and the desire to win, with favorable, positive attitudes and behavior. **COACHES AND OFFICIALS** owe it to our young athletes to give them the **PROPER GUIDANCE** to help them learn **LIFETIME VALUES**. **COACHES AND OFFICIALS** must assume the responsibilities of being in a **“ROLE MODEL”** position.

*“As Basketball Officials, It Is Our Obligation To Assist The Schools In Carrying Out Their Mission Statement.”*

## PRE-GAME CONFERENCE CHECKLIST

*“Everything We Do Matters To One Team...Or Both!”*

*“Everything We Do Must Be Supported By The Rules Book, Case Book And/Or The Manual.”*

- ✓ **15:00 ARRIVAL ON COURT...12:00 Referee To Table...3:00 Coaches/Captains Meeting**
  - 5 Officials...All Goals Are 2 Points (Unless We Show 3-Point Signal)...Resume Play On 2<sup>nd</sup> Horn
- ✓ **ZERO TOLERANCE FOR BAD BEHAVIOR...No Warnings!**
- ✓ **JUMP BALL...Call Back Bad Toss...Penalize “Stealing The Toss”...Start The Game With Perfection**
- ✓ **PCA**
  - Press Coverage...Center: Stay & Read... “Freeze” Feet On Successful Goal
  - Rotations...Rotate For One Reason: “Move To Improve” Our Coverage
- ✓ **LINE RESPONSIBILITIES...Call Your Line. Discuss: “Asking For Help” And “Offering Help”**
- ✓ **THROW-IN**
  - Nearest Spot...The Rules (Not Mechanics) Require Us To Put The Ball In Play At The Nearest Out-Of-Bounds Spot.
  - Below Free Throw Line... “Is The Lead Going To Administer The Throw-In?”
  - Resuming Play Procedure... “Play On The Second Horn!” It Is The Rule! If Both Teams Are Ready...Whistle & Play
  - Discuss Backcourt End Line Throw-In... “Are We Going To Bounce The Ball Across The Lane?”
- ✓ **HELD BALL**
  - “Thumbs Up...Eyes Down” The ruling Official does NOT look to table for Arrow.
  - Look To Partner Who’s Facing The Table For AP Direction
- ✓ **FREE THROWS**
  - Enforce Stepping-In-Too-Soon Rule; Defender Crossing Free Throw Line Too Soon (“Blocking Out” Free Thrower)
  - Perform All Free Throw Mechanics The Same. (Whistle In Mouth, Correct Position, etc.) (Points At Stake & Rules To Enforce)
  - Echo Signal...Reporting Official To Lead...Lead Echoes With Fingers
  - Stand Right Place... “Good Mechanics = Good Coverage!”
- ✓ **SUBS**
  - Allow The Table Officials To Perform Their Duties!
  - Scorer Checks Them In...Timer Sounds Hom...Official Beckons With Signal & Whistle...**In That Order**
  - Tableside Official Beckons...Center Beckons In Transition
  - **Hand Up...No Hurry...No Mistakes**
- ✓ **TIME-OUTS**
  - “Toe A Line”...Dead Ball Efficiency...Observe Bench Area...Be Available...Look Interested & Professional
  - Stay Out Of Team Huddles. We Are Distracting The Coach And The Team. Play On The 2<sup>nd</sup> Horn
- ✓ **LAST-SECOND SHOT RESPONSIBILITIES...Communicate...Official Opposite Table...HOPEFULLY CENTER**
- ✓ **3-POINT TRY...Only One Official Shows Attempt Signal...“All goals are two points, unless we signal otherwise.”**
- ✓ **CLOSELY-GUARDED**
  - “Look For Reasons To Count...Not For Excuses Not To.”... “Don’t Be On 1 When We Should Be On 3.”
- ✓ **CONTINUOUS MOTION...Penalize The Right Person... “Has The Try Begun?”...Never Use The Term, “On The Floor.”**
- ✓ **BASKET INTERFERENCE...Happens Quickly...Be Ready...Know The Rule**
- ✓ **GOALTENDING...Happens Quickly...Be Ready...Know The Rule...Know The Difference Between GT & BI**
- ✓ **CONTACT**
  - Legal (Incidental) vs. Illegal (Foul)
  - Rule 10.6.12
  - Advantage/Disadvantage
  - Screens...Hand-Checking
  - Verticality...Block/Charge
  - Intentional Fouls & Double-Whistles
- ✓ **TECHNICAL FOULS...Get The Referee Involved...Cool Down...Proceed To Correct End For Free Throws**
- ✓ **OFF-BALL COVERAGE... “Let’s Have A Good Game From The Center Official.”**
- ✓ **REPORTING FOULS...Report From Reporting Area...Deliberate...Very Clear...Good Voice...Must Have Eye Contact**
- ✓ **FOULED-OUT PROCEDURE... “How Are We Going To Communicate?”**
- ✓ **FIGHTS & BAD BEHAVIOR...Discuss Awareness, Prevention & Procedure... “See The Clouds Before The Rain!”**
- ✓ **SHIRT TAILS & PANTS...Enforcement From The Beginning**
- ✓ **CLOCK AWARENESS...Communicate... “Don’t Allow 00:00 To Slip Up On Us.”**
- ✓ **BENCH DECORUM...Only Head Coach Is Allowed To Stand**
- ✓ **COACHING BOX RULE...Enforce It! “It doesn’t matter if it bothers you or not.”**
- ✓ **END OF GAME PROCEDURE...Meet In Center Circle At End Of First Half & At End Of Close Game (4 Points Or Less)**
- ✓ **PROFESSIONALISM-PRIDE-POISE... “Dignified & Composed vs. An Excited Selling Style”**
- ✓ **100% EFFORT & TOTAL FOCUS AT ALL TIMES... “Let’s Be The Best TEAM On The Court!”**
- ✓ **ENFORCE ALL RULES AND COMMUNICATE...COMMUNICATE...COMMUNICATE**

**COACHES/CAPTAINS MEETING**

This very important Pre-Game Meeting takes place in the Center Restraining Circle at the 3:00 mark, as the clock is ticking down toward scheduled starting time. The Head Coach is required to be present, along with at least one Captain; more than one Captain in the meeting is allowed. However, the *“Speaking Captain”* will be identified by the Head Coach.

There is to be one Meeting; not one meeting with the Coaches, followed by one meeting with the captains. One of the main purposes of this meeting is for the Head Coaches to agree to conduct themselves with good sportsmanship. This should be done in the presence of the Captains.

During this Meeting, the officiating Crew should be standing together, so as to be seen as one Crew and not three individuals. The Referee will do the talking, while the Umpires will be very attentive, as the Coaches and Captains are.

The meeting is not a rules clinic, but a short informative and casual meeting of introductions, along with the two required questions that the Head Coaches must answer in the affirmative.

After all the hand-shakes and introductions, the Referee should deliver the following message, in his/her own personality and style:

***“As we all know...sportsmanship is the top priority across the country in high school athletics. It all starts with the adults and comes down to the floor leaders. Coaches, can we count on that from each of you during the game? Thank you. Are your team members properly equipped and will they be wearing their uniforms properly? Thank you.*”**

***“Guys that means your shirt tails must stay in. We know they come out, but put them back in when you hear a whistle and you can stay in the game.*”**

***“Who is your speaking captain (visitor coach)? And yours coach (home coach)?”***

***“You all are the floor leaders, so lead by setting a good sportsmanship example.*”**

***Thank you all so much and good luck to both teams.”***

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**NEXT SEASON’S RULES CHANGES, EDITORIAL CHANGES, POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

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## **DEAD BALL EFFICIENCY**

The ball becomes **DEAD** following a scored goal, even though the clock is running. However, for the purposes of this discussion on **DEAD BALL EFFICIENCY**, this is **NOT** the **DEAD BALL** time that seems to cause some officials to “lose concentration.”

Nearly all of the **RULINGS** made by officials occur during a **LIVE BALL**. After all, nearly all of the rules concern **LIVE BALL** situations. It is crucial, however, to realize that:

**“WHEN THE BALL IS DEAD...THE GOOD OFFICIAL WILL STAY ALIVE.”**

The **BEST OFFICIALS** do not take a “time-out” when the teams do. To be considered a Top Official:  
**“DEAD BALL WEAKNESSES MUST BE ELIMINATED.”**

A **DEAD BALL** will usually result from a **FOUL, VIOLATION, HELD BALL** or **TIME-OUT**. In these instances, the official will have some communication to make in the form of **SIGNALS** and floor **MECHANICS**. The key is to do what has to be done as smoothly and as efficiently as possible. The **SIGNALS** are to be made very “crisp” and clear to all. But...when finished...don’t stand around and wait for applause. ☺ Instead:

**“GET THE BALL BACK IN PLAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.”**

The **DEAD BALL** period during a **TIME-OUT** is obviously longer than the **DEAD BALL** period when a violation is ruled. That’s why it is critical for officials to remain “in the game” and remain focused on well-defined responsibilities. The Officials should have a very clear understanding as to:

(1) Where To Stand, (2) Where To Look, (3) How To Communicate & Even...(4) What To Be Thinking.

### **Here Is A Mini-Checklist For TIME-OUT EFFICIENCY:**

- **Be A Great Communicator**
- **Whose Time-Out?**
- **Who Requested It?**
- **Are There Subs?**
- **Is A Foul Involved?**
- **Who Is The Free Thrower?**
- **Move To Proper Floor Position**
- **Stay There**
- **Toe A Line**
- **Look Professional**
- **Stand Still & Tall**
- **Make Yourself Available**
- **Don’t Pace, Bounce The Ball, Talk To Fans, Flirt With Cheerleaders, Etc.**
- **Use This Time-Out Wisely**
- **Don’t Let Your Mind Wander**
- **Remind Yourself As To Where & How Play Will Resume**

It is also during these lengthy **DEAD BALL** periods that even the best officials are “challenged” by the Head Coach. Be prepared when this happens. If a simple response or explanation is the “answer”...give it. But don’t give a mini rules clinic. This will only encourage additional challenges. Never be sarcastic, condescending or disrespectful with your response.

Once again, remember:

**“WHEN THE BALL IS DEAD...THE GOOD OFFICIAL WILL...STAY ALIVE!”**





## **RULES & RULES ENFORCEMENT**

### ***“A GAME IS ITS RULES!”***

Obviously, every sport has Rules; yes, even basketball. A fact which must be realized and accepted by every basketball official. The rules have evolved over the past 125 years, into a detailed, thorough and well-written document that must be viewed by all involved as the **Master Plan**. Don't fight it!

There is much more to the rules than one can see. In several instances, it has taken the best minds in the basketball world several years to add or change a rule. There is so much to be considered. Rules are, by design, put in place to provide a balance between the defense and the offense, between the big and the small, the tall and the short and between the strong and the weak. Preparation and skill should be the prevailing factors in the competition and the final outcome of the game.

Coaches don't write the rules, but they must teach their players how to play without breaking the rules; players don't write the rules, but they must play by the rules; Officials don't write the rules, but they must enforce the rules. One can't enforce the rules if he/she does not know the rules. Learn the rules, trust the rules and enforce the rules and quit looking for ways to replace or circumvent the rules. Why do Officials, at times, go so far out of the way to not enforce a rule? Enforce the rules, the coaches and players will adjust. Enforce the rules, with no regard for the score of the game, the time remaining in the game or any specific situation(s) that a team(s) or player(s) is confronted with.

There is no room for an official's individual threshold of tolerance when observing violations or contact. In unsporting behavior situations, it is not whether or not the behavior *“bothers”* the official, it is whether or not the behavior is, by rule, not to be condoned. Tolerance favors one of the teams in every situation. Always keep in mind that there are two teams in each situation an official is confronted with/observes. Each ruling that is made matters to both teams.

An officiating crew *“reaps what it sows.”* What is not enforced is encouraged. What officials *“let go/allow”* often leads to more of the same and often comes back to *“haunt”* the game and the officials.

Realize and understand that officials are to follow the basketball and officiating plan. Officiating is not about the Officials' version of the rules. Don't look for rationale to not enforce the rules. Be selfless, understand and demonstrate that it is not about the Officials. It is about **THE GAME** and its rules. To view it any other way is unacceptable. Therefore, serve basketball, serve the participants involved, serve officiating and not every whim and whine that comes along. **When the Official finds the rules, he/she will find his/her purpose within the game.**

***“We Can't Make Accurate Rulings, On Rules We Don't Know.”***

***“Anyone Can Be Stylish, But It Takes Hard Work, Commitment And Dedication To MAKE CONSISTENT, ACCURATE RULINGS, Which Is What We Are Paid To Do.”***



## **RULES**

### **KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED FOR EVERY GAME MASTER THESE IMMEDIATELY**

- Alternating Possession & Arrow...Rule 4.2, 6.4
- Blocking/Charging/Guarding...Rule 4.7, 4.23,
- Coaching Box...Rule 10.5.1
- Closely-Guarded...Rule 4.10, 4.23, 9.10
- Contact...Incidental (Legal), Foul (Illegal)...Rule 4.19, 4.24, 4.26, 4.27, 4.37, 4.40, 4.45, 10.6
- Continuous Motion...Rule 4.11
- Control...Player & Team...Rule 4.12
- Dribble...Rule 4.15, 9.5
- Free Throw...Rule 4.20, 8.1, 8.2, 9.1
- Held Ball...Rule 4.25
- Live Ball & Dead Ball...Rule 6.1, 6.7
- Out-Of-Bounds...Rule 7.1, 7.2, 7.5, 7.6, 9.3
- Player Location...Rule 4.35
- Screen...Rule 4.40,
- Shooting, Try, Tap...Rule 4.41
- Signals...Rule 2.9
- Substitution/Substituting...Rule 3.3, 10.2
- Technical Foul (Player)...Rule 10.3
- Technical Foul (Coach/Bench Personnel)...Rule 10.4
- Ten Seconds...9.8
- Three Seconds...9.7
- Throw-In, Thrower, Designated Spot...Rule 4.42, 7.6, 8.5, 9.2
- Time-Out...Rule 4.43, 5.8
- Traveling...Rule 4.44

### **RULES QUESTION**

Team A has control in their frontcourt.

A1 is dribbling the ball near the top of the free throw semi-circle.

A3 runs out-of-bounds along the end line and comes back onto the court on the other side of the lane.

The Lead Official sounds the whistle, as soon as A3 went out-of-bounds.

Is the Official correct?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No

### **RULES QUESTION**

The ball is rebounded by A1 (New Team In Control) who makes a long outlet pass to A2.

A2, while looking back to A1, catches the ball with one foot on the floor.

He/She then turns toward his/her basket, but before the non-pivot foot touches the floor, he/she crashes into B2, who is standing on the court.

A2 didn't even know B2 was there and did not have a chance to stop or change directions.

The Official rules a Player Control Foul on A2.

Is the Official correct?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No

### **RULES QUESTION**

A1 shoots the ball and scores.

As soon as the ball goes through the basket, B2 intentionally pushes A2.

The contact is way-beyond incidental.

The Official rules a Technical Foul on B2.

Is the Official correct?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No



## ~ 12 MORE RULES QUESTIONS ~

### **SITUATION #1**

Team A has been charged with six personal fouls in the second half and A1 has four personal fouls.

A1 receives a pass and dunks the ball and...for no apparent reason...A1 "*hangs on the ring.*"

The official charges A1 with a technical foul. The official rules that A1 has "*fouled out*" of the game and that Team B will now be in the Bonus for the remainder of the game. Is the official correct? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

### **SITUATION #2**

A1 is dribbling the ball in the frontcourt, when B1 hits the ball. The ball deflects off A1's foot and goes into the backcourt. A1 quickly recovers the ball. The official rules this to be a backcourt violation. Is the official correct? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

### **SITUATION #3**

A1 attempts a dunk and the ball hits the ring and goes straight above the basket. A1 grasps the ring for protection. While A1 is "*hanging on the ring*" for protection...the ball passes through the basket. The official rules this Offensive Basket Interference and disallows the goal. Is the official correct? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

### **SITUATION #4**

As the first half is coming to an end...A1 attempts a "*last second shot*" from his backcourt.

The try is very short and hits the floor at the free throw line and bounces very high.

After the ball hits the floor...the horn sounds ending the first half.

The ball continues and goes in the basket. Is this two points \_\_\_\_, three points \_\_\_ or no goal \_\_\_?

### **SITUATION #5**

Point Guard A1 drives by the defender and attempts a lay-up shot.

As the ball is going up...after touching the backboard...B3 touches the ball.

The official rules goaltending on B3 and awards A1 two points. Is the official correct? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

### **SITUATION #6**

As A1 is bringing the ball up the court...A2 punches B2.

The official rules a Flagrant Technical Foul on A2. Is the official correct? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

### **SITUATION #7**

As the ball is directly above the basket...within the imaginary cylinder...B1 touches the ring.

The official rules Defensive Basket Interference and awards Team A the goal.

Is the official correct? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

### **SITUATION #8**

A1's lay-up is rolling on the ring, when B1 slaps the backboard so hard that the ball falls off the ring and does not go in.

The official charges B1 with a Technical Foul and awards Team A the two points.

Is the official correct? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

### **SITUATION #9**

A1 releases the ball on a try for goal.

While the ball is in flight...A2 excessively swings her arms and elbows to get good rebounding position.

The official sounds the whistle for the violation.

The ball then goes in the basket.

The official disallows the goal and gives Team B a throw-in from the nearest spot of the violation.

Is the official correct? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

### **SITUATION #10**

A1 is dribbling the ball in the frontcourt. B1 slaps the ball into the backcourt, where A1 picks up the ball.

After about two seconds...A1 begins to dribble to get back to the frontcourt. The Trail Official should begin the 10-Second Backcourt Count, as soon as: 1) The ball touches the backcourt \_\_, 2) A1 touches the ball \_\_, 3) A1 holds the ball \_\_, 4) A1 dribbles the ball \_\_.

### **SITUATION #11**

A1 drives to the basket for a layup shot, which enters the basket.

Before A1 returns to the floor, he crashes into B1, who had obtained a legal guarding position before A1 became airborne.

The Official rules a Player Control Foul on A1 and disallows the goal. Is the Official correct? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

### **SITUATION #12**

A1 is dribbling the ball in the backcourt and the Trail Official is counting the 10-seconds.

A1 throws a long bounce pass toward A2, who is already in the frontcourt. The Trail Official stops the 10-second count when the ball touches the floor in the frontcourt. Is the Official correct? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

## RULES

### TRAVELING...RULE 4.44

#### DEFINITION

***“TRAVELING Is Moving A Foot...Or Feet...In Any Direction, In Excess Of PRESCRIBED LIMITS, While HOLDING A LIVE Ball INBOUNDS.”***

#### OFFICIALS MUST BECOME AN EXPERT AT KNOWING

- Which Foot Is The Pivot Foot?
- What Are The Prescribed Limits?

#### KNOW THIS

- A Player Cannot Travel Unless Holding A Live Ball Inbounds.
- A Player Can Never Travel While Dribbling The Ball.

#### PLAYER CONTROL...Rule 4.44 Art. 2

- A Player May Gain Control of The Ball With **BOTH** Feet On The Floor.
- A Player May Gain Control of The Ball With **ONE** Foot On The Floor.
- A Player May Gain Control of The Ball With **NO** Feet On The Floor.

#### THE PIVOT FOOT...Rule 4.44 Art. 3a. & 4a

##### **When The Player Receives The Ball With:**

- Both Feet On The Floor...Either Foot May Become The Pivot Foot.
- One Foot On The Floor...That Foot Becomes The Pivot Foot.
- No Feet On The Floor...The First Foot To Touch The Floor Becomes The Pivot Foot.

#### IS IT LEGAL TO LIFT THE PIVOT FOOT?...Rule 4.44 Art. 3a & 4a

- To Shoot Or Pass? **YES**
- To Start A Dribble? **NO**

#### HOLDING THE BALL AND TOUCHING THE FLOOR...Rule 4.44 Art. 5a

***“The Player Is Allowed To Touch The Floor With The HANDS & FEET, But No Other Part Of The Body.”***

#### GAINING CONTROL WHILE TOUCHING THE FLOOR WITH MORE THAN HANDS OR FEET

**Rule 4.44.5b...The Player May Not Attempt To Get Up.**

#### **ON BACK**

- Can NOT Rollover
- CAN Rise To A Seated Position
- Can ONLY Dribble, Pass, Request Time-Out or Shoot

#### **ON STOMACH**

- Can NOT Rollover
- Can ONLY Dribble, Pass, Request Time-Out or Shoot

#### DIVING FOR THE BALL...Rule 4.44 Art. 5.b.

***“A Player Who Dives For A Loose Ball And Slides After Gaining Control, Cannot Commit A Traveling Violation If The Sliding Is Caused By His/Her Momentum. Once The Player Stops Sliding, The Official Will Apply The Traveling Rules As Described Above.”***



## RULES

### THE JUMP STOP...Rule 4.44 Art. 2.a.3.

#### ***“An Exception To Traveling”...***

When A1 is holding a **LIVE** ball **INBOUNDS** and picks up **BOTH** feet...obviously, the pivot foot has been lifted, even if the official doesn't know which one it is. When the pivot is lifted and returned to the floor, while A1 is still holding a **LIVE** ball, **INBOUNDS**...a Traveling Violation has occurred.

However, the **JUMP STOP** Rule could actually be characterized as an **“EXCEPTION,”** since the **PIVOT FOOT** is lifted and returned to the floor.

A1 may jump **FROM** one foot...the pivot foot...and land on **BOTH** feet **SIMULTANEOUSLY**. When A1 lands on **BOTH** feet **SIMULTANEOUSLY**...he/she will **STOP!** If A1 does **NOT** stop...it is **NOT** a Jump **STOP**. If A1 doesn't know this rule or isn't skilled enough to perform this exception correctly, then he/she **MUST** be penalized for **NOT** playing by the **RULES**.

#### **THE VIOLATION**

- If A1 does **NOT** land on both feet at the same time...A1 has committed A Traveling Violation.
- If A1 **DOES** land on **BOTH** feet at the **SAME** time and then lifts **EITHER** foot and **RETURNS** it to the floor while **STILL HOLDING** the ball...A1 has committed a Traveling Violation.
- After a properly executed Jump Stop...lifting **ONE** foot and putting it back down on the floor, is no different than A1 lifting **BOTH** feet and landing back on the floor while still holding the ball.

A properly executed **JUMP STOP** is one of our **EASIEST** Rules on which Officials can always rule accurately. The legality of the foot movement can be seen from anywhere in the gym, as A1 has come to a stop.

#### **FOLLOW THIS CASE PLAY**

- A1 Ends The Dribble With One Foot On The Floor
- He/she Then Jumps Off That Same Foot
- Then Lands On Both Feet Simultaneously
- He/she Then Picks Up Either Foot (Legal To This Point)
- However, He/she Then Returns That Foot To The Floor While Still Holding The Ball

***“This Is A Traveling Violation, Which Is So Easy To Monitor  
And No Reason To Miss This One.”***

All Officials Must **MASTER** The **JUMP STOP RULE**. Mechanics Are So Important, But Knowing The Rules Must Come First.

***“None Of Us Can Make Consistent, Accurate Rulings On Rules We Don't Know,  
Regardless Of Where We Stand Or What Angle We Have.”***



## RULES

### **CONTACT...LEGAL & ILLEGAL...4.23, 4.24, 4.27 & 10.6**

Basketball is a game played in a restricted area with athletic and sometimes large players. Contact is inevitable. Officials must learn the rules pertaining to legal and illegal contact. **Rule 4.27** allows legal contact and is referred to as Incidental Contact. In fact...this rule reminds us that some of the most severe contact in the game could be Incidental (legal), while the slightest touch could be a foul (illegal).

Every time an official sees contact...he/she has to first decide if the contact was legal (incidental) or illegal (foul). If illegal...then the official has to decide, by Rule, as to who caused the contact; the offense or the defense. A good question to ask is, **“What did the defender do wrong?”** If nothing...the foul cannot be on the defender. **Rule 10.6** lists the many ways a player can **CAUSE** contact.

When a collision occurs and players fall to the floor, the only way to make an accurate ruling is to be knowledgeable of the rules that pertain to such contact. In order to make an accurate ruling, the covering official must see the beginning, the development and the end of the play. This will provide the covering official with all the information he/she needs to determine whether a foul was committed and who should be charged with the foul. If no illegal action occurred, then there is no need for a whistle.

However, when the ball is involved in a play in which players fall to the floor, sound the whistle. When a player is dribbling to the basket and contact occurs that results in the player with the ball going to the floor, sound the whistle. The only way to arrive at an accurate ruling is to know the rules that pertain to such collisions. Again, in these two above instances, a foul has occurred, but do not default to a Blocking Foul, as most, by rule are Player Control Fouls. Learn **Rules 4.23, 4.24, 4.27 & 10.6**

When the ball is loose on the floor, it is illegal for players to *“pile on”* or jump on other players. Officials should not grant a time-out request unless the requesting team has **PLAYER** control. When opponents have their hands so firmly on the ball that control cannot be obtained without undue roughness, the official should quickly sound the whistle for a Held Ball, so the aggressiveness for the ball ends. Keep your eyes on the players involved after the whistle sounds. **DO NOT LOOK AT THE AP ARROW!**

If the official does not sound the whistle when illegal contact occurs, that official has made an inaccurate ruling and has *“kicked”* a rule. What officials allow, they condone. What they condone, they get more of. Enforce the rules that pertain to contact throughout the entire game. They are clearly written, just like the rules that pertain to violations.



## NOTES

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## RULES

### **GUARDING BLOCK/CHARGE...4.23**

#### **Definition...RULE 4.23.1**

***“Guarding is the act of legally placing the body in the path of an offensive opponent.”***

The maximum distance which the guard can be from the offensive player is **SIX FEET to be Closely-Guarding**. The only requirement is for the defender to be within six feet; no particular guarding stance is required.

**KNOW THIS: “Every Player Is Entitled To A Spot On The Playing Court...Provided Such Player Gets There First Without Illegally Contacting An Opponent.”**

To **OBTAIN** An Initial Legal Guarding Position, The Defender Must Do Three Things:

1. Get to the spot first, without fouling or violating
2. Have both feet on the floor (Inbounds)
3. Be facing the opponent

**QUESTION: “How Long Does It Take To OBTAIN An Initial Legal Guarding Position?”**

**ANSWER: “As Long As It Takes To Accomplish The Three Requirements.”**

#### **OBTAIN RULES QUESTION**

A1 Is Dribbling The Ball In The Backcourt At The Free Throw Semi-Circle. B1 Is At The Free Throw Line On The Other End. B1 Has Both Feet On The Floor And Facing A1. Has B1 OBTAINED A Legal Guarding Position? The obvious **ANSWER** is: **“YES.”**

#### **MAINTAIN**

**AFTER** The Defender Has OBTAINED An Initial Legal Guarding Position...Then The Defender Is Allowed To **MAINTAIN** That Legal Guarding Position.

The Defender Is Not Allowed To Be In The **MAINTAINING** “Mode,” Until He/She Has First OBTAINED.

When The Defender Is In The **MAINTAINING** Defensive “Mode,” He/She Is Allowed...By Rule...To Do **ANYTHING** And Be Legal. EXCEPT: CAUSE the contact. The CAUSES are listed in the Rules Book. Everything can be and should be Rule-Based; not any Official’s personal opinion or interpretation. (Rule 4.23.1, 4.24, 10.6.1, 10.6.2, 10.6.3, 10.6.4, 10.6.5, 10.6.12, etc.)

#### **BEATEN...RULE 10.6.8**

***“When A Dribbler, Without Contact, Sufficiently Passes An Opponent To Have Head And Shoulders In Advance Of That Opponent, The Greater Responsibility For Subsequent Contact Is On The Opponent.”***

However...if the defender is NOT BEATEN...he/she is still MAINTAINING and when MAINTAINING... he/she can do ANYTHING and be legal, except: CAUSE the contact. To rule a blocking foul when the defender is NOT beaten, will be an inaccurate ruling nearly every time...BY RULE!!

#### **WHO IS BEING GUARDED?...FOUR POSSIBILITIES**

1. Stationary Opponent With The Ball
2. Stationary Opponent Without The Ball
3. Moving Opponent With The Ball
4. Moving Opponent Without The Ball

The defender may OBTAIN an initial legal guarding position on the first three, without allowing the offensive opponent any time or distance to stop or change directions. However, #4, who is moving without the ball must have enough time to stop and/or change directions before contact is made.



## RULES

### CONTINUOUS MOTION...4.11

Signals are the language of the game. Being creative when signaling is not acceptable, because it is not necessary. Everyone deserves to see the same non-verbal communications all the time from all officials. Pointing to the floor with one or both hands, is the same as saying, **“ON THE FLOOR.”**

**“Doing Things Right At The Site Of The Foul Eliminates The ‘Need’ To Do Things Wrong.”**

1. Sound Whistle & Signal To Stop-The-Clock For Foul (#4)
2. Verbalize The Color & Number Of The Player Who Committed The Foul (“Blue 32”)
3. Signal Type Of Foul (#31-#37)
4. Signal To Indicate The Throw-In Area, By Pointing With One Finger To The Nearest Spot Out-Of-Bounds (Similar To # 7). This Clearly Indicates The Player Was Not Fouled In The “Act Of Shooting.”
5. Or...If The Player **Was** Fouled After The “Try For Goal” Had Started, Instead Of Indicating The Throw-In Area, Signal The Number Of Free Throws (#19).

Failure to follow the above sequence, is a failure to perform properly when ruling a foul. Following the above sequence, eliminates any confusion and causes all Officials to be in “uniform” at the site of the foul. “Hit & Run” officiating allows the ruling Official to “hit” the whistle and “run” to report the foul. This style may be the proper performance in the NBA, but NOT for schoolboy and schoolgirl games.

The ruling Official should remain at the site of the foul long enough to inform the fouling player what he/she did wrong. Why inform the Scorer that the fouler was “HOLDING” and NOT inform the fouling player? The Scorer doesn’t care and doesn’t record the nature of the foul, but the fouling player should be informed of the type of foul, which will answer his/her question before it is asked; **“What did I do?”**

**Here Are Two Very Important Continuous Motion Reminders:**

1. The “Act of Shooting” and the “Try” begin at the same time.
2. The Continuous Motion Rule is the same for high school and college games.

**Here Are The Definitions Of Three Important Continuous Motion Terms:**

1. **Motion:** “...refers to the **BODY MOVEMENT** of the player who has **STARTED** the **TRY** for goal”
2. **Habitual Body Movement:** “**MOVEMENT** which **CUSTOMARILY** precedes the shot”
3. **Continuous:** “...the right to **CONTINUE** that **TRY**”

The whistle and the signal only **stop the clock**; they do **NOT** make the ball dead. What they are “saying” is: **“Stop The Clock...We Have A Foul. Let’s See What Happens To This LIVE Ball!”**

**Rule 4.11.1: “Continuous Motion is of no significance, unless there is a foul by the DEFENSE!”**  
This foul must occur during a certain “**window of time.**” The “**window opens**” with the “**habitual motion**” that normally precedes the shot and it “**closes**” when the ball is **released**. The “**shooter**” does **NOT** have to be in the **final stages** of the try; merely started.

When a player is in the “**Act Of Shooting**” and gets fouled...or a **TEAMMATE** gets fouled... the player with the ball is allowed...**BY RULE 4.11**...to **CONTINUE** the try for goal!

## RULES

### **BACKCOURT VIOLATION...Rule 9.9** **“WAS THAT A BACKCOURT VIOLATION?”**

Determining whether a Backcourt Violation has occurred can be as simple as: **A-A-A**. The “**A**” represents **TEAM A**, which is the team on offense. The “**A**” is also one of two possible answers to **THREE QUESTIONS**, which will determine whether a Backcourt Violation has occurred. This “**Three-A Teaching Technique**” has proven to serve as an “*easy-to-remember*” lesson for Officials, regardless of their years of experience.

The first part of this Lesson is...

**ALL THREE A's MUST BE PRESENT** in order to have a backcourt violation.

#### **Here Are The THREE-A QUESTIONS:**

1. Which Team has **TEAM CONTROL** in the frontcourt? (If the answer is **A**...that is the **FIRST A**.)
2. Which Team was the **LAST TO TOUCH**...or be touched by...the ball **BEFORE** the ball went into the backcourt? (If the answer is **A**...that is the **SECOND A**.)
3. Which Team is the **FIRST TO TOUCH**...or be touched by...the ball **AFTER** the ball has gone into the backcourt? (If the answer is **A**...that is the **THIRD A**.)

Again...if **ALL THREE ANSWERS ARE TEAM A**...a backcourt violation will **ALWAYS** result. If either one of the **A's** is missing...there can **NEVER** be a backcourt violation.

#### **Here Is Case Play To Clarify...**

- A1 is dribbling the ball in the frontcourt, when B1 hits the ball.
- The ball deflects off A1's foot and goes into the backcourt.
- A1 quickly recovers the ball.
- The official rules this to be a backcourt violation, as soon as A1 touches the ball.
- Is the official correct?

Apply the **THREE A's** and the **ACCURATE RULING** becomes obvious. The official is correct. **This is a backcourt violation.**

#### **Here Is Another Case Play For Further Clarification...**

- A1 is holding the ball in the frontcourt near the Division Line.
- He spins the ball into the backcourt and has it to bounce back to him while he is still in the frontcourt.
- The official rules this to be a violation.
- Is the official correct?

Once again...when we apply the **THREE A's**...the **ACCURATE RULING** becomes obvious. The official is correct. **This is a backcourt violation.**

Let's now apply the **THREE A's** to each of these situations to determine the **ACCURACY OF THESE TWO RULINGS...**

- Question #1: Does **TEAM A** have **TEAM Control** in their frontcourt?
- The Answer: “**YES**”...in both Case Plays. (That is the **FIRST A**.)
- Question #2: Which **TEAM** was the **LAST** to touch...or be touched by...the ball **BEFORE** it went into the backcourt?
- The Answer: “**TEAM A**”...in both Case Plays. (That is the **SECOND A**.)
- Question #3: Which **TEAM** is the **FIRST** to touch...or be touched by...the ball **AFTER** it has gone into the backcourt?
- The Answer: “**TEAM A**”...in both Case Plays. (That is the **THIRD A**.)

One more time...

If **ALL THREE A's** are present...a backcourt violation will **ALWAYS** result. If either one of the A's is missing...there can **NEVER** be a backcourt violation. So...not only do we basketball officials need to know our ABC's, but it will certainly serve us well, to know our **AAA's**.



## **MECHANICS**

### ***“Excellence In Officiating Is Never An Accident.”***

It is important to realize that there are three *“foundational blocks”* upon which an officiating career is to be built. They are: **Rules Knowledge, Proper Mechanics & Approved Signals.** Rules knowledge could be thought of as our *“Head Knowledge,”* while Mechanics are more about the *“movement”* on the court and the proper administration of free throws, throw-ins, jump balls, etc. Signals, which are required by the Rules, are the non-verbal communication, described elsewhere in this document.

Proper Mechanics are used to ensure that each Official is in the proper position at the proper time to better monitor the actions of players, and to guarantee that accurate rulings are made.

Each Official has a Primary Coverage Area (PCA), whether the game is being officiated by a Crew of 2 or a Crew of 3. The PCA serves as a guide to assure that the players and the game are well-supervised by the team of Officials. Officials must master the concept of PCA.

When the ball is in an Official's PCA, the concentration is centered on the players and the ball in that area. With the ball in one's PCA, pivot foot recognition is crucial as well as attention to more intense defense. Therefore, the Official has a narrower *“on ball”* field of vision cone. Conversely, the *“off ball”* Official is often free to improve the overall crew's coverage by expanding his/her field of vision cone, because there are fewer players and less action in his/her PCA. Therefore, when the ball is in your PCA, you are responsible for fouls and violations *“on the ball.”* When the ball is not in your PCA, you are responsible for fouls and violation *“off the ball,”* but still in the same PCA. In other words, Officials must know their PCA and *“monitor the activity”* within that PCA.

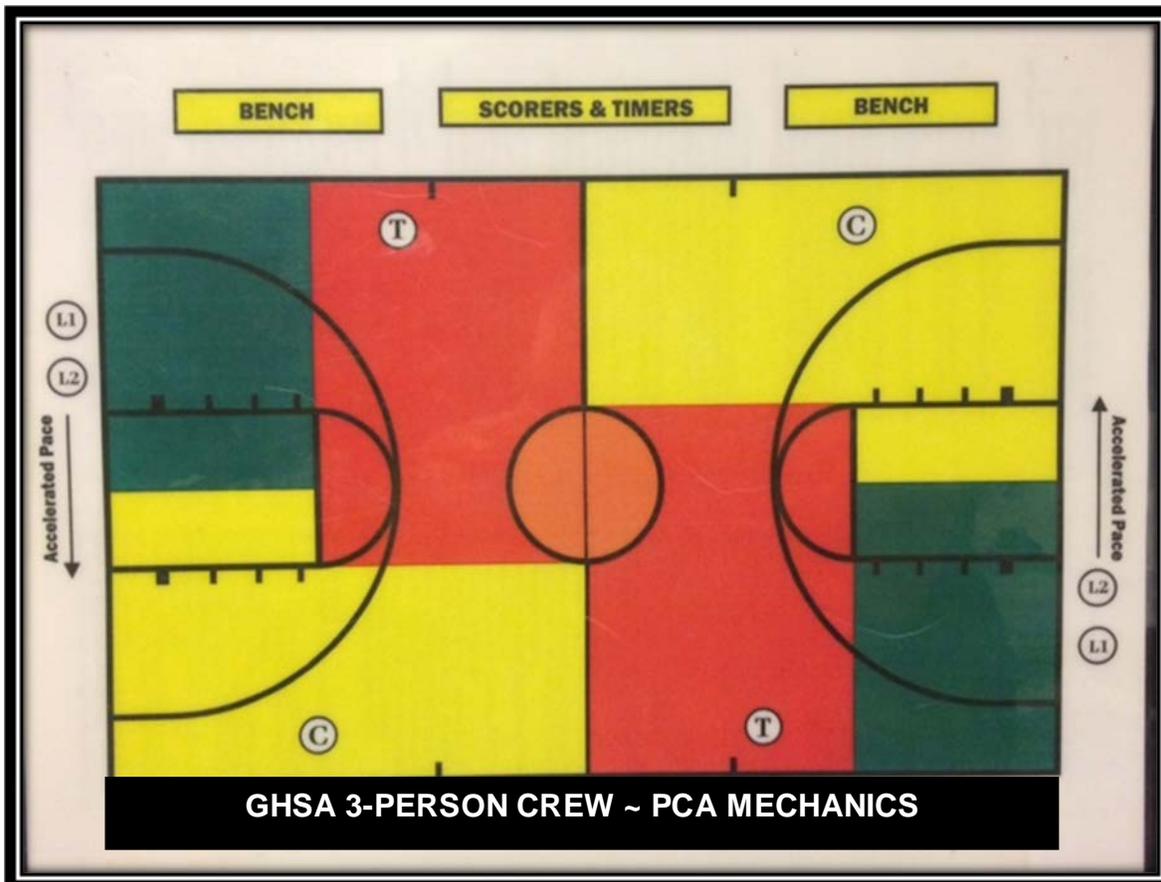
The 2-Person Officiating Crew consists of a Referee and an Umpire. The Referee is the game's administrator and decides matters not specifically covered by the rules, should such a situation ever occur. The Umpire assists the Referee. The two officiating positions are referred to as the Lead Official and the Trail Official, each having their own PCA and unique responsibilities during free throws, jump ball, throw-ins, etc.

The 3-Person Officiating Crew consists of a Referee and two Umpires (R, U1, U2). The Umpires assist the Referee in the administration of the game. The three officiating positions are: Lead Official, Trail Official and the Center Official. As with a 2-Person Crew, each Official has his/her own PCA. However, with three Officials, each PCA is a smaller area than with a 2-Person Crew.

When the entire crew uses the proper Mechanics System, officiating the game becomes much easier for each Official, as the Crew *“moves together”* in a manner that positions them in the best location to rule accurately throughout the entire game. The Crew is only as *“strong as its weakest link”* and you do not want to be *“that link.”* Again...it takes a few years to master the Mechanics, but master them you must.

Not only are Officials to become a Rules Expert, they must use the Proper Mechanics and only the Approved Signals. These three comprise the required *“proper performance”* by all Officials. GHSA basketball games are to be played, coached and officiated by the NFHS (National Federation of High Schools) Rules of Play. In addition, the Approved Signals are located in the Rules Book and The NFHS Officials Manual; their use is required by the Rules Book.

The GHSA uses the same PCA as is used by the Officials in Women's College Games, as shown below:



In addition to the GHSA using the PCA coverage as shown above, there are a few important deviations used in officiating high school games in Georgia that are required to become a part of the Officials' performance. For example:

- Last-Second Shot Responsibility Is The Official Positioned **Opposite** The Scorer's Table.
- The Administering Official Shall Sound The Whistle For All Frontcourt Throw-Ins.
- The Trail Official Signals To Start-The-Clock ("Chops Time") On All Throw-Ins.
- During All Time-Outs, One Official Will Be With The Ball Where Play Will Resume And The Other Two Officials Will Each Be Positioned At The Top Of The Free-Throw Semi-Circles.
- The Official Ruling A Foul Will Stay Or Switch To **Tableside**, Except As Follows:
  - Player Control Foul
  - Team Control Foul
  - Foul By Team B In Team A's Backcourt (**No Long Switches For Backcourt Fouls**)
- The New Trail Official May Bounce The Ball Across The Free Throw Lane For End Line Throw-Ins, Whether There Is Defensive Pressure Or Not.
  - However, If The Designated Throw-In Spot Is Closer To The Far Sideline Than The Free Throw Lane, The Administering Official Shall **Not** Bounce The Ball Across The Court To The Thrower-In.
  - This Mechanic Will Then Cause The Lead To Become The Center And The Center To Become The New Lead.
- For Frontcourt Throw-Ins, The Lead Is To **Hand The Ball** To The Thrower-In.
  - The Lead Will Normally Be Positioned Between The Sideline And The Thrower-In. (Outside)
  - The Lead May Be Positioned Between The Basket And The Thrower-In, When The Designated Throw-In Spot Is Nearer The Sideline Than The Lane. (Inside)
  - The Lead Official May Also Administer The Throw-In On The Sideline, When The Designated Throw-In Spot Is Below The Free Throw Line Extended Toward The Sideline.

## MECHANICS

### REPORTING FOULS

Every Official is to report fouls to the Scorer the same way. The GHSA allows the Reporting Official to communicate with the Scorer while moving toward the table to report the foul, but do not begin until into the Reporting area (cross basket line). Be sure to move around the players and avoid cutting through the lane. Gain a position with a clear line of vision with the Scorer before beginning the reporting sequence. The Scorer should know not to write anything in the scorebook until after the report is completed by the Official. In addition, the Reporting Official is not to begin the report unless eye contact is established with the Scorer. Two-Hand Reporting is required.

The Reporting Official's voice, signals and speed of report must be very clear and delivered with dignity, pride, composure and professionalism. This avoids being "*called back*" due to improper reporting.

#### **Here Are Three Case Plays That Will Serve You Well In Your Studies:**

1. A common foul is ruled and reported to the Scorer. As the administering official is about to hand the ball to the thrower-in, the Timer sounds the horn and the Scorer signals "*One & One.*" The lesson here is for the Crew to know that the teams are getting close to seven team fouls. That will cause you to "*slow down*" and double-check before the throw-in is started. Another very good lesson for all Officials is to make sure you are seeing and officiating the entire game and not just "*play-calling.*" Many scoreboards show the team fouls, so develop the good habit of glancing after each foul to know that the running total has increased. If you see a possible discrepancy, have the Referee to go to the Table on the next dead ball, with the clock stopped, and double-check with the Scorer. What if the throw-in had been completed and then the horn sounded? Is this a Correctable Error? Do you know how to resume play? Learn Rule 2.10.
2. The Timer fails to stop the clock on an Official's whistle for a foul. Whichever Official observes this mistake, should sound the whistle again and notice the time on the clock. The Referee should then go to the Table and endeavor to get the correct time back on the clock. He/She can use whatever information is available to do so. Perhaps the Trail Official's 10-second count, the Timer's input, any time-recordings in the scorebook, a fellow Official's knowledge, etc. The effort is to get as close as possible to the accurate time. Can you think of any other information that may be useful to the Referee in this scenario?
3. Team A's # 23 is beckoned into the game by the Trail Official. Play is resumed and then about 30 seconds later, the Timer sounds the horn to stop the game, since #23 is not listed in the scorebook. First of all, the Timer should know not to stop the game until the next dead ball, for such reasons. The Scorer informs the Referee that #23 is not listed in the scorebook. Obviously, this should have been discovered when the Trail Official beckoned #23 into the game. What is the Accurate Ruling for this Case Play? How is play resumed?



## NOTES

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## **MECHANICS**

### **SUBSTITUTING & SUBSTITUTIONS**

The substitution of players takes place during a “*dead ball*” with the clock stopped. Quite often these are times when Officials make their biggest mistakes. It is the responsibility of the entire crew that substitution procedures be handled correctly. The On-Court Officials should give the Table Crew Officials a chance to “*do their job*” before sounding the whistle and beckoning the subs into the game. In other words...allow the Scorer enough time to “*check the substitute(s) into the game;*” then allow the Timer to sound the horn; then the On-Court Official shall sound the whistle, beckon the sub(s) while continuing to show the “*Stop The Clock Signal.*” Do not resume play prior to visually “*sweeping the floor*” to insure that there are five players from each team on the court, all legal substitutes have been beckoned into the game, double-check the table, check the clock, and visually “*find your partners.*”

#### **Following A Violation**

Allow the Table Crew a chance to “*do their job.*” Insure that the entire crew is aware of the designated throw-in spot. The Official nearest the table is responsible to bring in eligible subs. He/she shall show the “*stop-the-clock*” signal toward the Administering Throw-In Official, sound the whistle, and then beckon the sub(s) into the game with the other hand, and hold the “*stop-the-clock*” signal until all legal subs are on the court and the player(s) they have replaced are off the court and in their bench area.

#### **Following A Foul**

Allow the Table Crew a chance to “*do their job.*” Insure that the entire crew is aware of how play will be resumed (free throw or designated spot throw-in) prior to reporting the foul. After the reporting procedure is completed, the Reporting Official is responsible to beckon the sub(s) into the game. He/she shall show the “*stop-the-clock*” signal toward the Official administering free throw(s) or the throw-in, sound the whistle, and then beckon the sub(s) into the game with the other hand, and hold the “*stop-the-clock*” signal until all subs are on the court and the player(s) they have replaced are off the court and in their bench area.

#### **During Transition With Table-Side Trail**

Allow the Table Crew a chance to “*do their job.*” The Trail Official will show the “*stop-the-clock*” signal toward the Official who has the ball, sound the whistle, then shift the responsibility of beckoning the sub(s) to the Center Official, who will then beckon the sub(s) into the game with the other hand, and hold the “*stop-the-clock*” signal until all subs are on the court and the player(s) they have replaced are off the court and in their bench area.

#### **During Free Throw Administration**

Allow the Table Crew a chance to “*do their job.*” Prior to the free thrower receiving the ball for the final Free Throw attempt, the Trail Official shall look to the table area to check for subs waiting to be beckoned into the game. If a substitute arrives at the table after the ball is at the disposal of the free thrower, and after the Trail Official has checked for subs, the Center Official should point toward the table to inform the Trail Official that a substitute is at the table. Then follow the “*transition*” substitution procedure.

#### **Resuming Play**

It is the responsibility of the entire crew to insure that play is never resumed when substitutes should be allowed into the game. The Administering Official must visually “*sweep the floor*” (insure that there are no substitutes waiting at the table, check the clock, visually “*find your partners*”) prior to putting the ball back into play.

#### **Substitution For A Disqualified Player**

After the player and the Head Coach have been notified of the disqualification, the Reporting Official shall instruct the Timer to start a 20-Second Time Period, to be followed with a warning horn being sounded when 15 seconds remain. At that time, if a substitution has not been made, the official will inform the coach, “*We need a sub.*” If a substitution has not been made, the Timer will sound the horn to indicate the 20 seconds have elapsed. At that point, a Direct Technical Foul shall be charged to the Head Coach. Remember, this 20-Second Interval is not a time-out. Only the Head Coach is allowed to stand and he/she cannot, per GHSA,

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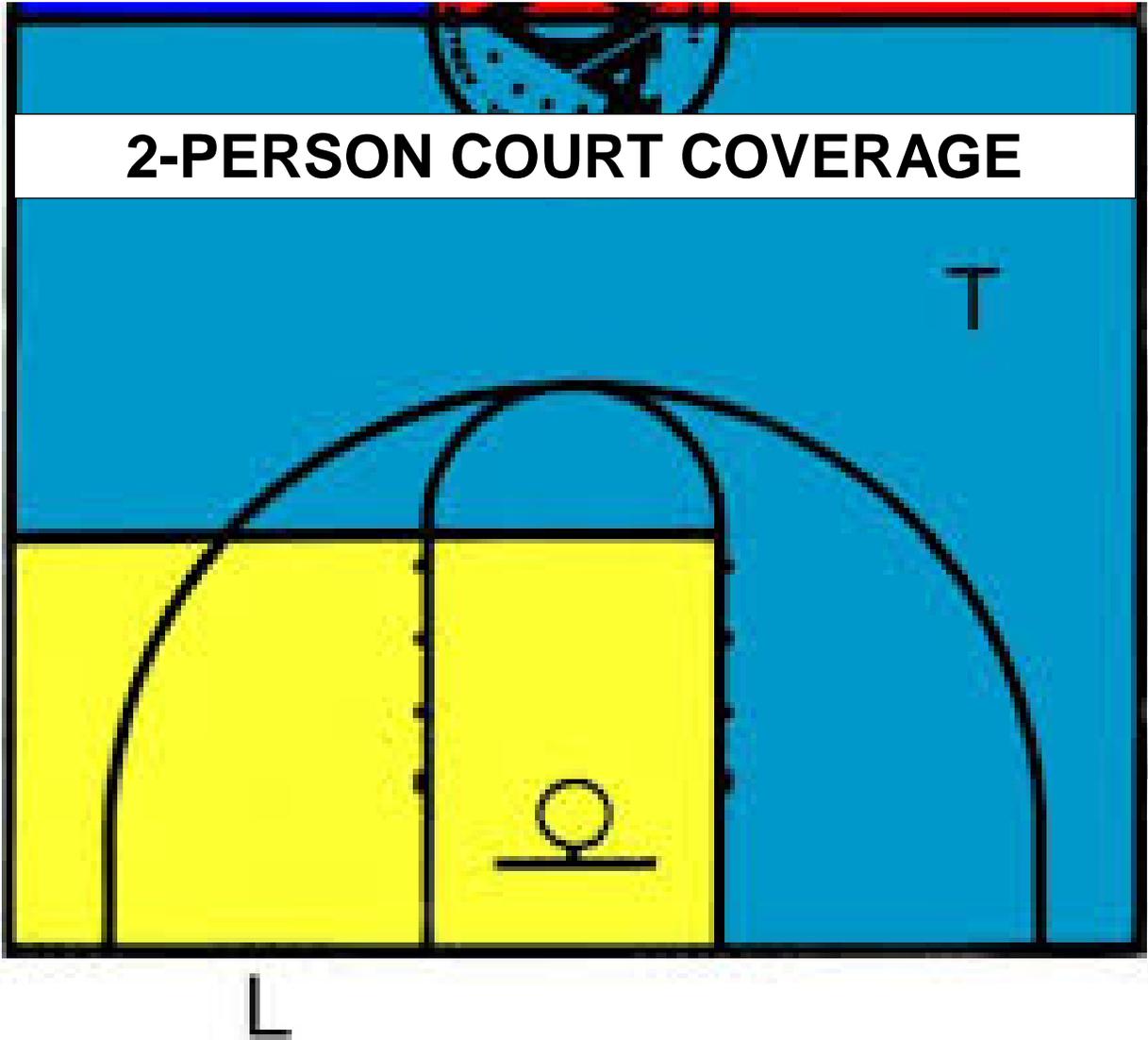
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## 2-PERSON COURT COVERAGE



### HALF-TIME PROCEDURE

The Crew shall assemble in the Center Circle and remain there until both teams and coaches have exited the playing area. The Referee will go to the Scorer's Table to ensure the Scorebook and the Game Clock are both accurate and then have the AP Arrow switched in the other direction. The Referee will then re-join the Umpire(s) and leave the court together.

The Crew should return to the court with at least three minutes on the clock, as it is timing the half-time.

### END-OF-GAME PROCEDURE

When the horn sounds to end the game, it is crucial that the Crew does not run off the court, like they stole something. Again...think in terms of professionalism, composure, pride and dignity. The Referee should receive a "thumbs up" signal from the Official Scorer before allowing the Crew to exit the court. However, when the final score is close score, meaning four points or less, the Crew shall assemble in the Center Circle and wait until the "Signal To Leave" is given to the Referee by the Officials Scorer.

### BEGINNINGS & ENDINGS

Knowing "Beginnings & Endings" regarding every aspect of the game is vital to ruling accurately. In other words, when does a throw-in begin and end? When does a free throw begin and end? Try for goal? The jump ball?

## **SIGNALS**

### **REQUIRED BY RULES** **“THE LANGUAGE OF THE GAME”**

The necessity for a **UNIFORM SET OF SIGNALS** and ensuring that all high school Officials use them, is evident to everyone connected to **THE GAME**.

Signals really are the **“Language of the Game”** and it is important that Officials all **“speak the same language.”** Everyone involved in the game has **“the right”** to instantly know exactly what ruling was made when a whistle sounds or when any Signal is given.

Although the **APPROVED SIGNALS** have been in existence for a long time, universal acceptance and accurate usage has not occurred. This practice should come to a halt. Signals are used to communicate vital information and being creative in a noble effort to emphasize and **“make sure”** others know and understand your ruling is **NOT** necessary and is discouraged. In addition...signaling in a manner that brings attention to the Official is absolutely unacceptable.

Nearly all **SIGNALS** are used to indicate what **HAS** or **IS** happening. No **SIGNAL** is needed to indicate something has **NOT** happened. The Approved Signal to indicate **“Not Closely-Guarded”** is the only Signal that indicates what is **NOT** happening (Signal #12). The Official NFHS Basketball Signals Chart is located on Pages 72 & 73 of the Rules Book and Pages 100 & 101 of the NFHS Officials Manual. The **40 SIGNALS** illustrated in the **SIGNALS CHART** are those which have been established to convey needed information to fellow Officials, Scorers, Timers, players, coaches, spectators, media, and everyone involved in the game.

Since every Signal is meaningful and has been carefully selected by the Rules Committee, each one should be shown with **DIGNITY, PRIDE** and **COMPOSURE**.

The use of **UNAUTHORIZED SIGNALS** frequently confuse, as their meaning is unknown. Too often, an **UNAUTHORIZED SIGNAL** becomes the issue when problems occur during a game, as when one official uses an unauthorized signal and a partner does not; now, the table crew is **“left wondering.”**

The use of additional **SIGNALS**, or those given in an exaggerated manner, does not help anyone. This is no time for the official to get creative and emotional. Officials are not required or asked by High School Basketball to **“sell calls.”** They are only required to make **ACCURATE RULINGS**, while using only **APPROVED SIGNALS**.

Signals should be given in a manner which is:

**CALM, UNEMOTIONAL, UNDER-CONTROL, UNHURRIED, DIGNIFIED AND PROFESSIONAL.**

So...**JOIN THE TEAM!** Improve communication and understanding, by only using the **PRESCRIBED, APPROVED AND DIGNIFIED SIGNALS** that have served our great game well, for over 124 years.

## PROFESSIONALISM

### RULINGS VS. CALLS

As officials, we need to develop a mentality, a realization, that Officials make **RULINGS** on every situation throughout the entire game. High School games have a range of **60-75 "rulings with a whistle,"** including time-outs. There are thousands of occurrences in a game which officials rule as **LEGAL** activity and, of course, do not require a whistle. There are no **"NON-CALLS,"** because nearly every **RULING** in the game doesn't require the sound of a whistle. The reason is, the Official **RULED** the *"playing activity"* to be **LEGAL**. The fact is, **"Nearly everything players do is LEGAL."**

When the Players, Coaches or Bench Personnel commit an *"activity"* that is **ILLEGAL**...then the Official's **RULING** will be accompanied with the sound of a whistle.

When an Official **RULES** a **LEGAL** activity as **ILLEGAL**, he/she has literally **"Kicked A Rule."** Conversely, when an Official **RULES** an **ILLEGAL** activity as **LEGAL**, he/she has, once again, **"Kicked A Rule."** To *"state the obvious,"* it is impossible for Officials to make **Consistent, Accurate Rulings**, unless they **KNOW** the Rules of the game.

With the above in mind, we can quickly realize that there is no such thing as a **"NO CALL"** or no such thing as the Official **"PASSED ON IT."** The Official actually did *"make a call."* The **RULING** was **LEGAL** activity. Again, everything we monitor will either be **LEGAL** or **ILLEGAL** activity. Our role is to **RULE ACCURATELY**.

It is also important to understand that **ACCURACY** is not determined by an Officials judgment. Accuracy was accurate before the game started. Accuracy doesn't change from game to game or court to court. Accuracy is like Middle C in music; it will always stay the same. To know whether the Ruling is accurate...or not...we must **compare the Ruling with the Rules**.

And...one other thing...no amount of **SELLING** changes an inaccurate ruling to an accurate one. That's why the goal cannot be to please a coach; the goal must be to **"please the game,"** by **honoring it with accuracy**.



## PROFESSIONALISM

### JOIN THE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICIATING TEAM

**High School Basketball** is played by schoolboys and schoolgirls. High School Basketball is **NOT** played for the same reasons as college games and pro games. High Schools have extra-curricular activities such as Drama, Music and Sports, so the students can learn **LIFE LESSONS** they can't learn in the classroom. In other words...these extra activities are an **EXTENSION OF THE CLASSROOM.**

The Rules Book and the Officials Manual have been designed, created and written with a long list of these **LIFE LESSONS** in mind, to assist these "kids" in becoming good citizens. Hardly any official anywhere is smart enough or educated enough to create these documents for these same reasons, because this is not our field of expertise. Our expertise is **OFFICIATING.**

Since none of us are experts in this field of "**EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM,**" which is to ensure the student athletes learn these **LIFE-LONG-LESSONS,** then we game officials are to officiate the game without questioning whether something "**MATTERS,**" or not.

Our **ROLE** is **CONSISTENT, ACCURATE RULINGS.** But, if we are experts at enforcing the rules, but fail to properly perform our duties that are very clearly defined in the Manual, then we have **FAILED** in our **ROLE** as **THE GUARDIAN OF THE HIGH SCHOOL GAME.** Similar to a Head Coach throwing his clipboard and then wondering **WHY** his athletes can't control their emotions.

***"One Accurate Ruling...One Set Of Proper Mechanics...One Set Of Approved Signals"***

We have no right to have an attitude about: "*the nearest spot*"...the "*proper signaling at the site of the foul or violation*"...a "*personal tolerance level toward the coaching box*"...and other such disrespect for the high school game, knowing we would never be disrespectful when officiating one of our college games.

Because of "*Who We Are,*" we must lead the way and put a stop to any of our officials, who defiantly refuse to perform their task of officiating high school basketball games, without using the **PROPER AND REQUIRED PERFORMANCE.** Since we are a High School Organization, we must insist on the high school **PROPER PERFORMANCE** and "*motivate*" our college officials to leave the college "*style*" in the college gyms and accept the fact that we are part of the **EDUCATIONAL PROCESS**...an extension of the classroom. Our Trainers can train, but our **ASSIGNERS** can "**MOTIVATE**" our officials to be accountable.

Please insist, and do whatever it takes, to "**TRAIN AND MOTIVATE**" all Game Officials, to **JOIN THE TEAM;** the **HIGH SCHOOL** Officiating **TEAM!**



## PROFESSIONALISM

### PERSONAL POST GAME EVALUATION

Each official should do a **Personal Post-Game Evaluation**. Whether it is done immediately after the game, on the way home or in a restaurant, a thorough Personal Skills Evaluation is crucial to one's personal growth as an Official. In order to get better, we must be very honest with ourselves.

Here are a few Self-Evaluation Questions that are worthy of asking yourself:

1. Did the Crew communicate a day or so in advance regarding the assignment?
2. On game day, did I structure my day so that I would arrive at least one hour before scheduled game time?
3. Did I arrive at the game site on-time?
4. Was I properly dressed in Business attire to and from the game?
5. Did I greet the Head Coaches, Game Manager and Security Personnel in a friendly, businesslike manner?
6. Did I greet my Partners and Table Crew Personnel in a friendly, businesslike manner?
7. Did I conduct and/or participate in a thorough Pre-game Conference?
8. Was I mentally and physically prepared for the contest?
9. Was I a good partner during the entire game?
10. Was I a good listener today?
11. Was I professional and approachable?
12. Did I hustle?
13. Did I put the crew in the best position to be successful today?
14. Did I have any rulings that were inaccurate?
15. Did I use the proper Mechanics System for our State?
16. Did I only use the NFHS Approved Signals or did I get creative?
17. Were there any situations that I could have handled differently?



### NOTES

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## QUESTIONS CLINICIANS WILL ANSWER ABOUT YOU

### • RULES KNOWLEDGE

- Did The Official Know And Enforce NFHS Rules?
  - Block/Charge...Continuous Motion...Traveling, etc.
  - Nearest Spot...All Counting Situations...Start And End Counts On Time
  - Hand-Checking...Verticality...Freedom of Movement...

### • MECHANICS

- Did The Official Start In The Correct “Set Up” Position In Each Of The Three Positions?
- Did The Official Mirror The Ball When In The Lead Position?
- Did The Official Rotate Correctly When In The Lead Position?
- Did The Official Correctly Finish The Rotation When Either Center Or Trail?
- Does The Official Leave The Trail Position Early To Beat The Players To The Other End?
- Did The Official Step Down On Shot Attempts When In The Trail And Center?
- Does The Official Move Correctly To Get The Best Angle On Competitive Matchups?
- Did The Official Demonstrate Excellent Throw-In Administration?
- Was The Official In The Correct Position On Free Throws (Trail, Center, Lead)?
- Did The Officials Treat All Free Throw With The Same Coverage And Attention?
- When In The Lead, Did The Official Appropriately Accept On Ball When The Ball Went Below The Free Throw Line Extended (FTLE)?
- When In The Trail, Did The Official Release Correctly When The Ball Went Inside FTLE?
- Did The Whistle Come From The Primary Official?
- Did The Official Use Proper GHSA Mechanics And Approved Signals When Reporting Fouls?

### • SIGNALS

- Did The Official Use The NFHS Approved Signals?
- Was The Official Composed And Dignified Or More Concerned About “Selling” Rulings?
- Did The Official Follow The NFHS Site Of The Foul Procedure Or Just “Hit The Whistle & Run” To Report?
- Did The Official Follow The NFHS Site Of The Violation Procedure?
- Did The Official Show One Of The Three “Stop-The-Clock” Signals With Each Whistle?

### • COUNTING & COUNTS

- Was The Official’s Counting Too Fast, Too Slow Or Accurate?
- Did The Official Count Properly On Throw-Ins?
- Did The Official Count Properly In The Center Position During Free Throws?
- Did The Official Count The 10-Seconds Properly In The Trail Position Until The Ball Gained Frontcourt Status?
- Does The Official Demonstrate A Good Knowledge Of 6 Feet?

### • BENCH DECORUM

- Did The Official Enforce The Coaching Box Rule Accurately?
- Did The Official Enforce The Behavior Rules Of Bench Personnel?



- **DEAD BALL EFFICIENCY**
  - Did The Official Maintain An Uninterrupted Focus?
  - Did The Official Seem Attentive And Available?
  - When It Was Time To Resume Play, Did The Official Know How Play Was To Resume?
  
- **FIELD OF VISION**
  - Was The Official A “*Ball Watcher?*”
  - Did The Official Know His/Her PCA?
  - Did The Official Have Rulings With A Whistle Outside His/Her PCA That Were Questionable?
  - Did the official demonstrate good “off-ball” skills?
  
- **COMMUNICATIONS**
  - Did The Official Communicate Appropriately Coaches, Table Personnel, And Partners?
  - Was The Official’s Voice One Of Authority, But Not Too Loud And Not Too “*Soft?*”
  
- **PROFESSIONALISM**
  - Was The Official Professional In Dealing With Coaches, Players, Evaluators, Partners?
  - Did The Official Appear To Be Physically Fit?
  - Did The Official Ask Necessary Questions On Items That He/She Did Not Know?
  
- **OVERALL**
  - Did The Official Blame Someone Or Something Else For Their Shortcomings?
  - Did The Official Receive Suggestions From The Evaluator In A Favorable Way?
  - Did The Official Appear To Be A Good “*Team*” Player?
  - Did The Official Accept Responsibility For Any Mistakes?
  - What Could The Crew Have Done, If Anything, Differently To Make For A Better Game?
  
- **EVALUATOR REMINDERS WHEN OBSERVING**
  - Ask Thought Provoking Questions And Allow The Official To Answer.
  - Use One Minute Of Each Game To Watch The Eyes Of Each Official.
  - Would You Rate This Official As Average Or Above Average On His/Her Best Day?
  - Would You As An Evaluator Officiate A State Tournament Game With This Official?
  - Would You Work With This Official In A State Championship Game?
  - Based On Your Personal Observations, What Tier Rating Would You Offer This Official To This Point In Camp? \_\_\_\_\_



## NOTE FROM ERNIE YARBROUGH GHSA Associate Director

Each year Game Officials are challenged to do more than has been expected in previous years. That's just the changing culture of sports officiating. Those who accept the changes and challenges will advance. We really hope you will choose to be a positive element to officiating here in Georgia. Keep in mind, *"Change is inevitable, while growth is optional."*

There are several characteristics that I always hope to see in our GHSA Game Officials. Obviously, Rules Knowledge is a must. Officials must know and enforce the Rules of the sport being officiated. If you don't know the Rules you can't make consistent, accurate rulings. Being able to apply the Rules in a timely manner, while using the proper Mechanics and approved Signals are also crucial to becoming a quality Official.

I have often stated there are three types of actions that takes place during a game: 1) the good, 2) the bad, and 3) the ugly. The good is easy, because you don't have to sound the whistle, since the activity is legal. The bad is easy, because it's illegal and you know to sound the whistle. The ugly is sometimes the most challenging ruling, as it is not necessarily illegal, it is just unique and *"ugly,"* and the tendency is to assume it is illegal, but nearly every time, it is legal. Ugly, but legal. I am often more impressed with the official who knows the difference between ***"Ugly & Bad"*** than between ***"Good & Bad."***

Appearance is much more important now than it was just ten years ago. If you *"look the part"* your mistakes sometimes go unnoticed, because you have passed the *"eye test"*. But, if you are overweight, poorly groomed, and dress inappropriately, your mistakes are amplified.

Do you *"take care of business,"* as it relates to your officiating pursuits? Are you motivated to be as good as you can be, or do you just show up to draw a paycheck? You're either getting better, or you're getting worse. No one stands still in officiating. Many young officials never make it because they aren't willing to make the commitment necessary to advance, and many veteran officials get left behind because they aren't willing to do what is necessary to keep up with the aggressive officials who are motivated and want to reach their goals in officiating in the shortest timeframe.

We are so fortunate to have a staff of terrific officials, clinicians, and evaluators who have your best interest first and foremost. If you really listen to what they offer, you will become a better official, regardless of your level of experience. I officiated for 30 years and each year I attended camps with the desire to learn something new. Each season I set goals to get better at some element of my officiating. Now I have the opportunity to help others with the hope that someday they may have the opportunity to enjoy officiating as much as I have.

I hope you enjoy and have a successful GHSA Camp experience.

