



**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

**MEMORANDUM**

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P.O. Box 1300  
Germantown, MD  
20875-1300

**TO:** IAABO Interpreters

301.540.5180 (T)  
301.540.5182 (F)

**FROM:** Peter Webb, IAABO Coordinator of Interpreters

[www.iaabo.org](http://www.iaabo.org)

**SUBJECT:** Bulletin No. 1 and January 8, 2006, Teleconference Follow-up

In our role as officials at the middle and high school levels, we are part of the education process. It is our obligation to assist the schools in carrying out their mission statement. By doing so, we are assuring that the youth realize the desired learning experiences that participation in the game of basketball can facilitate. Other levels of basketball are sponsored, coached and played for reasons very different from the middle and high school level. Those levels are not wrong, however, they are different. Our officiating and rules application should not be influenced by other levels of basketball.

## **Mechanics and Signals**

Mechanics and signals are the means of communication for officials. Both are in place within the rules book and/or officials manual. Accurate communication is vital to the officiating partner(s), to the table officials, to players, to coaches and others. It is expected that officials will use only approved mechanics and signals. The use of unorthodox signals tends to misinform and/or confuse all involved. An official mastering and implementing the use of approved mechanics and signals, in no way impairs his/her ability to apply accurate rulings. An official does not need to choose between mechanics & signals and rules. One enhances the other.

When indicating a direction, simultaneously announce the color. "Stay here" and "that way" are not authorized substitutes for a direction signal and color. Have professional pride and demonstrate it through approved communications.

The foul calling procedure is well covered in the official's manual. It requires at the site information including informing a partner of the free thrower.

Stop the clock, using the proper signal, on every foul, violation and time out. Don't hurry the arm up and down. Take your time, it provides necessary communication. There is nothing special about a technical foul, a blocking foul, a charging foul, a timeout in a hectic situation. Simply and professionally stop the clock, which begins the communication process, then proceed to further inform all involved of what the ruling and penalty is. Take your time and be thorough with signals and reporting.

Composure separates the professional from others.

After the ruling and signals at the site of the violation or foul, hustle to and from the reporting area.

During free throws, the Lead official should not be positioned beside the player along the free throw lane line.

Prior to awarding the ball for a throw-in following an unusual delay, after a timeout, when there has been confusion and to start a quarter the official shall sound the whistle, indicate the direction and verbalize the color of the throw-in team.

Prior to all transition situations, the Trail and Center officials shall remain and read (does the partner need help?) then release as the play progresses to the other court.

Rebound coverage and rulings by the Lead official beyond the basketline must be cautioned. Don't guess! Trust your partner.

Don't be slow to apply closely guarded counts. By rule the defense need only apply closely guarded for 5 seconds.

Crew of Three, Center official be very aware of your across-the-court coverage responsibilities during transition play. Your partners are very likely to be straightlined. Your help is needed with trapping, bumping, handchecking and block/charge situations.

Officials are not to be wearing jewelry including visible necklace.

Trail and Center officials close down toward the endline on every free throw and field goal try. Remain and read prior to going in transition.

If spectator issues arise inform the game site administrator or head coach. Do not address or attend to the spectator.

Seldom should an official initiate verbal communication with coaches. Often what is well intended results in a misunderstanding and possibly a problem. By rule the official cannot delay the game for conversation. There will be a more appropriate time to attend to a request or respond if necessary. However, be considerate and demonstrate respect for players and coaches. Most often be a listener.

The officiating crew should briefly confer after technical fouls, intentional fouls, flagrant fouls and any other unusual situation to be sure that administrative matters and penalties are reported, carried out accurately and in proper order.

Be very aware of your Primary Coverage Areas (PCA) responsibilities. Learn when to give up the coverage where the ball is located. Discipline yourself to give up the coverage of the ball when it is in or moves to a partner(s) PCA. "Adjust field of vision cone to cover the players in your PCA." When the coverage demand in your PCA lessens, expand your field of vision cone to improve crew's coverage.

## Mid-Season Notes

### Rules Related Notes

**Free throws are part of the game.** Concentrate; remain focused even during multiple attempts. Even during the first one or two attempts of multiple attempts. Violations are committed. Illegal rebounds are secured. Free throws are not "coffee break" time for officials.

**Carrying/Palming** are violations, the act makes a difference in the player's success that is exactly why the player does it. It is very difficult for the opponent to defend successfully. It is a violation. The ball comes to rest and then the player either starts another dribble (illegal dribble/double dribble) or while the ball is at rest, illegally moves the pivot foot (traveling).

**Head Coach receiving a Technical Foul and loss of coaching box privilege.** An official must inform the coach of the loss of coaching box privilege and the requirement to be seated.

**Designated Spot.** After violations, non-free throw fouls, after timeouts, etc. don't be careless with administering the throw-in, be precise with the location of the throw-in spot. Very often carelessness on the officials' part can foil plans of the players and coaches.

**Interval of time for disqualification, injury, blood issues** is not a timeout. Do not permit it to be treated like a timeout. Be aware that the warning signal and the substitution procedure are not the same as during a timeout. Only the Head Coach and players may be up. All other bench personnel must remain seated.

**Timeout requests** made to an official located away from the area that the ball is located in. Be sure, after recognizing the timeout request, to locate the ball prior to granting the request. There must be player control when the ball is live and in play on the court.

**Enforce the rules, all rules.** That is what fair play is all about. Officials don't set aside the travel rule, why set aside the disconcertion rule, the player appearance rule, the behavior rule, grasping the ring rule, etc.? When those rules are not met by players or coaches, apply the penalty. Do it NOW, don't fret, don't put it on hold and don't worry about it. Eliminate the issue, the game will be better for it. While being "good" (by warning, ignoring, etc.) to that particular team ask what about the opposing team who is adhering to the rule(s)?

**There are only three rules-approved warnings and they are delay warnings-- boundary plane, huddle or contact with free thrower and interfering with the ball after a goal.** The rules do not provide for any other warnings. Although officials may think they are "helping," "using common sense" or "being reasonable," a warning can upset coaches and players. Warnings can upset opposing players and coach. When warning, the official is setting aside a rule that is expected to be enforced. Seldom can a warning be FAIR as there are two teams.

**Contact,** it is suggested that every official review Rule 10.6. This rule should be given a thorough read/study and then check the rulings that he/she is making versus the rule. Contact such as bumping, forearm warding off, handchecking, and displacing must be ruled a foul. These actions are not incidental contact (4.27). Players and teams (offense or defense) are very seriously affected by such action. For an official to accept such contact as part of the game is not assuring fair play. Of course, the official needs to care about both the offense and defense, however, is a good practice to ask oneself "what did the defense do wrong? Hopefully this question is asked prior to applying a ruling. Keep in mind that every contact situation that goes unattended to encourages more contact.

**Substitutions** require, by rule, a horn sounding prior to the officials beckoning in a substitute. The horn indicates to the official that the substitute is processed and ready. The official is not to react to a coach hollering "sub" or to a player running toward the table. The game (throw-in, free throw) shall not be delayed because a substitute is not ready. The official(s) who are not administering the throw-in or free throw have a major responsibility to check to see if the administering official is about to award the ball to the player.

**A technical foul** is simply a penalty for a violation of a rule. It is not a personal matter. Remain composed and penalize just as any other ruling that is made.

**Direct technical fouls** on the Head Coach result in the coach losing the right to the coaching box. A crew member must inform the head coach of the loss of the coaching box. When a technical foul is ruled, do not add to it by lecturing.

**Professionalism with rules book and official's language/ terminology.** Communication is vital, use rules book language not lay persons or basketball slang. Endline not baseline; free throw lane not paint; coaching box not coach's box; division line not center line; etc. Have pride in what you are doing and what you are representing.

## Questions

1. After A-1 has scored a field goal; B-1 has the ball out of bounds along the endline. B-1 moves along the endline and bounces the ball several times then passes to teammate who is out of bounds or makes the throw-in pass to a teammate inbounds. Are both acts legal?—**Yes. Rule 7.5.7**

2. After the thrower-in releases the ball, may an opponent reach across the boundary line and contact the ball?—**Yes. Rule 9.2.11**

3. After the thrower-in releases the ball, may a teammate reach across the boundary line plane and contact the ball?—**No. Rule 9.2.3 exception 7.5.7 Case Book 9.2.2 B**

4. After the second quarter ends the players start to leave for the locker rooms then A-1 trash talks to B-1. Official rules a technical foul. A few seconds later B-2 trash talks to A-2. Official rules a technical foul.—**Ruling and Procedure—False Double Foul. Start the third quarter by awarding Team B two free throws. Next award Team A two free throws followed by awarding Team A a throw-in at the division line. The alternate possession arrow is Team A's, do not change it. The throw-in is not an alternate possession throw-in.**

5. A-1 is fouled in the act of shooting by B-1. While the ball is in the cylinder, A-2 touches the ball.—**Ruling—Basket interference by A-2 causes the ball to become dead and no goal can be scored. Award A-1 two free throws with players occupying lane spaces and play continues as normal when the last free throw is made or missed. Rules Book 4.6.2 Case Book 6.7.9 & 9.11.2**

6. A team has co-coaches. (a) May there be two head coaches, (b) if so may both coaches have rule rights to the coaching box? —**(a) NO (b) NO—There may only be one head coach and the coaches cannot take turns being the head coach in the same game. Rules Book 10.5**

7. Concerning **Insulin Pumps** ; Just like other medical accommodations, the insulin pump must be approved on a case by case basis by the state association. The user shall provide all necessary medical information outlining the need, style, duration of use, etc. The state will usually approve the device and any special accommodation that must be made while wearing the device.

8. **Arm Sleeves**; There are no restrictions, just as there are no restrictions regarding knee sleeves!

9. When a foul occurs as time expires and free throws are to be attempted, all team members must remain at their respective benches, and all players must remain on the court until completion of free throw(s)

10. If a team chooses to warm-up in an auxiliary gym rather than the playing court, there is no requirement to the contrary under National Federation rules. It is possible that an individual state association may have a more restrictive rule.