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FREE THROW PROCEDURE CLARIFICATION

MEMO from Lou DeGeorge, Interpreter, Shore Board #194 IAABO

The summer leagues have started and pretty soon we will be into the Fall AAU games. Since the National Federation released the new high school rules for the 2016-17 season there has been some confusion on the Free-Throw rule.

THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE FREE THROW RULE FROM LAST YEAR. An existing interpretation has now been added to Rule 9-1-3 “in an effort to make the rule easier to understand and to create a safer environment for the free-throw shooter”.

Let me attempt to explain the three (3) areas of concern during a free throw. They are: 1. The lane, 2. The free-throw semi-circle, 3. The area behind the free-throw line extended and behind the 3 point line.

The Lane: This is the area where there are marked lane spaces. After the ball is at the disposal of the free-thrower, players that legally occupy a marked lane space **MAY** enter the lane or an occupied lane space on the release of the ball.

However, players who occupy a marked lane space **MAY NOT** enter the free-throw semi-circle or touch the free-throw line until the ball touches the ring or backboard or until the free throw ends. (This is the new entry in the rules)

The Free-Throw Semi-Circle: Once the ball is at the disposal of the free-throw shooter, the only player allowed to be in this area is the free-throw shooter. The free-throw shooter **MUST NOT** have either foot beyond the vertical plane of the free-throw line or the free-throw semi-circle until the ball touches the ring or backboard or until the free throw ends.

Area behind the free-throw line extended and behind the 3 point line: Once the ball is at the disposal of the free-throw shooter, players in this area **MAY NOT** have either foot beyond the vertical plane of the free-throw line extended and the 3-point line until the ball touches the ring or backboard or until the free throw ends.

Of course there are other Articles and Penalties in Rule 9-1 that I didn't mention but you can review them at your leisure.

I hope this explains the rule. If not or if you have any questions please contact me at: 908-513-6846 or email: louied2@comcast.net. I recommend that you do not ask another official. This is my job to make sure all officials have the correct interpretation of the rules.

Have a great summer and looking forward to seeing you in the Fall.

Lou

