

For All IAABO Members, Coaches, Players and Fans

# SPORTORIALS

Happy Holidays

November/December 2017 Volume 68, Number 453

## Fall Seminar Loaded with Unique Sessions

The fall seminar was held in Newark, Delaware and was attended by a record crowd including the most Interpreters that have ever attended an IAABO Fall Seminar.

The seminar started early Friday morning, as Roger MacTavish, Bd. 39 NY, Rich Antonelli, Bd. 27 MA, and the Rules Examination Committee met and created the applicant test. It's an awesome task, but as always, Roger and Rich kept the committee on track as they completed their assignment on time. They were aided Layne Drexel, Bd. 11 DE, T.J. Halliday, Bd. 20 ME, Dan Shepardson, Bd. 105, CT, and David Smith, Bd. 4 CO, the four IAABO Co- Coordinators of Interpreters, who acted as group leaders. Roger and Rich both remarked that the new process of selecting questions for the exam went very smoothly.

President Joe Gintoli welcomed everyone to Newark and was followed by Tommie Neubauer, Executive Director of the Delaware Athletic Association, who also welcomed the group to his great state. Host board President Randy Henzes, Bd 11 DE, added his welcome and thanked everyone who assisted in putting the seminar together. A huge thank you to Board 11 for hosting -- they did an outstanding job.

A few IAABO items and logistics were discussed and then the first session began.

### Gaining a Mental Edge: Joel Fish

Dr. Joel Fish, noted sports psychologist, gave a lively presentation entitled "Gaining the Mental Edge" in which he advised keeping your head up and being positive in this difficult avocation, especially when dealing with irritants. He was very entertaining and engaging in his presentation

Al Battista, Bd. 12 DC, was next, and his topic was "Officiating Contact on the Shooter." It's an important topic as officials can be perceived as favoring the offense.

Felix Addeo, Bd. 33 NJ, used a unique set of props to discuss "Errors, Mistakes and Other Difficult Situations." Using the odd props, Felix kept attendees chuckling. It might sound hard to keep "Correctable Errors" interesting, but Felix did.

The afternoon session started with Kelly Callahan, Bd. 11 DE, and Barbara Kistler, Bd. 70 PA, sharing information on how our members can be involved in board activities and instructional sessions to support their board.

Donnie Eppley, Bd. 70 PA, came out from behind the computer to share some good advice on dealing with supervisors/assignors. The session included sage advice for Interpreters to bring back to their membership

Jeff Jewett, Bd. 71 AZ, shared some very good plays and how to use them in a presentation called "Effectively Using Video in Presentations." Great examples were shared utilizing video clips.

Peter Palermino, Bd. 6 CT, tackled the difficult topic of "Simplifying Technical Fouls (Who Gets Charged? When?)." Clarification on these situations was handled very well.

Rapping up the afternoon session was John Rafferty, Bd. 95 MA, who



Dr. Joel Fish

discussed "Most Misunderstood/Misapplied" rules. Through the use of video clips and PowerPoint, John provided some very good examples for Interpreters to take back to their board members.

After a long day of classroom sessions, the Roger Sheridan Hospitality Room opened and refreshments were served to help us relax after a day of information sharing.

### Fearless Foursome Interpreters Take the Stage

Saturday was the initial appearance of the fearless foursome also known as our co-interpreters to take the stage. T.J. Halliday, Bd. 20 ME, began with "Screening and Off Ball Coverage." With the use of some great

video clips, the topic was well covered.

Layne Drexel, Bd. 11 DE, entertained us with this subject, "Mnemonics." One will need to look it up and see how you can use letters to help you remember rule procedures. The topic was very interesting, especially for certain veterans.

The backcourt rule discussion was led by Dan Shepardson, Bd. 105 VT, who also provided some excellent plays to illustrate the nuances of the backcourt rule.

Up next was David Smith, Bd. 4 CO, who shared information on legal vs. illegal defenders. This was another great session utilizing illustrative plays. Through the use of an interactive program, PollEveryWhere, Interpreters were able to submit the answers to question and believe it or not, most of them answered all of the questions correctly.

Our legal advisor Alan Goldberger shared some important information on this topic, "Refereeing Rules Modification - 5 Things You Need to know." He focused on protecting officials in the legal arena.

### Statham, Lopes, Interpreters Lead Afternoon Session

The afternoon session began with Michael Statham, who used many relevant examples for his discussion on positioning -- illustrating the best positioning to increase the accuracy of your calls.

We also reintroduced the concept of having a coach's panel discussion to the fall seminar. We had a very good give and take discussing coaches' expectations of good officiating and the things that officials do that might irk them during a game. A few laughs, but good discussions.

Tom Lopes did a presentation on "Communication with Coaches." It was humorous spoof on some of the crazy things officials and coaches do during a game.

The Interpreters roundtable was next, and we introduced the new version of "You Make the Ruling," discussed the role of the Interpreter and how important that role is in IAABO. Dedication to the position of Interpreter continues to make IAABO the number one training organization in the country. We cannot do that without high quality individuals holding down Interpreter positions within our boards.

Joe DeRosa of Smitty's (our new uniform vendor) gave a presentation about the new system and how to contact the preferred dealer for each of our IAABO Boards.

Tom asked members to submit an article for Sportorials and that if it were accepted the writer would receive a *(continued on page 15)*

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### STATEMENT

*The International Association of Approved Basketball Officials, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of basketball officiating, through the proper training of applicants by visual and written aids; constant supervision by board proctors and dissemination of rule changes and interpretations.*

## Director's Court

Expectations for a New Season - A new season is ready to begin. Let's take a minute to look at ourselves and the work we are about to undertake. Here are some questions each of us needs to answer:

1. Are my expectations realistic or am I just kidding myself? Am I trying to advance too fast or hang on too long?
2. Do I look like a real pro when I walk on the court or are my pants a little wrinkled and my stomach a little big? Am I on time?
3. Do I take the trouble to have a good pre-game with my partner, to instruct the scorer and timer every game, to look each coach in the eye and give him/her equal time, or do I just pay lip service to preparation and teamwork?
4. Do I hustle every game like it was the best on my schedule or do I get bored, distracted and impatient? (Sometimes or often?)
5. Do I get my hand up on every whistle and are my signals sharp, or do I figure I can ease up a little because it is a poorly played game?
6. Are my partner and I a team out there, or am I trying to look better than him/her?
7. Can rational people approach me and be treated professionally, or do I feel I must set them straight in a hurry? Am I human? Am I enjoying the game?
8. Do I always keep thinking, anticipating the play, being ahead of the situation, or am I often surprised? Do I find myself guessing a lot?
9. Do I call things consistently throughout the contest? Do I want that tough call near the end or do I hide?
10. Am I always trying to be fair, or do I let my emotions (anger or fear) get in the way?
11. When I make a call, does it look like I believe it or do I hesitate or sound unsure?
12. Do I realize that it is up to me personally to get people to trust me, or do I think that a striped shirt and a whistle make me something special?



It is time to take stock, look yourself in the mirror, reassure that you are ready, that you care about the game and that you will put forth 100 percent effort each time you walk on the court. Remember, every game is important to someone.

On another note, are you receiving through email the issues of "Inside the Lines?" They are sent to you about every other week or more and contain: interpretations, IAABO happenings and news, announcements and items from the IAABO store. Contact Kelly Callahan at [tmkcallahan@aol.com](mailto:tmkcallahan@aol.com) if you have something of interest for our members.

The coordinators have prepared interpretations of all the rule changes and points of emphasis for your interpreter to use in your local meetings. Please review, be prepared, and make this your best year ever!

## It's Not Always a Block

The charge/block play is difficult. These plays happen fast and the speed and ability of players and improved coaching techniques have not made them any easier. How many times do we see a legal defender penalized incorrectly for a blocking foul? Do we default to a blocking foul if we are not sure? Here are some things that can help us do a better job of getting this play right.

**Forget the Misconceptions:** Defenders don't have to be stationary to be legal. Defenders are not required to have both feet on the floor to be legal. Contact does not have to be squarely in the chest to have a player control foul. These are all misconceptions officials hear from the sound and the bench when a ruling is disagreed with.

**Know What the Defender Can Legally Do:** Once a defender obtains an initial legal guarding position, two feet on the floor inbounds facing the opponent, he or she can move laterally, obliquely or backwards to maintain that legal guarding position. No time or distance is required when guarding a player with the ball. If a legal defender is not moving toward the opponent when contact occurs, the defender cannot be responsible for the contact. Once the ball handler gets his/her head and shoulders past the defender, the defender has the greater responsibility for contact.

The defender may also jump vertically within his/her own space and be absolved of responsibility for contact. That is, a legal defender can legally jump from position A to position A (straight up), but not from position A to position B on the court. However, if the defender has legally jumped and is displaced by contact causing him/her to land in position B, he/she is not responsible for the contact.

**Get in the Proper Position:** Officials must move to get an open look on all plays, and this one is no different. Officials must be able to see both players and their movement to rule correctly. If the offensive player drives to his/her right, move a step or two the opposite way to maintain your open look. Standing still or moving with the players will not let you see through the play, reducing your chances of ruling correctly.

In conclusion, don't incorrectly penalize defenders by defaulting to a blocking foul on close plays. Get into position to identify whether the defender's initial position and any subsequent movement or jumping is legal. Move to be able to see through the play as it starts, develops and finishes. If contact occurs, ask yourself one question.

**"What did the defender do wrong?"**

If the answer is nothing, any illegal contact must be charged to the offensive player.



## President's Corner



When traveling back home to Connecticut from our recently concluded Fall Rules Interpreter Seminar in Newark, Delaware, I was going to call Executive Director Tom Lopes about 2 hours into my drive and ask him if the exit survey results had been tabulated from the seminar. Realizing that he probably would of thought I was crazy, and, knowing that the ink was not even dry yet on the surveys all the local board Interpreters were asked to fill out, I did not. I was very excited and anxious to hear about and see the feedback from the seminar. I felt the many hours of hard work, put in by many, had produced a very informative and enjoyable 3 days.

A few days later Tom shared the survey results with me. Boy, was I wrong..but in good way.

All I could say was...WOW! What I thought conservatively was "very informative and enjoyable" became "spectacular", "professionally done", "an exciting new seminar concept that keeps everyone's attention" ... and I could go on with more great accolades. The entire seminar program orchestrated by Tom Lopes and our 4 Co-coordinators- Layne Drexel, T.J. Halliday, Dan Shepardson and Dave Smith was everything we hoped it would be...and more. From the opening presentation by world renowned Sports Psychologist Dr. Joel Fish to the final rules and mechanics presentation on Sunday, our board Rules Interpreters were treated to a weekend that was full of positive energy in every way.

On behalf of the Officers & Executive Committee I want to thank everyone who made the weekend such a tremendous success. From our hosts, Delaware Board 11, to the presenters, to all the volunteers who set up and broke down all the equipment. It was truly 'Team IAABO' at its best.

I am happy to report that our 2017-18 initiatives that I have spoken about in previous President's Corner communications continue to progress in a timely manner. Vice President Paul Spinelli and his Strategic Planning Committee are on schedule as we prepare for the immediate and long term future of IAABO. I have asked both the Board Relations & Policy and Membership Development Committees to work together as we move forward with our mission to put a 'Junior' education program in place. This education program will be one that local boards can utilize to get 16 and 17 year olds interested in basketball officiating, leading to future IAABO members.

The IAABO Charitable & Education Foundation car raffle is going extremely well. Foundation Trustee and Raffle Chairperson Peter Carroll has informed me that many tickets were handed out at the Fall Seminar. Thanks to all Interpreters who committed and took tickets back to their local Boards to sell. A reminder that when you purchase a raffle ticket for

\$100.00 you are not only taking a chance to win the 2018 Nissan Rogue, you are helping the Foundation support the 2018 Officials vs. Cancer IAABO initiative.

As I write this President's Corner message to you it's early October. Even though I have been retired as an active official for 7 years, my internal basketball clock tells me it's 'that time of the year again'. I would always ask myself these questions this time of the year:

Did my summer of beers and barbeques get the best of me?

What's my physical condition? Did I do enough activity/exercise this past summer?

Have I had/scheduled my yearly physical with my doctor?

As someone who grew up in an Italian household and has always loved to eat, I struggled to keep myself in acceptable 'officiating' condition my entire 30+ years of officiating. Never mistaken for a world class sprinter, I always had to work harder than the next person and had to be very aware of my physical condition. Especially as I got more 'experienced', we'll say, into my 50s. I found that as I got older not only did I have to work harder, but I had to prepare smarter. We all like to think that we can 'get ready' at age 50 as we could when we were age 30. As we know, time has a way of reminding us of reality. So I ask you, especially if you are in the 'experienced' age category, where are you physically as you read this? Has last year's officiating shirt 'shrunk' mysteriously over the summer? If so, you still have time to do something about it. Consult your physician(s), get your blood pressure checked, and most of all commit yourself to a better long term overall health program. The players we officiate deserve it, your officiating partners deserve it, but most of all, you and your family deserve it.

As we approach all the wonderful holidays IAABO members around the world will celebrate with their family and friends through the end of 2017, I want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and the happiest and healthiest of New Year's. Please keep the men and women who protect us in the military, as well as the citizens of Puerto Rico and other parts of the world that have faced recent disasters, in your thoughts and prayers. Let us all remember to give thanks for everything and everyone in our lives. Give back to those who need it the most.

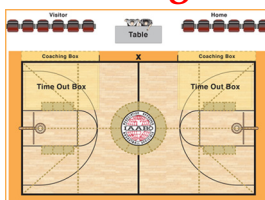
Finally, as my Dad always told me, as we go about our daily lives always remember to "pay it forward".... when we do, it comes back to us tenfold when we least **expect it. And we all our better off for it.**

**Stay well..**

## NFHS Allows Coaching Box Size Increase

The National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) at their annual basketball rules committee meeting in April approved a change that will allow the size of the coaching box to increase up to a maximum of 28' (Rule 1-13-2). The decision to increase the size of the coaching box, from the current 14' length, is up to each state association; it is not a national rule change.

If a state decides to increase the size of the coaching box, the box's location must begin at the end line and go 28' toward the division line. The coaching box area shall be marked by lines on the out-of-bounds side of the court. Because of the timing of the change and the inability of schools to change the floor markings prior to the start of this year's basketball season, the NFHS has deemed it allowable to use



tape to mark the coaching box.

State associations still have the authority to adjust the size and the location of the coaching box. However, the box is not allowed to go beyond the 28' mark toward the division line.

The rationale for the rule change is to allow improved communication between coaches and their players. As a reminder, the box is a "coaching" box and NOT a "coaches" box, meaning that only the Head Coach is allowed to stand. The Head Coach must still be seated within the designated coaching box. This rule has no effect on any rules pertaining to the loss of the coaching box; it simply allows for the size of the coaching box to be increased IF the state association approves it.



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## Little Things Contribute to Court Presence - The "It" Factor

Coaches notice little things. Earl Walton understands this.

The first time he received the opportunity to work the Men's NCAA Division I Basketball Tournament, he wore his best shirt, received and wore his NCAA patch proudly. But when he took it off, there was a residual stain. The next year, he heard about it. A coach gave him a hard time, telling Walton "our game didn't deserve a clean shirt. They notice things like that. That stuck with me because you only get one chance to make a good first impression," Walton observed.



As a 26-year IAABO official out of Board #12 in Washington, D.C., Walton has heard his share of complaints from coaches, fans and players. But if you take care of the little things, you raise your court presence and get the additional respect to run the game more effectively. That presence, often called the "it" factor, is something all sports officials strive for, but not all achieve it.

You don't have to be a DI official like Walton, who officiates the Big East as his signature conference, along with the Big 10, ACC, Atlantic 10, and several other DI conferences. He has officiated the NCAA DI tournament for 12 years, making it to the Sweet 16 last year. But strong court presence and the "it" factor don't apply solely to DI. His advice pertains to all levels.

"Confidence is so much of your court presence. Good conditioning contributes to that. Your uniform should be cleaned and shoes shined," he said.

Court presence is important to Walton. "It's like you're having a job interview every night. Coaches are developing their impressions of you, so I wear a good suit every game."

If you don't have "it," how do you get it? It's not simple, but Walton suggested, "Fake it till you make it." His point is to look the part regardless of how you feel. "You may not be an Adonis, but make your package acceptable to the coaches, fans and players. Getting a haircut and shaving makes you more presentable than they unshaven guy wearing a dingy uniform."

Walton related a classic example of an official seeking an observation and advice from him. The official had on neon green socks and thought no one would notice, but people stared at him. "Refereeing is no different from any other job profession. The guy needed to be professional. If you're fair on the court and well-dressed, you're given more respect."

### Remember Your Team

Basketball officiating is a team endeavor. Not only do you have partners on the court, but on the sidelines, too, in the form of the team at the scorer's table. Walton actively engages with that team to increase his court presence. You never know when that good relationship will go in handy and help you solve a crisis on the court.

The TV producer is also part of his team, according to Walton, due to television replay. "I thank the table and producer on TV games. Sometimes they catch things and save us. Give them a thumbs-up. It's all part of court presence."

With partners, Walton said it's important for older/more experienced officials to help younger/less experienced officials be comfortable. "I want them to be as relaxed as I am. That makes them more comfortable on the floor. That's what it's all about."

### First Impressions

Leslie Boucher agrees with Walton that court presence is "a lot about first impressions. Dress very professionally no matter where you're going. Up your game. Court presence is about getting respect from coaches and players by exuding confidence. Answer questions, assure your partners you'll get through this together. Demonstrate confidence."

Boucher, who officiates out of IAABO Board #130 in Massachusetts, and worked her way up to NCAA Women's Division I before returning to DIII and high school games, recognizes that despite your presence there are times things don't work out and you want a call back. "Sometimes you have to own up to a bad call," she said, but that too helps contribute to building your court presence.

People watch sports officials closely. But, Boucher said, "I'm judging me more than those in the stands are." That self-mastery and self-assessment are

critical to positive court presence. "I want my peers when they see my name as their partner to say 'it's great to work with Leslie Boucher.' We'll get through the game, have some laughs and do it professionally," she said.

It's important to be fair to both teams and demonstrate integrity. "I lose sleep after some games," Boucher admitted.

She advises other officials to remember officiating is not their "primary" job, that it's a "game at that given moment" for the participants. "Work hard to call your best game and get your crew on the same page."

There are some specific challenges Boucher sees facing female officials. "After my first two years, I was ready to quit. I asked a coach I knew well after he yelled at me, 'Was I really that bad?' He replied, 'You're one of the best officials but I had to do that to motivate my kids.' That was an 'aha' moment for me."

Sometimes women can take the verbal attacks too personally. "We need a psychology class to deal with all the on-the-court issues," she laughed.

### Give Every Game the Same amount of Effort

"No matter what game it is or where the gymnasium is, give the same amount of focus and effort," Jim Palermo advised his fellow officials to increase their court presence. "It's the most important game for the players, as it should be for the officials."

A good focus and mindset starts with a good pregame with your crew, the fair and consistent execution on the court, according to Palermo, who officiates out of IAABO Board #60 in Rochester, N.Y. He has worked several state high school championship games over the course of his 38-year officiating career.

He echoes many of Walton's and Boucher's tips: First impressions mean an awful lot; be in good shape; carry yourself with confidence; demonstrate positive body language.

When you first get to a site, introduce yourself to the supervisor. "Don't be a stranger, meet some of the people there, make sure you are on the court at least 15 minutes before game time or whatever your board's policy is. Do things by the book – the way you are supposed to by being professional, well-prepared and groomed. Don't look like you just rolled of bed."

"People are at the contest passing judgment on you right way. It's a job for us, so treat it that way," Palermo added.

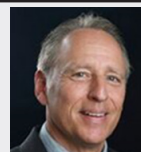
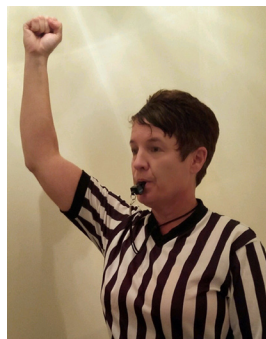
"A good reputation precedes you before you go on the court. Be aware of, and develop a good reputation," he continued.

Palermo doesn't think about who's watching him on the court. He treats all his games equally, ruling on fouls and ensuring fairness and consistency on the court. His goal is to be a great role model, and looks up to Gene Monje, Peter Pavia and Jeff Anderson for setting a tone for him.

"Be yourself. Don't emulate someone else. Own your niche and comfort zone. Work as many camps and games as possible to build confidence. The consistency and hard work you demonstrate on the floor will be evident to people the more they see you work. Have a positive personality, calm demeanor and be a good listener," he advised.

Actions speak louder than words. "Have good communication with the table, crew mates, coaches and players. That develops trust in you when others watch you work on the floor," Palermo explained.

Why is court presence important? "More experienced officials are looked up to by younger officials. We're setting an example. People watch us. We're under scrutiny. How we act and behave must send a positive example. Be professional, and treat the game, coaches and players with respect. Court presence speaks louder than words. The best compliment an official can receive is, 'Who worked that game?'" Palermo emphasized.



Dave Simon has been an IAABO member since 1984, and written for Sportorials for over 25 years. He currently lives in Merton, WI, and does high school game observations for the Wisconsin Basketball Officials Association.

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## Fall Seminar Photos



Tommy Neubauer, Executive Director, DIAA, welcomes IAABO to Newark



Al Battista, Bd. 12 DC



President Joe Gintoli welcomes the International gathering.



T.J. Halliday, Bd. 20 ME



Record Crowd



Felix Addeo, Bd. 33 NJ



Michael Statham, Bd. 12 DC



Joe Gintoli, President, IAABO, Inc., presents a basketball signed by the Men's NCAA Basketball Final Four Officials to Gary Montel, Bd. 4 CO, for his support of the "Officials' vs. Cancer" campaign.



Dan Shepardson, Bd. 105 CT



Jeff Jewett, Bd. 71 AZ



Randy Henzes, Bd. 11 DE



John Rafferty, Bd. 95 MA



## Badges? We Don't Need No Stinking Badges

What does officiating the game of basketball have to do with a quote from the 1974 Mel Brooks satirical Western comedy film, *Blazing Saddles*? When it comes to the enforcement of so-called “Fashion Police” rules, not only do basketball officials not need badges, many officials don’t even want badges. Officials love the challenge of calling a great game: block or charge; advantage/disadvantage on fouls; working with a good partner to get all out of bounds calls correct, etc. That said, many officials don’t relish telling players that they can’t participate while wearing an illegal color undershirt, or an illegal color headband.

Yet, the National Federation of State High School Associations, the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials, and state associations (state interscholastic sports governing bodies), want these equipment rules enforced, that is why they are in the rulebook.

The NFHS made changes to equipment restriction rules over the past few years that often confused some officials. In an effort to simplify the rules, references to “school color” have now been completely removed from the rulebook. Tights are now allowed, and compression shorts are to be treated the same as any other equipment item (compression shorts must no longer be the same color as the uniform shorts but now must be the solid color black, white, beige, or the predominant color of the uniform jersey).

Rules regarding *undershirts* are the most restrictive, and should be the easiest to enforce by officials. Undershirts must be similar in color to the uniform jersey. According to NFHS rules, the home team must wear white uniform jerseys. Therefore, the only legal undershirt color for home players would be white, and only white. Players on the visiting team, wearing their dark road jerseys, must wear dark colored undershirts similar in color to their dark color uniform jerseys. “School color” doesn’t apply to undershirts since “school color” is not mentioned in the current NFHS rulebook. Undershirts may not have frayed edges, and undershirt sleeves shall be the same length. Note that this rule does not require all players to wear the same length sleeves on their undershirts, but each individual player must have sleeves the same length on the undershirt when worn.

There is a wider array of legal color options for other equipment items such as *headbands*, *wristbands*, *arm sleeves*, *knee sleeves*, *lower leg sleeves*, *compression shorts*, and *tights*. All of these equipment items must be the solid color black, white, beige, or the predominant color of the uniform jersey. All of these items shall be the same color as worn by each player. Additionally, all of these items shall be the same color for all members of a team who choose to wear them. Again, “school color” doesn’t apply to these equipment items since “school color” is not mentioned in the current NFHS rulebook.

Furthermore, anything worn on the arm or the leg (except a knee brace), is defined as a *sleeve*, including knee pads and elbow pads (must be the solid color black, white, beige, or the predominant color of the uniform jersey). Only a single *headband* may be worn on the head, and headbands are not allowed to have extensions or tails. Only one moisture absorbing *wristband* is permitted on each wrist, and each wristband must be worn on the arm below the elbow.

By rule, exceptions to equipment color restrictions include rubber, cloth, or elastic bands, used to control hair. Such *soft hair control devices* (e.g., *ponytail holders*) are under no color restrictions. *Hard hair control devices* including but not limited to beads, barrettes, and bobby pins, of any color, are prohibited. Remember, headbands go around the entire head (and must be the solid color black, white, beige, or the predominant color of the uniform jersey), while soft hair control devices only go around hair and are under no color restrictions.



Another exception to equipment color restrictions deals with *knee braces*. Knee braces are not sleeves and are under no color restrictions. Knee braces are worn for a medical purpose to increase stability in the knee, and have embedded inserts to support the joint. Knee braces may, or may not have hinges, straps, or an opening over the knee cap. Remember that ordinary knee pads (as well as elbow pads) are treated as sleeves and fall under NFHS equipment color restrictions (solid color black, white, beige, or the predominant color of the uniform jersey).

The NFHS has also addressed *jewelry*, as well as medical and *religious items*, over the past several years. Players may not participate, or even warmup, while wearing jewelry. Religious medals, or medical alert medals are not considered jewelry. A religious medal must be taped, and worn under the uniform. A medical alert medal must also be taped, and unlike a religious medal, may be visible.

State associations may, on an individual basis, based on documented evidence, permit players to participate while wearing a *head covering for medical or religious reasons*. The head covering must be not be abrasive, hard, or dangerous to any other player. It must be attached in such a way that is highly unlikely to come off during play.

According to the NFHS, *padded protective headbands* (often called concussion headbands) are medical devices that must be approved by state associations on an individual basis, in other words, it’s up to each individual state. States that allow padded protective headbands must have proper documentation from a licensed medical physician before the state association can approve such a medical device. Officials should consult their state interscholastic sports governing body regarding guidelines on padded protective headbands.

The best time for officials to observe compliance with equipment restrictions is during pregame warmups. However, if players are wearing pregame warmup apparel over their game uniforms, it may be impossible to observe such equipment restrictions during the pregame warmup period. It’s then necessary that officials observe compliance with equipment restrictions for the starting players as they enter the court for the jump ball to begin the game. After the game begins, it’s also necessary for officials to observe compliance with equipment restrictions as substitutes are beckoned into the game.

Over the past few years, many basketball teams have held “Cancer Awareness Nights”. This often involves the wearing of special uniforms and equipment, often involving, but not limited to, players wearing the color pink. Officials should utilize common sense when dealing with these special circumstances.

Some equipment restriction rules are for safety reasons. Rules that restrict equipment colors benefit officials by allowing them to easily identify players on each team during fast paced action. Consistency among officials in the enforcement of equipment restriction rules will provide a unified statement to coaches. When some officials choose not to enforce these rules, they are only hurting the profession and setting up the next crew for criticism from the coaches, when, in fact, the officials who did not enforce the rules are the ones who deserve the criticism. For those officials contemplating not enforcing equipment restrictions because such rules have “nothing to do with the game of basketball”, in the words of author Roy T. Bennett, “*Stop doing what is easy, or popular. Start doing what is right*”.

Bill McKernan is a member of IAABO Central Connecticut Board #6. A retired middle school science teacher, he’s been a Board #6 member for thirty-seven years.





## 40 Years and Counting

*(Editor's Note: This is the third installment in a 3-part story for Sportorials. We interviewed IAABO members with more than 40 years experience, and posed the following 3 questions: 1) What has changed the most about the game for officials the past 40 years? 2) How have you adjusted? 3) How has IAABO changed during that time? The second installment runs below.)*

**Bob Lauterhahn, IAABO Board 33, North Jersey, just finished his 42 years with IAABO:**

"The game has gotten so much faster. When I played, you pressed in the fourth quarter if you were losing. Now, players are in each other's faces from the opening tap. It's a 94-foot game."

"Coaches have adapted to the game, and we (as officials) have adapted as well. The coaches push you to work harder."

"There are also so many games now (summer league and the regular high school season). It's 12 months a year. That's an advantage and disadvantage – you can keep up physically and mentally, but you can also burn out."

"Our board has talked a lot about the speed of the game, and we are pushing for 3-person crews. You have to do more in the off-season to stay in shape. You can't just come out at the start of the season to get in shape, that's not fair to the kids. They get up and down the court from day one, so we have to as well."

"I wish they had camps when I was coming up. I learned from the guys I officiated with. We must adapt to the kids, coaches and style of play today."

"IAABO has gotten to the point where it is spectacular with its camps and videos. When I started, there were a couple of old guys who got up at the meetings and said, 'I did this, I did that.' Now we bring in videos and have adapted to the computer era."

"I watch the IAABO 'Plays of the Week' all the time and they're tremendous. If you read the materials and watch the videos, you'll learn. It's a credit to Tom Lopes."

**John Cook, IAABO Board 46, Central New York (Oneonta area), 41 years with IAABO:**

"The culture of our society is the biggest change I've seen. There's a lack of sportsmanship and a lack of respect. Athletics mirror society. Now it's win-at-all-costs and that makes sportsmanship take a back seat."

"Athletics are also so organized today. Kids are one-sport athletes, instead of playing other sports to develop multi-talented life skills."

"Officials are drawing a line in the sand on 'Sportsmanship behavior' involving players and coaches. This year we will talk with our partners in pre-games so that any verbal warning to a coach will be put in the scorebook. The next unsporting behavior by the coach will warrant a technical foul. We will emphasize this in our training and pre-game sessions this season. Game management is VITAL!"

"The fans have also become obnoxious. Game administration will address it if you bring it to their attention. The few times I ejected a fan from a basketball game, I have had a school administrator remove them. Over the past 40 years I have witnessed the lack of respect and civility occurring at basketball games. It mirrors our culture and society today."

"The biggest change with IAABO has been the addition of new technology and instant information – video, watching clips on your phone. We're in a fish bowl. I think a lot of officials have seen the clip of the basketball ref on his phone while running the court. It was absurd."

"IAABO's learning tools, like the 'Play of the Week,' allow us to go online and watch the game again, and consider what you would call in that situation."

"Sending Board Interpreters to the Fall Meeting is a big plus. Our board has a small budget, but we add money to send our

Interpreter. Tom Lopes and Donnie Eppley have brought us to a higher level."

"I've been Secretary-Treasurer of our Board since 1979 and everything is now online. The educational tools help us understand the rules and apply them fairly."

**Don Miller, IAABO 157, Eastern Maryland, 50 years and counting as an IAABO member:**

"The big change is the caliber of play and the kids are so much faster. The talent is better, and that's changed the game. Having 3-man mechanics helps deal with the increased pace. We're still 2-man here on the eastern shore. It's hard on your legs. I don't know how many more miles I have on these old legs. The odometer has turned over a few times."

"I do normal running during the off-season to prepare for the season. Physically, I'm in good shape. I ask my assignor to limit my games and only take certain ones – ones with a slower tempo. But I'll still do maybe one tough game a week."

"IAABO has become more involved in training. The IAABO camps are also a big help to the younger officials. Educational materials are also big with IAABO. They help each local association, and help younger officials develop."

**Rich Cesca, IAABO Board 45, Rockland County, NY, 52 years with IAABO:**

"The big difference today is the kids are much more athletic. The game is much faster with more running."

"Although the game is more physical and athletic I feel the players' knowledge of the game isn't what it used to be. It's difficult for some officials to recognize the offensive foul, as well as traveling -- walking is very rarely called."

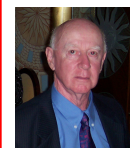
"With 2 new hips, I decided to forego varsity games and limit myself to freshman and lower levels in order to do a good job officiating. That keeps me involved in the sport."

"I've been an IAABO member all these years and feel we do a good job breaking officials in. Young officials in their first few years want to go to camps to move onto college games. IAABO continues to do a good job with the camps."



Dave Simon has been an IAABO member since 1984, and written for Sportorials for over 25 years. He currently lives in Merton, WI, and does high school game observations for the Wisconsin Basketball Officials Association.

### Life Member Passes



Melvin F. Murray peacefully passed away August 11 with his family by his side after a brief illness. Red was born September 29, 1934 in Concord NH, the son of Henry and Ruth (Robinson) Murray. He resided in Concord until his retirement from Concord Group Insurance as Senior Special Investigator for Maine, NH, and VT after 42 years of service. He then spent his retirement years living on Squam Lake, a place he loved and treasured.

Red ran cross country for Concord High School and was on the state champion team in 1948, 49, 50 and 51. As a teenager, he started officiating basketball games at the local YMCA, which developed into a lifelong passion for the sport of basketball. Red traveled all over the state officiating games, blowing his whistle in nearly every high school gym in the state. Between the years of 1966 and 1989, Red officiated 125 NHIAA tournament games including 25 final games. Red was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in 2009, and the NHIAA Hall of Fame in 2011.

## Basketball Rules Interpretations - 2017-18

**Publisher's Note:** The National Federation of State High School Associations is the only source of official high school interpretations. They do not set aside nor modify any rule. They are made and published by the NFHS in response to situations presented. Robert B. Gardner, Publisher, NFHS Publications © 2017

2017-18 NFHS Basketball Preseason Guide Corrections: Page 8, Play 5 Ruling: Eliminate the last sentence, "Had A10 somehow made the three-pointer, ..." It is incorrect; Page 8: The comment under the NFHS Foul Chart should read: If one of a multiple foul is intentional or flagrant, two free throws should be given for the intentional or flagrant foul. If the multiple foul includes an intentional foul and a flagrant foul, two free throws should be given for each foul.

2017-18 NFHS Basketball Case Book Alteration – 10.5.1 Situation B: At halftime, as the teams, coaches and officials are making their way through a hallway to the dressing room, a Team A member verbally abuses one of the officials. **Ruling:** The official must decide if the offense is major. Under 4-48, if not deemed to be major and neither a warning nor technical has been charged (direct or indirect) to the head coach, the bench personnel could be issued a warning. If a warning is issued, this would be reported to both teams, recorded in the scorebook, and the head coach would lose coaching-box privileges. If the offense was judged to be major or a warning or technical has already been issued to the head coach, a technical foul is charged to the team member and is also charged indirectly to the head coach resulting in the loss of coaching-box privileges. The third quarter will begin with two Team B free throws and the ball awarded at the division line for a throw-in. The alternating-possession arrow is unaffected. Team A will also have one foul toward the team-foul count. During intermission, all team members are bench personnel and are penalized accordingly. If the conduct is flagrant, the team member shall be disqualified. (4-48, 10-5-1a)

**Situation 1:** School A has placed its 28-foot coaching box parallel to the basketball floor so that it is 10 feet from the division line. **Ruling:** This is an incorrect placement of the coaching box. The 28-foot coaching box should be measured from the end line of the basketball court toward the division line. The end of the coaching box near the scoring table must allow for a minimum of 14 feet of clear space toward the division line. NOTE: Regardless of the length of the coaching box mandated by the state, a minimum 14-foot area beginning at the division line and moving toward the end line should not include any portion of the coaching box regardless of the size and the alternate placement. (1-13-2)

**Situation 2:** The state association has allowed Team A to adjust the placement of its coaching box because of the design of the bleachers and the stairs leading into the bleachers. To gain the full 28 feet for the coaching box, the box has been extended beyond the end line of the playing court. **Ruling:** Illegal placement of the coaching box. The placement of the box can be altered but it cannot extend beyond the end line of the court nor can it encroach into the 14-foot area near the division line. (1-13-2)

**Situation 3:** Team A is making a throw-in near the division line in the team's frontcourt. A1's throw-in is deflected by B1 who is applying direct pressure on A1. A2 jumps from the team's frontcourt, catches the ball

in the air and lands in the backcourt. **Ruling:** Backcourt violation on Team A. The throw-in ends when it is legally touched by B1. When A2 gains possession/control in the air, he/she has frontcourt status. A backcourt violation has occurred when A2 lands in the

backcourt. (9-9-1, 9-9-3)

**Situation 4:** Team A is making a throw-in near the division line in the team's backcourt (Team B's frontcourt). A1's throw-in is deflected by B1 who is applying direct pressure on A1. B2 jumps from his/her frontcourt, catches the ball in the air and lands in the backcourt. **Ruling:** Backcourt violation on Team B. The throw-in ends with B1's deflection (legal touch). When B2 gains possession/control in the air, he/she has frontcourt status. A backcourt violation has occurred when B2 lands in backcourt. (9-9-1, 9-9-3)

**Situation 5:** Team A is making a throw-in near the division line in the team's backcourt (Team B's frontcourt). A1's throw-in is intercepted by B1. B1 jumps from his/her frontcourt, catches the ball in the air and lands with the first foot in the frontcourt and second foot in the backcourt. **Ruling:** No violation, legal play. It doesn't matter if one foot lands before the other provided it is a "normal landing." Since there was no deflection, the throw-in had not ended. (9-9-1, 9-9-3)

**Situation 6:** Team A is making a throw-in near the division line in the team's frontcourt (Team B's backcourt). A1's throw-in is deflected by B1 who is applying direct pressure on A1. B2 jumps from his/her backcourt

court and catches the ball in the air. B2 lands with the first foot in the frontcourt and second foot in the backcourt. **Ruling:** Backcourt violation on Team B. The throw-in ends with the deflection (legal touch) by B1. B2 gains possession/control and first lands in Team B's frontcourt and then steps in Team B's backcourt. The provision for making a normal landing only applies to the exceptions of a throw-in and a defensive player, and is only for the player making the initial touch on the ball. (9-9-1, 9-9-3)

**Situation 7:** A1, in the team's frontcourt, passes towards A2, also in the team's frontcourt. B1 deflects the ball toward Team A's backcourt. The ball bounces only in Team A's frontcourt before crossing the division line. While the ball is still in the air over Team A's backcourt, but never having touched in Team A's backcourt, A2 gains possession of the ball while standing in Team A's backcourt. **Ruling:** Backcourt violation on Team A. Team A was still in team control and caused the ball to have backcourt status. Had A2 permitted the ball to bounce in the backcourt after having been deflected by B1, there would have been no backcourt violation. (4-4-1, 4-4-3, 9-9-1)

**Situation 8:** A1, while dribbling the ball in the frontcourt near the midcourt line, has the ball strike the midcourt line and as the ball comes up from the dribble, A1 touches the ball and continues to dribble. **Ruling:** Backcourt violation. A1 may not be the first to touch the ball in the backcourt if he/she or a teammate last touched or was touched by the ball in the frontcourt, before it went to the backcourt. (9-9-1)

**Situation 9:** A1 has the ball for an end-line throw-in in his/her frontcourt. The administering official reaches a four-second count when A1 passes the ball to A2, who had been standing in the free-throw lane since A1 had the ball at his/her disposal. **Ruling:** Legal. Even though a team is now in control during a throw-in, the three-second rule specifically requires that a team be in control in its frontcourt for a violation to occur. Technically speaking, the thrower-in is out of bounds and not located in the frontcourt. (4-35-2, 9-7)

**Situation 10:** A1 has the ball for an end-line throw-in in his/her backcourt. The administering official reaches a four-second count when A1 passes the ball onto the court. A1's pass to A2, who is also in Team A's backcourt, takes several bounces and six seconds



## Rules Interpretations

before A2 picks up and controls the ball. **Ruling:** Legal. Even though a team is now in control during a throw-in, the 10-second rule specifically requires that a player/team be in continuous control in its backcourt for 10 seconds for a violation to occur. Technically speaking, the thrower-in is out of bounds and not located in the backcourt. (4-35-2, 9-8)

**Situation 11:** A1 has the ball for an end-line throw-in in his/her frontcourt. A1's pass to A2, who is in the frontcourt standing near the free-throw line, is high, bounces several times and goes into Team A's backcourt untouched. A2 is then the first to control the ball in Team A's backcourt. **Ruling:** Legal. There is no backcourt violation since player control and team control had not yet been established in Team A's frontcourt before the ball went into Team A's backcourt. The throw-in ends when A2 legally touches the ball in the backcourt and the backcourt count starts as soon as A2 gains control in his/her backcourt. (4-12-2, 9-9)

**Situation 12:** A1 has the ball for an end-line throw-in in his/her frontcourt. A1's pass to A2, who is in the frontcourt standing near the division line, is high and deflects off A2's hand and goes into Team A's backcourt. A2 is then the first to control the ball in Team A's backcourt. **Ruling:** Legal. There is no backcourt violation since player control and team control had not yet been established in Team A's frontcourt before the ball went into Team A's backcourt. The throw-in ends when A2 legally touches the ball, but the backcourt count does not start until A2 gains control in his/her backcourt. (4-12-2, 9-9)

**Situation 13:** The head coach of Team A is upset that the foul count against his team is 7 to 2. He voices his opinion in an unsporting manner to the contest official. **Ruling:** The official should stop play if it is not a break situation with a potential scoring opportunity and give the coach an official warning by notifying the scorekeeper and then letting the coach know that he has been warned. The scorekeeper should make note of the warning in the scorebook. This situation does not have to be given a warning; the coach could be issued a technical immediately. (4-48)

**Situation 14:** During a live ball, the assistant coach is off the bench and out of the coaching box giving instructions to a player on the court. **Ruling:** The official should rule a technical on the assistant coach for being off the bench and out of the coaching box. (4-48)

**Situation 15:** During the second quarter, the head coach is off the bench expressing his disapproval of several calls made. As the team brings the ball down the floor into the frontcourt, the trail official stops play to issue a warning. **Ruling:** The official is correct in issuing a warning to the coach for the complaints. The scorekeeper is notified, as well as the coach, of the warning. Another warning cannot be given. (4-48)

**Situation 16:** During the warm-up period, the referee notices on the back of Team B's jersey the letters (a) PHHS and (b) P+E+T. **Ruling:** Legal in (a) as the letters on the jersey represent the official name of the school; illegal in (b) as the letters do not represent the name of the school, which makes the jersey illegal. The head coach shall be charged with a direct technical foul and the game will begin with the opponents shooting two free throws and receiving the ball for a division line throw-in. The head coach will lose coaching-box privileges. (3-4-4, 10-6-4)

**Situation 17:** Team A is wearing a jersey with the school name above the number on the front and the player name in the shoulder area across the back. **Ruling:** Legal. It is permissible to place the names in these locations. (3-4-4)

## Rules Changes - 2017-18

**1-13-2:** The coaching box shall be outlined outside the side of the court on which the scorer's and timer's table and team benches are located. The area shall be bounded by a line drawn 28 feet from the end line towards the Division line. At this point a line drawn from the sideline toward the team bench becomes the end of the coaching box going towards the end line.

Note: State Associations may alter the length and placement of the 28 foot (maximum) coaching box.

Effective Immediately. Tape may be used to extend the 14-foot line to 28 feet.

**Rationale:** The restriction of the coaching box penalizes the level of communication between coach and player. Allowing a coach freedom to move within the new box between the 28' mark and the end line provides a coach more access to coach his/her players.

**2-9-1:** When a foul occurs, an official shall signal the timer to stop the clock. The official shall verbally inform the offender, then with finger(s) of two hands, indicate to the scorer the number of the offender and the number of free throws.

**Rationale:** To minimize foul reporting errors, that occur between the officials and the scorekeepers when the information gets lost in the translation. Two handed reporting is easier for the scorekeepers to see and comprehend in addition to being less confusing.

**3-4-1d:** There are no color/design restrictions in the area of the team jersey from the imaginary line at the base of the neckline to the top of the shoulder and in the corresponding area on the back of the jersey. There are restrictions on what identifying names may be placed in this area (see Article 3-4-4).

**Rationale:** Provide guidance on the forthcoming restrictions for this area of the jersey.

**3-4-4:** Identifying name(s) shall adhere to the following:

a. If used, lettering with school name, school's nickname, school logo, player's name and /or abbreviation of the official school name shall be placed horizontally on the jersey.

b. The panel in the shoulder area of the jersey on the back may be used for placing an identifying name as well.

**Rationale:** Provide guidance to persons purchasing uniforms in determining what wording should go onto the jersey.

**4-48 New:** Warning for Coach/Team Conduct

A warning to a coach/team for misconduct is an administrative procedure by an official, which is recorded in the scorebook by the scorer and reported to the Head Coach:

**Art. 1 . . .** For conduct, such as that described in rule 10-5-1a,b,d,e,f; 10-5-2; 10-5-4 the official shall warn the head coach unless the offense is judged to be major, in which case a technical foul shall be assessed. Note: A warning is not required prior to calling a technical foul.

**Art. 2 . . .** For the first violation of rule 10-6-1, the official shall warn the head coach unless the offense is judged to be major, in which case a technical foul shall be assessed. Note: A warning is not required prior to calling a technical foul.

**Rationale:** Stopping play and making sure that the bench and the coach know that an official warning has been given, sends a clear message to everyone in the gym and impacts the behavior of the coach, and in some cases the behavior of the opposing coach. This change in behavior creates a better atmosphere and many times avoids the need to administer a technical foul.

## Rules Interpretations and Clarifications from NFHS In-person Meeting

The NFHS recently hosted an in-person interpretations meeting in Indianapolis for basketball, wrestling, and swimming. Representatives from most states met on September 20th and September 21st, 2017. Discussions, clarifications, and interpretations focused on rule changes, editorial changes, and points of emphasis for the upcoming season. Attendees were able to ask questions aimed at helping players, coaches, AD's, and officials better understand rules and procedures for the upcoming season.



or loss of control shall not be considered excessive. (No violation)

Examples of illegal contact above the shoulders and associated penalties:

Contact with a stationary elbow of an opponent may be incidental contact or a common foul.

An elbow in movement but not excessive should be ruled an intentional foul if contact with an opponent occurs.

A moving elbow that is excessive can be either an intentional foul or flagrant personal foul if contact with an opponent occurs.

### More than five players on the court not observed by officials

- If Team A has more than five players on the court during a live ball and the officials do not realize it, should the officials charge Team A with a technical foul if the scorer notifies officials of the infraction during the next dead ball period? Answer: No. An on-court official must observe the excess number of players on the court during a live ball and a team having more than five players on the court during a live ball shall be penalized only if the infraction is discovered while being violated.

**Concussion headbands** – State Associations should inform schools, teams, and officials of their policy with regard to players wearing concussion headbands. During an informal discussion period some states stated that they require concussion headbands to meet general headband size and color restrictions while others believe statistics show the use of concussion headbands indicate the bands are of little or no help. Others indicated that they do not have a position at all with regard to the use and/or color of such headbands. Please consult your state association and ask for their policy regarding concussion headbands.

The next in-person basketball meeting will be held before the start of the 2020 season.

Discussions regarding new rules focused on team warnings for non-major behavior and coaching box infractions. The NFHS was also asked to clarify its interpretation with regard to contact above the shoulders and the use of concussion headbands.

**How many behavior and/or coaching box warnings?** Answer: One (total) warning for any infraction of Rule 4-48, with regard to 10-5-1a, b, d, e, f, 2, 4, and 10.6.1. Any first non-major offense, including inappropriate behavior by the head coach and/or bench personnel, or for the first non-major violation of the coaching box privilege by the head coach should be followed by an official warning, noted in the scorebook. Officials should be diligent in not stopping play when it would penalize the non-offending team (e.g. during a fast break by the non-offending team). Pregame dunking, penalized by a direct technical foul charged to the offending player and an indirect technical foul charged to the head coach of the offending team, does not constitute a warning to the head coach but the head coach does lose his or her coaching box privilege for the entire game.

What does this mean to players, coaches, and officials? If A1 dunks during pregame warmups, A1 is assessed a direct technical foul, the head coach of Team A is assessed an indirect technical foul and loses the coaching box privilege for the remainder of the game. The loss of the coaching box privilege for pregame dunking does not constitute the head coach's warning for non-major head coach misconduct, bench personnel misconduct, or the first infraction of the coaching box privilege by the head coach. In summary, after one warning for non-major inappropriate behavior of the head coach or bench personnel, the next infraction of either will result in a technical foul being charged to the offending individual or the team. An indirect technical foul charged to the head coach as a result of his or her player dunking in pregame warmups is not included as a non-major misconduct or coaching box warning.

Theresa Wynns, NFHS Basketball Rules Editor, emphasized that no warning is necessary. If, in the judgment of game officials, the conduct by the head coach or bench personnel is ruled to be a major offense or there is blatant disregard of the coaching box restrictions, a technical foul may be charged to the offending individual or team, no warning necessary.

### Clarifications offered by the NFHS:

#### Contact above the shoulders with a moving elbow –

With a continued emphasis on reducing concussions and decreasing excessive contact situations, the committee reiterated its prior position:

Rule 9, Section 13:

ART. 1 A player shall not excessively swing his/her arms(s) or elbow(s), even without contacting an opponent. (Violation)

ART. 2 A player may extend arm(s) or elbow(s) to hold the ball under the chin or against the body. (No violation)

ART. 3 Action of arm(s) and elbow(s) resulting from total body movements as in pivoting or movement of the ball incidental to feinting with it, releasing it, or moving it to prevent a held ball

## Life Member Passes

On October 2, 2017, Life Member Leo Spirito, Bd. 33 NJ, passed away. Leo was a member of the IAABO Life Membership Class of 2008. He was the longtime Board Secretary for Board No. 33, North Jersey and was an IAABO member since 1956.



## Officials vs. Cancer is Going International



Thanks to Lou Levine, Bd. 44 MA, who is spreading the word about the program. Lou recently visited Mexico and received donations for the upcoming campaign.



## End of Game Contact

It's late in the 4th quarter and Team A is leading by several points with only a couple of minutes to play. For the team that is behind, this can be a time of desperation as they know time is running out and their chances of winning are declining with each second that comes off the clock.

When situations like this occur, it is amazing how people's perception of contact changes. To the fan, sportswriter, broadcaster, players and coaches, it is fairly obvious the team that is behind will have to foul to have a chance at getting back into the game. Suddenly, fouls that were questioned earlier in the game are no longer debated and accepted without complaint. The question is, do officials perceptions (and more importantly) their application of the contact rules change late in the game?

One of the biggest mistakes we officials make at the end of the game is ruling incidental contact to be illegal. Many officials are very quick to recognize the team that is behind wants to foul and at times are all too eager to accommodate by ruling every slight touch a foul. Officials who make these types of rulings often do so to avoid the possibility of having to rule an intentional foul, which is an uncomfortable decision for many officials.

But what about the team that is ahead?

The team that is ahead just wants to keep possession of the ball and have the clock continue to run so they can keep their lead and win the game. It can be a huge disadvantage to place players in the pressure situation of having to making free throws late in a game. For many years, a rules change that has been discussed is one that allows a team the option of retaining possession of the ball instead of shooting free throws. That rules change never came to fruition, but it would be interesting to see just how often the team that was ahead would choose to keep possession versus heading to the free throw line.

At the other end of the spectrum, when intentional fouls occur, many officials shy away from this decision and rule the contact a common foul. This situation is such a problem that the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) has made it a Point of Emphasis for the 2017-2018 Season.

According to their statement, "The NFHS Rules Committee is concerned about the lack of enforcement for intentional fouls during any part of the game but especially at the end of a game. The intentional foul rule has evolved into misapplication and personal interpretations. In other words, officials have not been consistent in the application of contact rules late in a game."

Fouling late in the game is an accepted coaching strategy and is utilized by many coaches in some form. Many teams create covert code words that they can use to inform players it is time to foul to stop the clock. A head coach may yell out a color or team mascot name (i.e., "Red" or "Tiger") and that is the signal for players to foul. Ironically, this tactic is not necessary as officials must determine if a foul is intentional by judging the fouling act itself, not whether or not the coach instructed a player to perform the act. (Casebook 4.19.3 Situation D). If the player fouls by making a legitimate attempt to play the ball, it should be ruled a common foul even if directed to foul.

Coaches need to teach their players the proper way to foul at the end of a game. If officials continue to rule incidental contact to be illegal and/or fail to rule on intentional contact late in games, it denies coaches and players the feedback they need to make the

proper adjustments.

What constitutes an intentional foul?

An intentional foul may be personal or technical and is contact that:

- Neutralizes an opponent's obvious advantageous position.
- Contact on an opponent who is clearly not in the play.
- May be excessive contact.
- Contact that is not necessarily premeditated or based solely on the severity of the act.

The foul may be innocent in severity, but without playing of the ball, it becomes an intentional act. (e.g., a player wrapping his/her arms around an opponent, pushing or grabbing from behind or not making a legitimate attempt at playing the ball). Even when playing the ball, if the act is considered excessive in its intensity and force, it shall be ruled an intentional foul.

The biggest opportunity for improvement is not about officials' understanding of the rules or even the ability to apply the rules. It is more about officials having the proper mindset and willingness to apply the rules properly for the good of the game. Too many officials buy into the logic of ruling the "first touch" a foul. They are making the decision based on the team's expectation and perception rather than what the rules are designed to accomplish.

Officials need to apply the rules as they are intended, even if it may lead to difficult decisions in close games. We cannot officiate effectively thinking like a fan, coach, sportswriter or a player hoping for the great comeback by the team that is behind. When the final horn sounds, the team that performed the best, playing within the rules, should be the team claiming victory. This can only happen if the officials are willing to commit to giving the players and coaches the incentive to play the game by the rules.

### IAABO Foundation Raffle

The IAABO Education and Charitable Foundation car raffle is underway.

"We are excited to be working together with IAABO on this initiative to help the Foundation grow its resources," said Foundation President and IAABO Past

President Bill Varno. "Our goal is to expand our ability to help instruct and educate IAABO members, as well as the general public, on all facets of basketball officiating. And, at the same time, further support charitable causes that help so many in need, especially the Officials vs. Cancer program that IAABO is so involved in," said Varno.

Here are the particulars of the raffle:

**One (1) Grand Prize to be Awarded: 2018 Nissan Rogue S AWD SUV**  
Raffle Ticket Cost: \$100.00

Drawing To Be Held: Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #488

721 Main St., Monroe, Connecticut 06468

Ticket holder need not be present to win. Prize not redeemable for cash.

To purchase raffle tickets, please contact Peter Carroll at: [commishbd@aol.com](mailto:commishbd@aol.com). You may also contact any Foundation Trustee, IAABO Officer, or IAABO Executive Committee member. Information will be available to purchase tickets at the Fall Meeting in Newark, Delaware.



*Picture is for show purposes only. It is not the exact vehicle that will be raffled.*

# Being a Leader in the Lead Position in 3-Person Crew Officiating

This article discusses some of the foundational concepts as they apply to FIBA Individual Officiating Techniques (IOTs). Although these concepts apply to all positions - Lead, Center, and Trail - the focus will be on how to apply these concepts to the unique challenges of being in the Lead position.



PCA, find the most competitive match-up. This often involves two players fighting for post position. This is where you apply three other foundational Individual Officiating Techniques which are:

- Referee the defense and make sure the offense is legal,
- Active Mindset: Always look for illegal actions to call, and
- 45° Body Position and Open Angle; Have the key player(s) or as many players as possible in your field of vision in order to see any illegal action.

## ***Hustle to the spot to receive the play and get an open wide angle.***

It all begins before you get to the Lead position. In transition from Trail to Lead, use a power-push to start your run. In a quick transition play, run as fast as possible in a straight line to get to the baseline, whereas in a pressing situation stay with the last set of players. Your original set-up position as Lead should be on the baseline between the middle of the restricted area and the three point line if the ball is on the strong side. If the ball immediately moves to the weak side, then you should set-up directly at close-down position, preparing to initiate rotation when the ball settles. A common mistake that officials make is that they set-up too wide or close, which narrows their field of vision and does not give them the optimal open angle on the play or match-up to make a ruling.

While running, you should be facing the court at all times, scanning to identify the primary competitive match-up in your primary coverage area (PCA). The more time you have on the baseline, the more time you have to identify the progress of the play and the primary competitive match-up in a stationary position. Do not curve or run under the basket or closer to the play; keep distance and stay outside to maintain an open wide angle (See diagram).



## ***Distance and Stationary***

FIBA constantly emphasizes the concept of distance and stationary. This means you must hustle to position yourself at an appropriate distance from the play in a stationary position to get an open wide angle to make a correct ruling. If you are too close to the play, you lose perspective and the play looks too fast, which increases the possibility of an emotional or reactionary call.

When making a judgment ruling, you must strive to be stationary. You must hustle to get to the spot and adjust your position accordingly to constantly maintain an open wide angle. Studies have shown that eyes bounce and concentration decreases when your feet are moving. On the contrary, correct decisions are more likely made when you are stationary as focus and concentration increases.

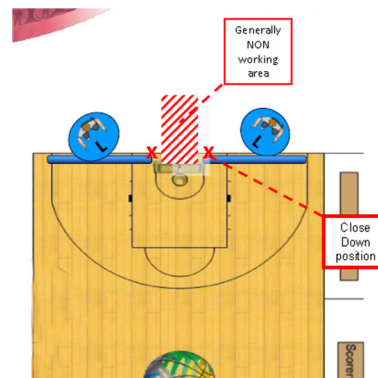
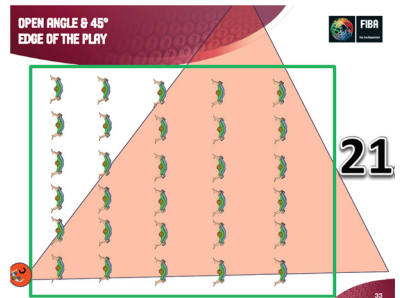
In other words, hustle into your set-up position, adjust your position accordingly to maintain an open wide angle to observe and decide. Continue this cycle to constantly have an open angle on the play or players you are observing.

There will be odd times where you might not be able to beat the play and get to the baseline as Lead before the players. This often occurs in turnover situations or transition plays. If you find yourself in this situation, you should stop at a position between the baseline and the free-throw line extended that allows the opportunity to have an open angle and re-adjust your position accordingly to maintain an open angle as the play goes to the basket.

Once you are at the baseline, if there are many players in your

## ***Working on the Baseline***

45° angle body position gives you an optimal angle to view as many players in your primary coverage area (PCA) when outside of the play. As Lead, you must move with a purpose to maintain an open angle. In other words, go where you need to be to referee the play. Your field of vision should maximize your horizontal and vertical field of vision as best as possible relative to your positioning.



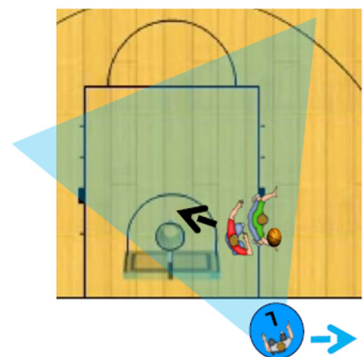
Look for reasons to rotate. Never rotate until all 3 officials are in the front-court; don't rotate in transition. You must wait for the new Trail to be in position to get to Center when you rotate, because we cannot leave an empty space in the new Center position as it leaves the crew vulnerable to missing calls. You must go to the close-down position to prepare

and initiate rotation when ball settles on weak side.

A prime example of when you need to close down in preparation for initiating rotation is when the ball moves to the weak side. As Lead you must move to the close-down position and initiate rotation when the ball settles so you are in a position to have an opinion on the play and make a ruling.

## ***Cross-Step to Maintain Open Wide Angle***

As Lead, when players move towards the basket, you must position adjust and step back in the opposite direction to maintain an open wide angle on the play. This is called cross-stepping. A common mistake officials make in the Lead position is that as players move towards the basket, they also move down with the play which





## Being a Leader

narrows their field of vision and closes their angle on the play.

Lastly, recognize when you need to extend your functional coverage area to help the crew with specific scenarios such as pick and rolls. This requires concentration and awareness of what is taking place in your PCA as well as secondary coverage outside of your PCA.



A prime example is when there is no low-post match-up or cutters moving through the key. As Lead, you must help your partners with pick and roll plays occurring at the top of the key area. You must pre-game this situation in terms of who stays with the dribbler and the screener and who stays with the play as it goes to the basket. An active mindset means we always find something to officiate.

### Summary

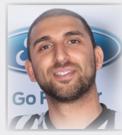
In summary, FIBA outlines the following important points as it

applies to the Lead position:

Hopefully these tips, along with review of some of the Individual Officiating Techniques, have made you more conscious of how you can improve as an official, particularly as it applies to the Lead position. Recognize these concepts serve as the foundation to improve your officiating skills in terms of setting up in your position as Lead, position adjusting, such as cross-stepping to maintain an open wide angle, and making correct rulings by recognizing when to close-down and rotate relative to player match-ups and various plays and scenarios.

LEAD	
•	Run straight to set up position
•	Always face the court in transition
•	Sprint, stop and referee
•	Maintain open angle (45°)
•	Adjust your position according to positioning of players and actions on the court
•	Look for reasons to rotate
•	Rotate early/often and with purpose
•	Referee the play when rotating
•	Stay with your play in coverage until the end of the play
•	Do not leave your position during shot / drives to basket or rebound situations
•	Be ready to assist with clocks (game and shot)

Ardavan Eizadirad is a member of Board 107 and also a wheelchair basketball official. You can contact him at aeizadirad@gmail.com if you have any comments, feedback, or questions.



## Fall Seminar (continued from page 1)

check for \$100 for a full page and \$50 for a half page. A description of the materials that would be given to the interpreters on Sunday, particularly the items found on the flash drive, was discussed.

### Follow-up Materials for Members

If you are an IAABO Interpreter and attended the Fall Seminar, you have access to plenty of new instruction material that will provide you with more than enough to get through the upcoming season. All IAABO members can expect to view the 2017-18 "You Make the Ruling" DVD, included in these materials, that illustrates a variety of plays and mechanics for discussion at your board meetings.

Tom spoke on the role and responsibilities of the Interpreter, described the conference calls that will be held during the season, and thanked the interpreters for their continued passion for their role.

Donnie Eppley covered the following topics – "Play of the Week" starts in November and will be emailed to all members directly to their inbox, along with a new feature called "Inside the Lines." Make sure your secretary has entered your email address to insure delivery or email – eppleyd@comcast.net to ensure that your email address is on file with our office.

All have received the IAABO handbooks and membership materials (pregame card, membership card and Refresher Test). Most Interpreters are using the IAABO handbooks in the applicant classes. Once again, IAABO was able to meet the self-established deadline of September 1st to have all handbooks and membership materials to our boards.

Saturday night was a great highlight to the weekend if you attended the show. We had doubts about someone being hypnotized, we are still not sure, but had a lot of laughs. We even had a visit from Rodney Dangerfield, who was very funny. And he refs, too!

### Two-Hand Reporting Signals and Points of Emphasis

Sunday morning, the four coordinators were prepared for all the new rules and points of emphasis: Layne Drexel started off with how to use the two-hand reporting signals, then Dan Shepardson discussed the new coach's box and the variations used by different states.

David Smith continued with the new "warnings rule," and TJ Halliday finished with the end of the game contact/intentional fouls.

This presentation put a strong accent on the seminar and prepared the interpreters for their local meetings, armed with the appropriate intent of these changes. Outstanding seminar.

Overall, the sessions were well organized, relevant, with clearly communicated presentations. Seminars were very informative. We wish all interpreters could have been in attendance. We've heard of one presentation already being used at a board meeting.

Suggestions for next year include: working with veterans; direct instruction on a rule topic; making new officials feel comfortable; crew of two mechanics.

### Webb Honored

After the session, Peter Webb was honored and presented with a basketball signed by the interpreters for his service to IAABO. Materials were distributed to each board in attendance, and we said goodbye to our new and old friends, thanked everybody for attending and for a great time. The interpreters left and headed home, ready for the new member classes and to refresh their membership and prepare them for the 2017-18 basketball season.

Remember next year's Fall Seminar will be held in Cape Cod, MA. The dates are: September 20-23, 2018.

The Spring Meeting will be hosted by the IAABO Executive Committee at the Holiday Inn, Ocean City, MD, April 19-22, 2018.

## ISlides - Customize Your Own IAABO Slides



Go to <https://www.islideusa.com/collections/iaabo>

## Special Deals for IAABO Officials

**Briggs and Riley Luggage** - Officials will receive a 60% discount on any product. Officials must use the form which can be obtained by clicking here - There is a lifetime guaranteed on the luggage.

**Asics** - IAABO Officials will receive a 40% discount on all Asics products - EXCLUDING CLEARANCE. Log into [www.asics.com](http://www.asics.com) and place an order. (It is recommended that you create an account if you plan to order more than once. Upon checkout, they should enter the following promotion code - **DayofgamE**)

P.O. Box 355  
 Carlisle, PA 17013-0355  
 November/December 2017

## Periodicals

# IAABO Lines

Condolences to: **Stephen Simon, Bd. 118 NY**, on the passing of his wife; Condolences to: **Ron Martel, Bd. 208 MA**, on the passing of his mother; Condolences to: **Rick Parham, Bd. 211 ON**, on the loss of his father-in-law, Condolences to: **Mike Bennett, Bd. 70 PA**, on the passing of his father-in-law, Condolences to: **Joe Battiato, Bd. 45 NY**, on the passing of his father, Condolences to: **Bd. 53 NY**, on the passing of their longtime member, **Peter Carbone**, a 50 year member of IAABO, Inc. and Board Treasurer, Condolences to: **Donnie Webb, Bd. 157 MD**, on the passing of his mother, Condolences to: **Kevin Donohue, Bd. 52 NY**, on the passing of his brother, **Hugh James Donohue**, who was a longtime member of IAABO Board No. 119 NY, Condolences to: **Joe Battiato, Bd. 45 NY**, on the passing of his father, Condolences to: **Donnie Webb, Bd. 157 MD**, on the passing of his mother, Condolence to **Fran Connolly, Bd. 27 MA**, on the passing of his wife, Condolences to: **Board 70 PA** on the passing of their member, **Ron Keefer**. Condolences to: **Rita Stokinger, Bd. 54 MA**, on the passing of her father; Condolences to: **Lou DeGeorge, Bd. 194 NJ**, on the passing of his mother.