

I sure hope you had a great Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a festive holiday season. As you are aware of by now the weather is getting colder and the basketball is getting hotter. As we have had many games observed and many more to come you will be seeing us out all over the state. As of now we have about 535 officials scheduled to be observed and many more to yet be assigned. I wanted to share with you some of the things that have been brought to my attention and maybe help clarify some others.

1. Coaching Box

Page 64 and Rule 10 Section 6 clearly states what the head coach freedoms and restrictions are regarding the coaching box. Please see that this rule is enforced consistently.

2. Time-outs

We have had issues with teams being ready to play after timeouts, remember after the 1st horn, teams should be breaking their huddle and heading to where play will be resumed. If team(s) are delaying too long in your opinion go ahead blow your whistle and put the ball on the floor and start your count. DON'T LET TEAMS DELAY and it is not a requirement to continue to warn teams.

3. Jewelry

Don't let players enter the court with Jewelry on but if it is discovered later be sure to have it removed. You do not need to assess any penalty but if it needs assistance remove the player until it can be removed.

Continue to officiate contact on the shooters and ball handler's and remember don't let the cutters get bumped off their routes. Remember freedom of movement.

Observer's have shared some of the following concerns and suggestions:

1. When reporting fouls get to the reporting area stop and give good solid signals, take your time but hustle. We see a lot of walking and when you look lazy the game gets lazy.
2. Officials need to get that arm that stops the clock on violations and fouls high and straight up. We are seeing many not even raise an arm. We don't have automatic devices to stop the clock so those timers need to be able to see you and your actions when on the court. Take pride in your signals and mechanics.
3. Never bounce the ball across the lane to the designated thrower-in. That is apparently is a college mechanic but it is not approved with our game.
4. Lead officials be sure you are moving to get the best look. Don't get stuck just working one side.
5. Trail and Center officials hang in there on rebounding the game needs you on every rebound. Your partners will appreciate it.

Thanks for everything you do for high school sports and have a great season. I hope to send you another Observer update before the holidays and in the mean time travel safe.

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December 1, 2017 Basketball Officials Memo #1