

January 3, 2019 – Basketball Official’s Letter - #3:

Hope you have had a great holiday season - Happy New Year to you and your family!! The year 2019 is ushering in some great basketball. As we all know after the holidays and the Christmas break, teams begin to think about conference championships and seeding for tournament purposes and that means we as officials need to sharpen our games both on and off the court. We continue to hear that our communication seems to be improving and for the most part the games that the observers have been to have been well officiated. If you have not been observed yet, hopefully you will be observed soon. As we prepare for the stretch run Chuck wanted to share an email that he got from a crew before Christmas:

“No one on this crew will EVER throw another under the bus but will have each other’s back! When we come back from the break, let’s pregame and revisit our philosophies and basic tendencies as a crew and restart the clock to tourney time. I felt like we ended last night with a bit of fatigue and we strayed from what makes us an A level crew. I know you are tired of hearing me say this but it is so true “we are best when we fish in our own pond” than help on a crew saver call. Just know that there are no other 2 guys I want to work with period!!!

Good food for thought for all of us - we think this is a good way to re-charge!

- Head Coaches and Communication –Officials: we ask you NOT to talk with head coaches or attempt to explain a call when the ball is in play- we have a job to do and that is officiate the game!! If you feel an explanation is necessary, wait for a dead ball situation and then explain- otherwise continue to officiate. We want communication between the head coach and the officials, but there is a time to communicate and a time to officiate.
- Traveling - To be effective in officiating traveling, you must know which foot is the pivot foot - be sure that you are aware of which foot is the pivot foot. One thing that will help is when in your primary area you officiate “feet up on the catch.” Get your best angle to get a full view of the entire play. Study jump stops, starting and ending a dribble, interrupted dribbles, and when a player goes to the floor with the ball what is the appropriate call to be made.
- Reporting fouls and getting to the reporting area - When you are the calling official and you have made sure that your partners know what you have called (who created the foul, and who the shooter will be), you are ready to report to the table. Get to the reporting area in a brisk manner or at least move with purpose to this reporting area - STOP, give the number(s) of the player who the foul was on, signal what type of foul it was, and if shooting free throws how many free throws will be taken, then move to your area of next responsibility.
- Contact on shooters - Be relentless in officiating contact on shooters and dribblers- GET the FIRST CONTACT and you will have a great game. Stay with the shooter on 3-point shots and watch for contact after the shot.

- Coverage - Make a commitment to NOT “fish outside of your pond “(Cover your area of responsibility), Be ready to help if needed.
- Feedback - Observers (for the most part) have been impressed with the official’s efforts willingness to improve.

Officials: Always remember that without you and your hard work neither the IGHSAU or the IHSAA could offer this educational experience for these fabulous young student athletes!!! Have a great rest of the 2018-2019 Basketball season and we are sure we will be seeing many of you as we go forward!!

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