



2023-24 Basketball Newsletter # 5

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FEBRUARY IS HEART AWARENESS MONTH

******Officials may wear red lanyards and whistles to celebrate Heart Awareness in February -- minus the post season!!**

Pre Game: The pregame is not a lecture; it is an open forum for all officials. As said in previous newsletters the Pre-game sets the stage for success.

As we gear up for the most competitive part of the season, our pregame discussions should evolve as the season starts to wind down. It should no longer be necessary to spend a considerable amount of time and attention to the basic rules and mechanics. We should focus and discuss at length broader issues such as team and coaching styles, common opponents, game wreckers, "go to" players and their tendencies and player matchups. Narrow your thoughts to the game at hand as opposed to the game of basketball in general.

FOCUS AREAS AND OBSERVATIONS

- Close down & get in proper position to make calls.
- Possession consequence plays – Get the first foul.
- Hustle & move to improve – make sure to get to the right spot to make that call.
- Patient whistle especially on plays outside your primary. Too many double whistles (Trust your partners)
- Uniform restrictions need to be addressed in sub varsity contests. Start now and we can cut down on this during the varsity contest. Start at this level.
- Free throw mechanics, T should be at 28' line and step towards the basket on final try. C should be positioned near the 3-point line and in position to officiate the free thrower and 2 spots nearest free thrower. C also needs to remember to step towards the basket on final try. L needs to be 4ft from the nearer lane line and well off the end line and not in the unoccupied first space on 2 shot fouls. Officials manual page 173 5.11
- As the administering official on free throws (the lead) when stepping back off the court there is no need to put up the amount of free throws to the table. Keep your eyes on the players at all times.
- Be ready to officiate at all times during the FT. Keep whistle in mouth on all FT.
- As the trail - be the trail. Stay behind the dribbler and wait until the ball is inbounded before heading to the frontcourt.
- At the end of the game, leave the ball alone and get off the court together. Do not leave anyone behind.



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Flopping

There seems to be a lot of flopping this year and no foul calls.

Rule 10-4-6(f) states that it is a player technical foul for “faking being fouled”.

The following is an interpretation from the NFHS:

Rule 10-4-6(f) does not address contact, which leaves room for interpretation. There is no supporting casebook play for ruling on “flopping” or “faking being fouled.” That being said, there is room in the interpretation to rule that egregious flopping would be considered “faking being fouled” even with minimal or slight contact.

It is a clearer line for officials to say no contact – player technical / any contact – no technical, but there is the spirit of the rule. The interpretation from the NFHS would allow egregious flopping with minimal or slight contact be ruled a player technical.

The ruling of a player technical should be when the official believes the player is attempting to deceive the officials into calling a foul. – NFHS

In summary, a “flopping” technical foul should be assessed when it is clearly obvious that an offensive or defensive player goes to the ground or egregiously reacts with no contact in an attempt to deceive the officials into calling a foul.

A player technical foul should also be called when an offensive or defensive player egregiously reacts to slight or minimal contact in an effort to deceive the officials into calling a foul. (The player reaction is significantly, overly exaggerated with minimal or slight contact).

Referees: Please call the obvious flops and only the obvious flops. There does not need to be a technical called but a blocking foul could eliminate some of the flopping before someone gets hurt.

Loss of Arrow

Situation: Team A is awarded the ball for a throw-in under the alternating procedure. Team A commits a violation. **Ruling:** B’s ball for a throw-in because of the violation. In addition, the possession arrow is reversed and pointed towards B’s Basket.

LATE GAME FOULS

The rule change of shooting bonus free throws on the 5th foul of each quarter seems to have created more instances of teams needing to foul late in games to stop the clock and force their opponent to make free throws, but the fouling team has not yet committed their 5th foul in the quarter. Teams are needing to foul multiple times before their opponent reaches the bonus and shoots 2 free throws. Referees and coaches have asked me to remind everyone of the definition of an “intentional foul” and how to best handle these late game situations.

Rule 4-19-Art. 3 (page 35)

An intentional foul may or may not be premediated and is not based solely on the severity of the act.

Intentional fouls include, but are not limited to:

- a. Contact that neutralizes an opponent’s obvious advantageous position.
- b. Contact away from the ball with an opponent who is clearly not involved with the play.
- c. Contact that is not a legitimate attempt to play the ball or player specifically designed to stop the clock or keep it from starting.
- d. Excessive contact with an opponent while the ball is live.



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e. Contact with the player attempting a throw-in.

The following should be considered when determining if a foul is intentional:

***Does the play meet the definition and/or examples listed above in Rule 4-19-Art. 3

More simply stated:

1. Was it a non-basketball play? (No legitimate play on the ball or player)
2. Was it excessive?
3. Was it unnecessary?

If the answer to any of these 3 questions is “YES”, an intentional foul should be called.

Dunking or grasping the rim during dead ball

Situation: Only a few seconds remain in the second quarter. Team A is advancing the ball from backcourt to frontcourt. A1 is driving toward A1’s basket and is about to dunk the ball when the signal indicates the end of the first half. Shortly after the signal, A1 dunks the ball and hangs on the rim. **Ruling:** A1 is assessed a technical foul for dunking a dead ball. The foul is also charged indirectly to the head coach and results in the loss coaching-box privileges since A1 is considered bench personnel. The third quarter begins with Team B being awarded two free throws and the ball at the division line. The alternating-possession arrow is not affected and remains unchanged. (4-34-2, 5-6-2 Exception 4)

NFHS rules tools...

- [NFHS Basketball Quiz 1: Misunderstood Rules Questions and Answers \(phillyref.com\)](#)
- [Basketball Training Videos – SDHSAA](#)

NOTES FROM THE SDHSAA

The shot clock will start when (Page 75 rulebook 5):

- a. the ball is legally touched by a player on the court;
- b. A team gains initial control after a jump ball or unsuccessful try for a goal;
- c. There is a change in team control;

Mercy Rule All Classes: The mercy rule shall be used for all regular season, region and SoDak 16 contest. When the point differential reaches 30 or more points in the second half and **only in the second half**, the clock will continue to run. The clock will only be stopped for free throws and time-outs. Regular timing rules will be used if the score differential drops back to less than 20 points. Also, remember to stop the clock as soon as a team requests a timeout and the official grants the timeout.

Situation (over and back calls)

NFHS INTERPS SITUATION 10: A1, while dribbling the ball in team A’s frontcourt, steps on but not over the division line. **RULING:** Backcourt violation. **COMMENT:** The ball was in team control in the frontcourt and went to the backcourt when A1 contacted the division line. Team B is awarded a possession throw-in in its frontcourt at one of the four designated spots nearest the violation. (9-9-1, 9-9 PENALTY)

Situation A: Player A1 has established frontcourt status and gets trapped at the division line. A1 throws a pass to A2 who is jumping across the division line and receives the pass from A1 in the air (taking off from A1's backcourt). **Ruling:** Over and Back violation. **Comment:** Team B is awarded a possession throw-in in Team B’s frontcourt at one of the four designated spots nearest the violation (28 ft. line)