

Uniformity and Consistency...Play-Calling Proficiency

Mechanics, mechanics, mechanics

The purpose of an approved set of MHSAA basketball officiating mechanics:

- I. To put officials in the right place at the right time looking at the right thing to increase the likelihood of making the right call, and
- II. To foster an obvious and visible element of uniformity and consistency amongst all the basketball officials of the MHSAA.

BODIES DOWN, CLOSE DOWN!

Since "Loose Ball Recovery" is a POE this season, here's some approved mechanics and best practices for HELD BALL mechanics:

- 1) Engaged officials close down immediately on the play with a whistle and whatever use of voice is necessary to curb rough play and extracurricular antics
- 2) Involved officials keep eyes on players, resisting urge to turn to look at AP arrow
- 3) Official opposite table glances at AP arrow and gives direction of throw-in
- 4) Involved officials, still with the players, glance at opposite table official for direction and resume play with throw-in
- 5) Be alive when the ball is dead. Especially when bodies are down...close down!

Here's a link for a clip to illustrate the point:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DcQLoSxZfo>

OH SAY CAN YOU SEE...

What You Need to see as C/T on a free-throw? (Not if you're standing out by the sideline!)

"Take a position just above the free-throw line extended and halfway between the nearer free-throw lane-line extended and the sideline." That's the NFHS Officials' Manual and MHSAA Online Mechanics Manual regarding correct positioning of the T in 2-person and the C in 3-person during a free-throw. Why do so many officials still stand waaaaaay over on or near the sideline for a free-throw? Do you? From that distant, disengaged position, it's not possible to step down and monitor the free-throw line, the two upper lane space players opposite, or subsequent rebounding action. Worse yet is when the C or T bails early to the other end upon release of the free-throw, leaving L with eight players to monitor. That's just not approved free-throw mechanics.

Let's get this positioning mechanic right. From the approved position (stated above) stepping down a step or so on the final free throw puts the C or T in just the right position to see what needs to be seen and get what occasionally needs to be gotten. (T in 2-person -- you've got a lot on your plate: open up to keep an eye on the players back by the division line in you have to. But still you've got everything mentioned above, plus rim/no-rim. Whew!)

Here's a link for a clip to illustrate the point:

<https://youtu.be/dhpOeWgAbUE>

*You'll See What You Need to See, 'cuz You'll Be Where
You Need to Be!*

Rules Review: A1 jumps in the air to attempt a try. Thinking the attempt would be blocked, he gives up on his attempt and begins a dribble while still in the air. Which is true?

- A. This could be legal but it would depend on whether or not he had ended his dribble prior to jumping off the floor.
- B. This is a clever play and should be rewarded with a "no-call" by the observing official.
- C. This could be ruled either a traveling violation or dribble violation for beginning a dribble when the pivot foot is off the floor.
- D. None of the above.

Last Bulletin's Review: A1 is holding the ball but losing her balance. She violates rule 4-44-5a when she (B): Touches the floor with her knee. Touching the floor with one hand, touching the arm of a teammate who is out of bounds, and touching the ball to the floor are all legal acts.