

Make the Right Call



WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

Volume 2, Issue 6

January 2011

We are Supposed to be Masters of the Rules

Article submitted by Mike Lloyd, Seattle Basketball

So far, the 2010-2011 High School basketball season seems to have had more than its share of situations where the rules have not been applied correctly in a varsity contest. We have veteran officials throughout the state either enforcing an NCAA rule or just not knowing the rule at all and making up their own interpretation in order to handle particular situations that have cropped up. Continued misapplication of the rules takes away from the credibility of not just those officials who are working the contests, but from officials everywhere.

The FIRST Point of Emphasis this season is Enforcing NFHS Rules. It is obvious that the NFHS feels many officials have gotten away from the idea that they really don't need to know the rules in order to properly officiate the game of basketball. They feel they can just get by with their game management skills and basic rules knowledge. Nothing could be further from the truth. Misapplication of the rules will always take away from an otherwise well officiated game. All the situations listed in this article have not only been handled

incorrectly by the on court officials this season, but when talking to other officials about these plays later, many of them would have handled the situation incorrectly as well. Up to the point where an official is going to be chopping the clock, how would you administer situation 1? A1 goes up for a layin and is fouled by B1. Basket goes in. The contact causes A1 and B1 to go to the floor. When they get up, A1 and B1 shove each other. Official calls a double technical foul.

The FIRST line of the Officials Code of Ethics states 'Officials shall master both the rules of the contest and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules'. I will say confidently that you can't become a master of the rules and mechanics without opening and reading the Rules Book, Case Book and Officials Manual. You can't just toss the books in a drawer or bag, not look at them during the rest of season and expect to get better at the rules. Our State test is an open book test. Do you seriously try to get a 100% or are you just satisfied with getting the 70% minimum? Do you take

the opportunity to look up the answers to the questions? Do you bring your books to association meetings? Look up the rules that are being discussed at the meeting and see where the presenter got their information? Do you have them with you at your games? Do you grab your book after a game when you have an unusual situation occur and see if you administered it right? One thing I have learned in looking situations up in the rules and case books is that by the time I found the specific answer I was looking for, I read about other rules as well. The more often you open your books up the more you will learn, plain and simple. Officials are expected not only to know how to handle the basic plays of the game, but the odd situations that crop up as well. Up to the point where an official is going to be chopping the clock, how would you administer situation 2? A1 drives to basket and is guarded by B1. Airborne A1 releases the ball for a try. A1 and B1 then collide and both go the ground. Lead and Trail both blow whistles for a foul. Lead signals block, Trail signals charge. Ball goes in.

(continued on page 3)

Special points of interest:

- CONTINUED MISAPPLICATION OF THE RULES TAKES AWAY FROM CREDIBILITY. MISAPPLICATION OF THE RULES WILL ALWAYS TAKE AWAY FROM AN OTHERWISE WELL OFFICIATED GAME
- VETERAN OFFICIALS PLAY A KEY ROLE IN HELPING ALL OFFICIALS BECOME BETTER AT MASTERING THE RULES
- IF YOU DO NOT FEEL YOU ARE GOOD WITH THE RULES, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

Inside this issue:

EXECUTIVE BOARD RECAP	2
WOA CONTACT INFORMATION	2
KEYNOTE SPEAKER ANNOUNCED	2
MASTERS OF THE RULES (CONTINUED)	3
WINTER SPORTS UPDATE	3
THE UNKNOWN PARTNER	4

Make the Right Call



Lee Bjella, Seattle Gymnastics

Photo Courtesy of Max Howard

WOA Executive Board Recap

The WOA Executive Board meeting was held Monday, January 10.

The following action was taken at the meeting:

- Creation of the WOA Endowment to be used for the Scholarship program.
- Directed staff to work on changing the login

requirements to be set by the user, rather than generated from WOA.

- Directed staff to streamline the login process between WOA and ArbiterSports.
- Reaffirmed the requirement that the WOA patch is part of the uniform during regular season and postseason.

- Approved a request to become a sponsor of the 2011 NASO Summit.

- Tabled the discussion to add lacrosse officials to the WOA.

- Tabled the discussion to develop a "state-rated" evaluation program for state football.

WOA Local Association/Board Contact

Each year the WOA staff receives an overwhelming number of requests for information or visits from board/association officers and the general WOA membership. More often than not, the WOA staff finds themselves answering questions that have been addressed via the monthly newsletters, located on the WOA website, or has been sent to your respective WOA

contact.

The WOA contact is appointed by your board/association and is recognized as the official point of contact for your group. Information is exchanged between the WOA and the appointed contact who then sends it out to the members via your internal process.

While the WOA staff does not mind the occasional

requests/visits, we do ask that everyone follow this procedure as it ensures that the information gets to you in a timely and orderly fashion.

Note: The WOA does not have any involvement in the appointment or retention of your WOA contact, once the information is obtained from your group it is recorded in the WOA Handbook and staff database.

Article submitted by Ira Dunbar, Pacific Northwest Basketball

THE WOA IS
EXCITED ABOUT
TOMMY BEING A
PART OF THE 2011
WOA CONFERENCE
AND WE HOPE YOU
MAKE THE DECISION
TO ATTEND THIS
YEAR'S
CONFERENCE

Keynote Speaker Announced

While attending the NASO Summit, the WOA staff and board members look for speakers or attendees who may be able to provide a new perspective or ideas as a speaker at our annual conference. Over the last few years, we have had Barry Mano, Stephen Walkom, and Don Collins agree to speak and each one of them brought some great ideas and were instrumental in the success of the conference. We feel the keynote speaker for the 2011 WOA Conference will

be no different. Tommy Keith, Supervisor of Pro Officials for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA).

Tommy competed for nine years as a bull rider and bareback rider and started officiating part time in 1982 while he was injured. Tommy worked as a contact official for five years and was hired as a full time Pro Official with The PRCA in 1990 through 2007. During his career, Tommy has judged all the major rodeos across the

United States from circuit finals to tour championships and the National Finals Rodeo every year he was a full time pro official. In 2007 he accepted the position as the Supervisor of Officials and is currently in that same position today.

The WOA is excited about Tommy being a part of the 2011 WOA Conference and we hope you make the decision to attend this year's conference.

Registration information will be available in April.



Tommy Keith, Supervisor of Pro Officials (PRCA)

Masters of the Rules (continued from p. 1)

Local associations/boards and veteran officials play a key role in helping all officials become better at mastering the rules. First, the associations/boards should ensure they are presenting game situations with rules and mechanic coverage at their general membership meetings. They also need to make the information for those situations available electronically, either through e-mail or blogs. I have learned this season that if one crew of officials didn't handle a situation correctly, there is a good chance other officials would not have as well so it is a good idea to get the information out as soon as possible. Veteran

officials have a huge influence on our young officials. If you are a veteran official, you should not be telling other officials that you 'aren't very good with the rules'. That sends the wrong message; that you don't have to know the rules to officiate basketball. If you do not feel you are good with the rules, do something about it! One way would be to host a preseason rules and mechanics meeting with a group of officials. It is a good way to get your mind ready for the upcoming basketball season as well as increase your rules knowledge. How would you administer situation 3? A1 releases the ball on a try and

the ball gets lodged between the rim and backboard. Team A has the possession arrow. Do you reset the shot clock?

However, in the end it is still up to the individual official to take pride in the professionalism that is expected of us concerning rules and mechanic knowledge. Please take the time to read the POE on page 66 of the rules book concerning Enforcing the Rules. Coaches not only want consistency in how we apply the rules during the contest but from contest to contest as well.



Mike Lloyd, Seattle

Photo Courtesy of Max Howard

HOWEVER, IN THE
END IT IS STILL UP
TO THE INDIVIDUAL
OFFICIAL TO TAKE
PRIDE IN THE
PROFESSIONALISM
THAT IS EXPECTED
OF US
CONCERNING
RULES AND
MECHANIC
KNOWLEDGE

Winter Sports Update

State Basketball Assigning

Questions surrounding the assigning of the state basketball tournaments are slowly being answered. The current issue is that for every question that is answered, another one (or two) are asked. This new venture is definitely a work in progress and the WOA appreciates the input and assistance that has already been provided by local assigners. As we progress into the actual assigning process, the WOA will continue to lean on the veteran assigners for guidance and hopefully when the process is complete, all the questions will be answered and the product on the court will reflect accordingly.

Wrestling

Thank you to John deWeber for being a central point of contact with the rules questions and interpretations. John has done a great job keeping the WIAA/WOA in the loop on discussions and making sure the "official" interpretation has been sent out to the local associations. There are a lot of opportunities for communication to break down when adhering to the chain of command, but John has done a good job in making sure an answer is received in a timely manner.

Answers to the "Masters of the Rules" situations:

Situation 1

Report personal foul on B1.
Report double technical foul

on A1 and B1. A1 shoots their one free throw with players lined up on free throw lane line. C (or T in 2 person) will chop clock on miss or new T chops in clock on throw in after make. Rule 4.19.1, 4.19.8b, 4.36.1, 4.36.2b.

Situation 2

Count the basket (foul is now double foul, not player control foul). Officials report double foul on A1 and B1. Team B awarded throw in from anywhere along their end line with new T chopping in clock. Rule 4.19.8a, case book play 4.19.8 situation C.

Situation 3

Reset the shot clock. WIAA Shot Clock Instruction Article 6.c



Mike Williams, Western Washington

Photo Courtesy of Max Howard



Officiating the Game for the Athletes!

WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

435 Main Ave S
Renton, WA 98057
Phone: 425-687-8009
Fax: 425-687-9476
E-mail: info@woa-officials.com



www.gerrydavis.com
1-800-916-9088
safe@gerrydavis.com



Lee Gregory, Western Washington
Photo Courtesy of Max Howard



Referee Introductory Offer
<http://www.referee.com/sub/MOCWOAR/>
262-632-8855
referee@referee.com

Note from the Commissioner:

Winter State Tournament allocations have been sent out to the local associations/boards, which means the intensity of contests will be heating up as teams position themselves for the upcoming tournaments. Please remember that as officials, we are often the only individuals in the facility that truly are impartial. It is up to the officials working the contests to help reduce the stress and tension by being the calming force. The articles in this month's newsletter speaks directly to the expectations of these high intensity games. Take pride in being a "Master of the Rules". If each official takes pride in making sure they are up-to-date on rules, mechanics, and enforcement, it will make the transition to unknown partners a little less stressful.

With the new state basketball format, it will provide a lot of officials an opportunity to attend a state tournament game in their own backyard. If this is true for you, please submit your request for a state pass to your assigner in order to receive the pass prior to the start of the tournament. This is a great opportunity for officials to get out and observe the best the state has to offer, both officials and teams.

Thank you for all you do!

Todd Stordahl
WOA Commissioner

www.woa-officials.com

The Unknown Partner by Dave Simon

You may have heard the name, but you don't know him or her. You may have seen the official work a game during the regular season, and now you are partnered with him or her in the state tournament. Or you may get to the game site with no idea of who your partner is. When working with someone new, particularly if it's a tournament game, there are a host of unique issues to consider and add to your "adjustment bag".

How you adjust to physical play, site conditions (hot gym,

wet field, irate crowd) and different leagues all come with the territory. We talk about those things in our pregames, lay out options and discuss how to approach specific situations.

Working with a new partner is a bit different. You will adjust because you have to. But not having officiated with someone before, and then being placed together in a higher stress environment, like a tournament game, requires some additional thought and preparation.

The "Unknown Partner" is just someone you haven't met yet. It doesn't mean you will have problems; it does mean you need to get to know each other quickly, develop trust, build, bond and communicate effectively.

All of our contests are "big games." Add tournament intensity, bragging rights or battling to get to the championship, and you know the stakes are raised. Meeting someone new in that environment adds to the challenge.

(The full version of this article can be found in, Referee magazine, January 2011)