



ALBERTA BASKETBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

MEMO: FIBA rule and mechanics reminders

January 4, 2008

FROM: Morgan Munroe, ABOA Interpreter

We've now passed the official midpoint of the ACAC season and one of the large breaks in ASAA play. On behalf of the ABOA executive I'd like wish everyone a happy New Year and much success on the floor during the remainder of the season.

Some areas of inconsistency have occurred during the change over to FIBA rules and the adjustment to the mechanics both in 2 and 3-person coverage. I'd like to see these areas improved as we head to the playoffs in late February and early March.

2 Person Mechanics

The only changes from last year involve the calling official always becoming the Trail official and the need to be inside the inbounder at Lead on throw-ins by the offensive team on the frontcourt endline.

Going to trail should not be a problem as it may in some cases involve less switching than in the past.

Being inside on throw-ins has been a concern in some smaller gyms. Officials should discuss this in the pregame and if both officials are concerned about coverage by the lead then adjust the lead position as necessary. However remember that the expectation for officials at the ASAA provincials is that the CABO 2 person system will be followed unless the on site evaluator approves of a change to the lead position.

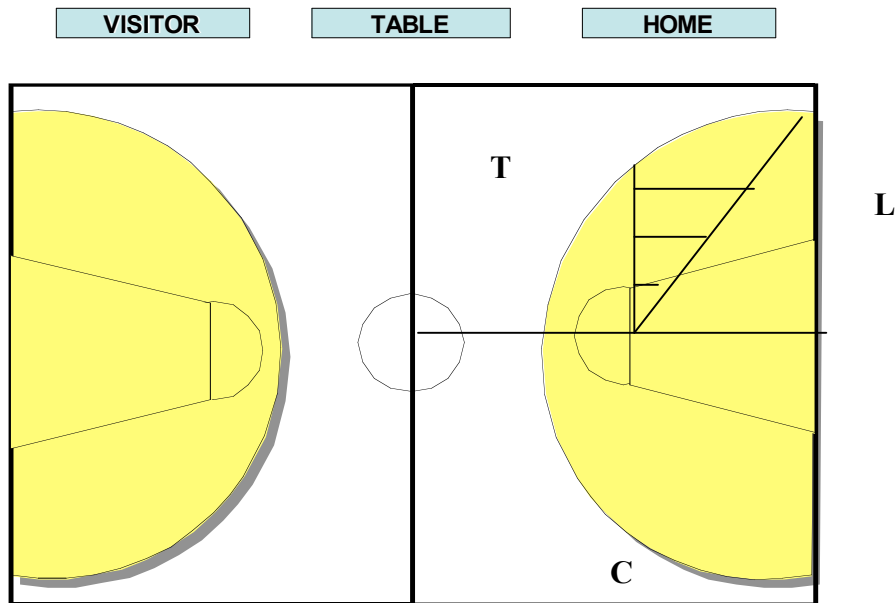
For many officials handling the ball in the backcourt on all violations is an adjustment. Most importantly don't let the players inbound the ball until you've handled the ball. Secondly there is no need to race over to the sideline and immediately bounce the ball to the inbounder. This has encouraged players to "pass" the ball rather quickly to the official. Referees who are running toward the spot and a ball passed by an eager player can have some unpleasant consequences for the official. Better to assess the situation and let everyone briefly settle (including your partner) and then administer the throw-in.

Throw-ins from the endline after an offensive violation or out of bounds involving a change of possession do not necessarily require the officials to switch sides. If there is **NO DEFENSIVE PRESSURE** the new T may bounce the ball across the restricted area to the inbounder and stay on the original side. If however **THERE IS DEFENSIVE PRESSURE** the officials must switch sides. Throw-ins from the offensive team's

backcourt that must be taken from the sideline will be handled by the new T and administrated as before - box the players in using either diagonal.

3 Person Mechanics

A reminder that the diagram (#5) on page 8 of the 3-person manual is incorrect. The correct division of coverage is



The C and L need to review the division of coverage in the restricted area. The C still is responsible for plays in the restricted area on their side of the floor.

Plays to the hoop that originate with the T are still their responsibility as well. There is an area of dual coverage between T and L where double whistles can be expected.

The only difference from last year is that if there is a double whistle the official closest to the play or if both are equidistant from the spot then the official that the play is coming to should report the foul. In the pregame discuss this, it might be a good idea to have the outside official not make a signal on the initial call to prevent conflicting calls.

Rule Modification

The ABOA fully supports the Canada Basketball initiative to have one set of playing rules. I implore local boards to **speak against** any unapproved modifications at the ASAA level. By tacitly agreeing to things such as banning dunking in warm-ups or shortening the 2 minute interval we are opening the door to potential changes during the spring of this year at the ASAA meetings. Coaches always seem to want to tinker with the rules and then we are left to try and enforce something that hasn't been properly

written or thought out. When leagues want to do these things speak out and ask them to stick to the rulebook for this year. Encourage them to understand the reason for the rule rather than simply picking and choosing the rules that they like or dislike. If some modifications are needed encourage them to contact the ABOA first so that we can work with them to present a proper modification rather than some that we have seen in the past that were passed without our input and frankly were difficult to apply and enforce.

Rule Concerns

Intervals of Play

Have the clock operator sound the horn with 1:30 left in the warm up. Clear the floor at this time. Ask the operator to leave the clock running and then sound another horn at: 30 seconds. When this horn sounds ask the teams to come to the floor for the jump ball. This procedure should ensure a consistent start to the game. Repeat this process prior to the start of the 2nd half.

During the 2-minute intervals ask the operator to put 2:00 on the clock as soon as the quarter ends and start timing as soon as possible. Again, a horn at: 30 seconds is needed followed by a request from the officials to return to the floor for the throw-in.

The half time interval for ACAC games is 15 minutes.

The half time interval for ASAA games is 10 minutes.

5th Foul Procedures

The administration of the period after a player fouls out of a game seems to be a source of inconsistency. The coach has approximately 30 seconds to replace the player. If the coach wants to have their team come near the bench **they may do so**. The only thing that you as an official are looking for is the sub reporting to the table within the designated period.

Timeouts

A team not coming out of their timeout huddle prior to the 2nd horn at 60 seconds is again another area of inconsistency. Both officials need to go the coaches and ask for the players to return. The first time the defensive team is slow, warn them and if it happens again then let your partner administer the throw-in or free throw. If a team gets scored on because they are slow coming out this will get the message across better than any warning from an official.

If the team on offense is slow to comply the official cannot instruct their partner to place the ball on the floor and begin a 5-second count. The official will have to ask the coach to send the players out after which a warning will be issued to the coach. Subsequent **intentional** violations can be penalized with a technical foul.

Illegal Contact Between Opponents During Dead Balls

If this occurs an unsportsmanlike foul must be called - not a technical. A player is ejected if they receive 2 "U" fouls in a game.

Teams huddling prior to the First of Two Free Throws

Something that is allowed in FIBA; the T or C should remind the players that as soon as the first attempt has hit the ring they should be moving into their designated places. It is permissible for the L to bounce the ball to the shooter as the players are nearing their spots. Even though a player may be technically still in the restricted area when the shooter has the ball **this is not a violation**. Try to be efficient when administrating free throws but do not become in such a hurry that unnecessary violations occur. Officials who do not become overly officious in this area will likely finish the game at the same time as those who would like to “speed” this area up somewhat. However, the former group will be seen to have managed the game better than the latter group.

Post Play Guidelines – ASAA

Please review these; the same guidelines that were in place the last few seasons are still in effect. A player in the post that maintains contact with an opponent who is holding the ball is at risk of having a foul called on them. There seems to be some sense that FIBA allows greater contact in the post – incorrect. Check articles 33.4; 33.10; 33.11 of the rulebook if you are uncertain about this.

Length of Games

At the post-secondary levels officials are encouraged to have the pregame over prior to the scheduled tip off time. Asking the schools to set the warmup times accordingly has helped. ASAA officials should use the same guidelines. If a game is scheduled for 6:00 pm then ask the school to set the clock so that the warm up ends prior to the tip time and the game can begin as scheduled.

Many high school and post-secondary games are being completed in 90 minutes. Officials who are good at managing subs, timeouts and dead balls are usually successful in keeping the game flow going. However do not rush or ignore fouls simply to get the “game over”. If the players want to foul and the coaches don’t seem prepared to try and stop them then it is going to be a long game regardless of the rule set being used.

Summary

It has been a fairly smooth transition to FIBA rules. Officials are working hard to understand and apply them correctly. It is certainly nice to only have one set of rules for all levels of play. We in Alberta are much further along then many other provinces in the move to one set of rules. A lot of the fears by the high school coaches have not panned out and at the end of the day the teams with the better fundamentals and systems are usually the winners – as it should be.

Keep reviewing the rules and mechanics, as they are one of the foundations of good officiating.