



Post Play Express

Vol.9, No. 3, November 2017

BENCH DECORUM

By Roger Caulfield, Interpreter of Nova Scotia

Our national interpreter has provided some excellent information for both coaches and officials on the subject of bench decorum. One of the CBOC points of emphasis stresses bench decorum. Therefore, officials must keep the bench areas in good order. To accomplish this goal, the entire officiating crew must be aware of activity both on and off the court. It is expected that all participants of the game, players, bench personnel, coaches and officials model acceptable behavior during the game. Below are bench decorum guidelines that must be followed this season.

1. Positive interaction between coaches and officials is essential and expected. The game is for the players, not the coaches or the officials.
2. Coaches must always remain within their team bench area marked on the court, unless to request a time out at the scorer's table.
3. Only the head coach or the designated assistant coach on each team may be standing during a live ball.
4. Coaches should not expect an official to respond during a live ball or when the game clock is running.
5. Officials should not respond to statements by coaches, only to reasonable questions. Responses to questions should be short and related to the question asked.
6. The head coach is responsible for the actions of all bench personnel.
7. If the behavior of bench personnel is unacceptable, officials should first request the assistance of the head coach to stop it. If it persists, a (B) technical foul could be charged to the head coach.
8. Profanity, disrespectful comments, and/or gestures will result in the assessment of a technical foul. A warning may or may not be given depending on the circumstances. Aggressive gestures will never be acceptable behavior.
9. Excessive and/or lengthy conversations with coaches should be avoided during the game. If explanations are required, they need to be short, polite, and concise.

WHAT ABOUT DRIBBLING?

By Seward Neilsen, interpreter of New Brunswick

Our rule defines a dribble as ball movement caused by a player in control who bats, pushes or taps the ball to the floor once or several times. During a dribble, the ball may be batted into the air, provided it is permitted to strike the floor, one or more times prior to the ball being touched again by the hands.

In order to adjudicate the rule correctly, a complete understanding of when the dribble begins and ends is essential. Simply stated the dribble may be started by batting, pushing, tapping or throwing the ball to the floor or into the air. The start of a dribble cannot occur without there initially being control of the ball by the player.

When does the dribble end? The dribble ends when:

- the dribbler causes the ball to come to rest by catching the ball with either one or two hands; or
- the dribbler touches the ball simultaneously with both hands; or
- the dribbler is unable to immediately catch or continue to dribble the ball; or
- an opponent bats the ball; or
- the ball becomes dead for any reason.

There are misconceptions as to when a double dribble violation has occurred. We know that once the first dribble has ended a player may not dribble a second time unless he has lost control as the result of

- a field goal attempt or
- a bat by an opponent or
- a pass or a fumble that has then touched or been touched by another player.

Some players, coaches, fans and officials are not totally aware of both the limitations and the latitude embodied in the double dribble rule. As a result, various misconceptions and misunderstandings exist which lead to the violation either being called or not called during a game. Here are a few misunderstood interpretations:

- If a player upon catching or intercepting a pass, fumbles the catch, with the ball bouncing to the floor, he may grasp the ball with one or both hands and cause the ball to come to rest. The player may then proceed to dribble. This is not a double dribble.
- While dribbling, if a player bounces the ball so that the bounce causes the ball to be "head high"; it is not a violation. There is no restriction as to how high you may bounce the ball.
- When a dribbler ends a dribble as a result of touching the ball simultaneously with both hands and subsequently fumbles the ball in his/her attempt to catch the ball, the dribbler may retrieve the fumbled ball without it being called a double dribble. However, after the ball has been retrieved, the dribbler may not begin a new dribble.

- A player, in attempting to secure control of a rebound, taps the ball high into the air. He obviously does not have control. He then taps it a second time, after which he either allows the ball to strike the floor to begin a dribble or he catches the ball and then pushes it to the floor to begin a dribble. This is a legal maneuver.
- A player who has ended his dribble or has caught a pass and still has his dribble remaining may toss the ball from hand to hand. Tossing the ball from hand to hand does not constitute a dribble.
- To start a dribble, a player may toss the ball over the head of a defensive opponent and then takes several steps while allowing the ball to strike the floor, then catch or proceed to dribble the ball after it has hit the floor. However, if the player touches the ball before it strikes the floor, it becomes an illegal dribble because the ball was touched twice before it touched the floor.
- If the ball rolls several meters after inadvertently striking the dribbler's leg or foot, may the dribbler recover the ball? Yes, even though the dribble ended when the ball could not immediately be caught or the dribble continued, the dribbler or any other player may recover the ball.
- A player may fumble a pass, grasp the ball, dribble the ball, fumble while attempting to catch/control the ball at the end of the dribble and then proceed to catch/grasp the ball. No violation.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

THE RECRUITING, TRAINING, AND RETENTION OF TABLE OFFICIALS

By Bill Redden, Member GVBOA

PART 1

RECRUITMENT and TRAINING

Table officials (Timers, Scorers, Shot Clock Operators) are an important and integral part of a game officiating team. While the provision of competent floor officials has been a relatively constant concern for provincial and local officials' associations, the availability of trained table officials in most cases has been a distant" second thought" which has been left to game/tournament host schools and clubs. This article will focus on training table officials for games at secondary school age levels and below.

Part 1 of this article will describe current prevalent methods/models of recruiting and training Table Officials. Part 2 of the article, to appear in a future edition of POST PLAY EXPRESS, features the topic of the retention of table Officials. Retention can be defined as retaining services in the year after training and beyond from year to year. Threats to retention and solutions for combatting these threats will be provided. Part 2 will also describe an example of a model of acquiring shot clock operators in situations which require their availability for large tournaments. To conclude Part 2, suggestions designed to assist in the overall development of table officials will be provided.

The information in this Article involving current models/methods of recruiting and training table officials was gleaned by e-mail and verbal responses to questions posed by this author directly or indirectly through other people. The respondents were past and current provincial and local basketball association and basketball officials' association executives and administrators, athletic directors/coaches, floor officials, table officials instructors/supervisors, and table officials. As a group, the respondents represented all Canadian provinces. Hopefully the description of these practices will inspire actions where and when needed.

RECRUITING

The existing models include: fee for service, school leadership courses/programs, voluntold, and volunteering.

Fee for service

Table officials receive a set fee per game. These fees for each individual timer, scorer, and shot clock operator position range from \$5 - \$15 per game. This model also applies to a school team/program that receives an agreed upon fee (e.g. \$300.) for the services of table officials during an entire tournament.

School leadership courses/programs

These outlets contain a practical experience or community service component in which students must serve a preset number of hours or accumulate points to meet the course/program requirements. The teacher(s) assigned to instruct and/or administer these outlets attaches a credit value to each service. Basketball table officiating is often a part of this credit value system.

Voluntold

Each player in a school basketball program must work a set number of games as a table official when their team is not playing. In this model coaches make this a part of playing on a school team. When there are scheduled double-headers, boys work girl's games and vice versa and Junior boys work senior boy's games and vice versa. Single games are served by players whose team is idle that day.

Volunteering

Opportunities for table officials are advertised and general student body members/players' parents/alumni/ others volunteer to be a member of a school table officials program gratis for a variety of reasons including sport/team affiliation, comradery, and "pay back".

TRAINING

There are many different approaches currently in vogue in terms of the source of support, training personnel, delivery location/duration and the teaching/learning methods employed.

The most common approach in relation to the source and individual(s) delivering the course has local schools taking the responsibility for instruction that includes initial teaching, practice experiences, and follow-up monitoring/mentoring. Often employed are qualified personnel (i.e., athletic directors, teachers, coaches) within

these individual schools who are very capable and conveniently located to provide the necessary avenues of instruction.

Another prevalent approach sees provincial zone or local association representative(s) providing training to one school or as a service to a number of different schools in a given geographical area. In the latter case, all those recruited to be table officials from area schools gather for training in one central location.

There is little consistency in training duration. This varies according to the number of recruits and the instructional methods employed. The training methods utilized include the pre-course circulation/availability of learning materials, course lectures and discussion, video/disc presentations, CABO style questions, "shadowing" during game situations and supervising/mentoring as an ongoing source of guidance. Some provincial and/or local officials' associations provide materials on their websites directed at table officials' duties which can be made accessible before, during, and after the training process.