Ideal Techniques for Officiating the Lead, Trail and Center Positions



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Halfcourt Coverage Area



Ideal Techniques for Officiating the Lead Position



Lead Position Concepts

- When being the new lead, get to the endline quickly.
- Get as deep as possible with no forward movement.
- Close down by backing up with a 45 degree angle.

Know the A-B-C-D Positions on the End Line



The lead will be in positions B or C 80% of the time

- You have to rotate from the free throw laneline extended. If you try and rotate from a farther spot, the play will be gone.
- "We have to get to these new positions quicker".
- Be aggressive in rotating to the other side of the court in halfcourt situations. There are four keys necessitate a mandatory rotation.

 In most cases, rebounding fouls called by the lead should have to do with holding or displacement. Fouls involving verticality issues are usually called by the outside officials.

Rotation Basics

- Can only take place when all three officials are in the frontcourt.
- Begins when the lead penetrates the lane.
- The rotation is not complete until lead passes the far lane-line extended.
- If the lead begins to rotate and the ball is quickly reversed or if a shot is taken, the lead should not complete the rotation.

Be aggressive in rotating to the other side of the court in halfcourt situations. There are four keys necessitate a mandatory rotation.

1) When the ball settles between the free throw line and end line on the other half of the floor.



Ballside Mechanics

Be aggressive in rotating to the other side of the court in halfcourt situations. There are four keys necessitate a mandatory rotation.

2) When the ball is between the halfcourt line and the free throw line on the other half of the floor and opponents occupy the low post.



Be aggressive in rotating to the other side of the court in halfcourt situations. There are four keys necessitate a mandatory rotation.

3) When the ball is between the halfcourt line and free throw line and the majority of the players are on that side of the court.



Be aggressive in rotating to the other side of the court in halfcourt situations. There are four keys necessitate a mandatory rotation.

4) When a trap with two or more defenders takes place on the other side of the court.





If you can't get across, don't guess



Leads Should Not Reach Across



Leads Should Not Be in a Hurry





- \checkmark Do not be stagnant when on the end line
- ✓ Keep shoulders turned towards players
- ✓ On shot attempts keep a wide perspective
- ✓ Get a wider scope and a better angle
- ✓ Closer is not better
- ✓ Field of vision cannot decrease
- ✓ Stay back and trust your vision
- ✓ Lead will be at B or C position 80%



Lead Officiating Keys

- On plays going towards you, go to where the ball is coming down from (A or B position).
- Trust the Center and don't reach over.
- Displacement in rebounding is a foul.
- Verticality rules apply in rebounding.
- Lend support in press situations.
- Never turn your back on the play.

Ideal Techniques for Officiating the Trail Position



Home base is the end of the Coach's Box which is the 28 foot line on the court when all players are ahead of you



We are always incorrectly hugging the half court line

Officiating the Trail

• You should be a step or two behind the players in the backcourt.

 When the ball enters the frontcourt, you must be ball level, so you can find the best angle to see the players.

When ballside, move to see the space between the player with the ball and his/her defenders.





Concepts for the Trail

- We must stay engaged until the play concludes. We cannot officiate the dribble drive to the basket without getting closer to the play.
- We need to be inside the same zip code as the players on rebounding fouls.
- Avoid Long Distance Officiating.

Concepts for the Trail

 Contact on the perimeter that creates a disruption of RSBQ is seen by everyone.
When progress is impeded it is much more magnified. Contact inside the free throw line extended is not as noticeable.

Concepts for the Trail

- If you watch video, it should be our goal to see all three officials in the picture. If you are not in the picture, then the trail is probably too far off the ball.
- The trail must wait for a controlled rebound by the defense before they become the new lead.

Trail Needs to More Mobile





- ✓ Officiate where the players are
- ✓ Move to see the on-ball defender
- ✓ Stay with the shooter until completion
- ✓ Close down on every shot attempt
- ✓ Think every shot will be a missed shot
- ✓ Principal rebounding responsibilities
- ✓ Keep your count when the dribbler leaves
- ✓ Avoid Long Distance Officiating



Trail Officiating Keys

- You must be able to see the area between the dribbler and his/her defenders.
- Never back away when a shot is taken. Always close down, including free throws.
- Officiate the current play to completion before thinking about getting back for the next play.
- Avoid long distance officiating by making calls that are far away from your area and in front of other officials.

Ideal Techniques for Officiating the Center Position



Mechanics for the Center Official

- A good starting point in a halfcourt offensive set is the free throw line extended.
- When a dribbler from your side drives to the basket you should take a step towards the end line and follow that player to get a proper angle.
- When the ball is not in your primary, watch for illegal action by screeners and holding away from the ball.

Mechanics for the Center Official

- The center should be sideline wide when the ball is on your side and when the ball goes opposite in the mid-court, you should come on the floor and stay engaged.
- The center should move to improve. You can always move to the right, move to the left, or come on the floor to get a better angle.

Mechanics for the Center Official

 Outside officials have primary rebound coverage. Watch rebounders not only to the completion of the play but for the moment immediately after team control is gained. That's where many slapping fouls occur. Do not expect for the new trail to have this entire responsibility.
Center Officials Must Close Down



Mechanics for the Center Official

 After a make, the Center should go down quickly to the next position if there is no backcourt pressure. You need to officiate where the majority of the players are.

Press Mechanics for the Center Official

 On a fullcourt press, officiate where most of the players are. Do not pick an empty spot on the floor.



Press Coverage

C stays in backcourt

Youthe inside

L should have deepest player in front and boxed-in







Transition Mechanics for the Center Official



Center should be considered the primary

The Center Needs to See the Whole Play



Center Officiating Checklist

- ✓ Centers cannot afford to be immobile
- ✓ Stay with the shooter until completion
- ✓ Close down on every shot attempt
- \checkmark Think every shot will be a missed shot
- ✓ Principal rebounding responsibilities
- ✓ Principal off ball responsibilities
- ✓ Do not officiate empty space on press
- ✓ Rather have two centers than two trails



Center Officiating Keys

- Your primary area is the difference between two person and three person.
- A strong center usually means a strong outcome for the officiating team.
- In halfcourt, officiate the play before you transition to the trail on a rotation.
- When the ball is not in your primary may be the time you are most valuable.

Shot & Rebound Coverage







Shot & Rebound Coverage





L should not be positioned within lane lines

Both C and T should close down on shots

C is primarily responsible for weak side rebounding

We May Need to Help Outside Our Primary



Any Questions?

