

Maintaining Order on and off the Court



*Presented by:
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October, 2018*

How is Your Season Going?

At halftime of the sophomore game, I asked an official how his season was going.

He told me he had thrown out three fans this season.

How is Your Season Going?

It was December



Another Official Said...

“I issued a technical to a coach last night.”

Technical fouls are violations of the rules by participants. They are like any other call an official has to make.

But why, doesn't any official tell me that they called traveling last night?

First things, First

Do your job. You are an independent arbiter administering the rules of the game.

- ◆ Not all of your calls are going to be popular.**
- ◆ Your immediate focus is to get all the things inside the rectangle correct.**
- ◆ When warranted, things outside the rectangle may have to be addressed.**

Consistent Guidelines

We must provide consistent guidelines on how to handle situations or assess penalties on things that go beyond the realm of calling a personal foul or violation.

CONSISTENCY
IS 

Let's Get on the Same Page

No matter what your experience level
or your tolerance level, we all need
to be on the same page.



Players / Coaches / Spectators

We handle situations differently with each group. We usually do a good job of managing players, because our focus is on them most of the time.

Players which commit unsporting acts are penalized by the rules accordingly.

Dealing with Coaches

When dealing with coaches, we usually implement an unwritten rule of progressive discipline.

This starts through our interaction with the coach by effectively communicating with them.

Progressive Discipline is...

A graduated system of notification where each step contains some added element to impress upon the growing sense of urgency.



Progressive Discipline 101

Ignore. Acknowledge. Warn or Penalize.



It is also known as: Wait, Warn, Whack.

Before you get there...

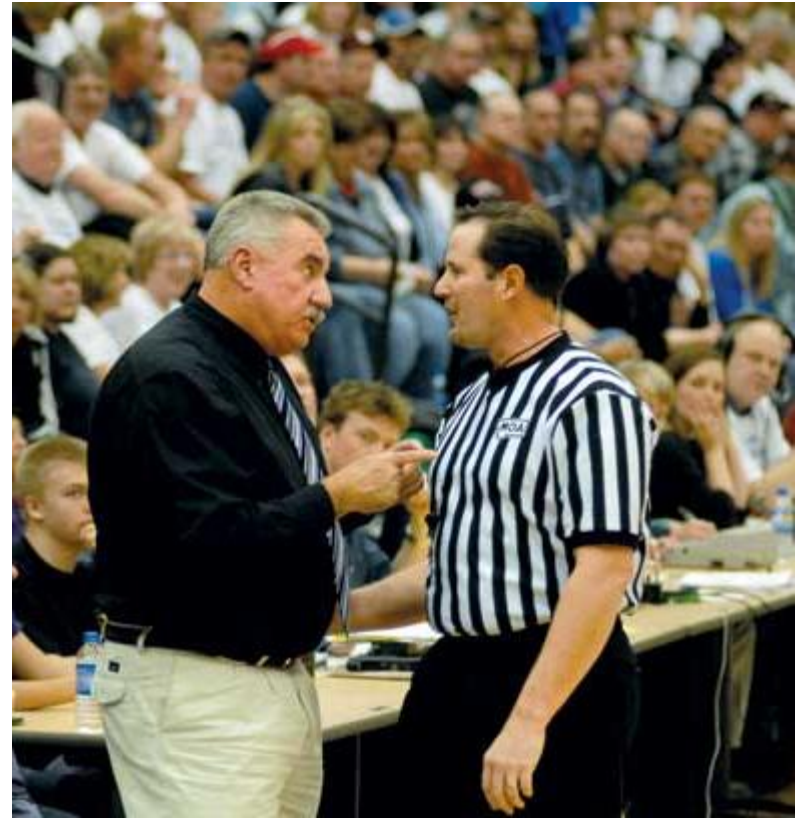
Before we think about assessing a warning or penalty, we must first use our communication skills.



Communicate

Eye Contact is Communication

When the ball is not live, all of our communication with the coach should involve eye contact. When the ball is live, we cannot afford this opportunity.



Which situation is going to escalate?



Part of our job is to be an effective communicator

Why should we talk

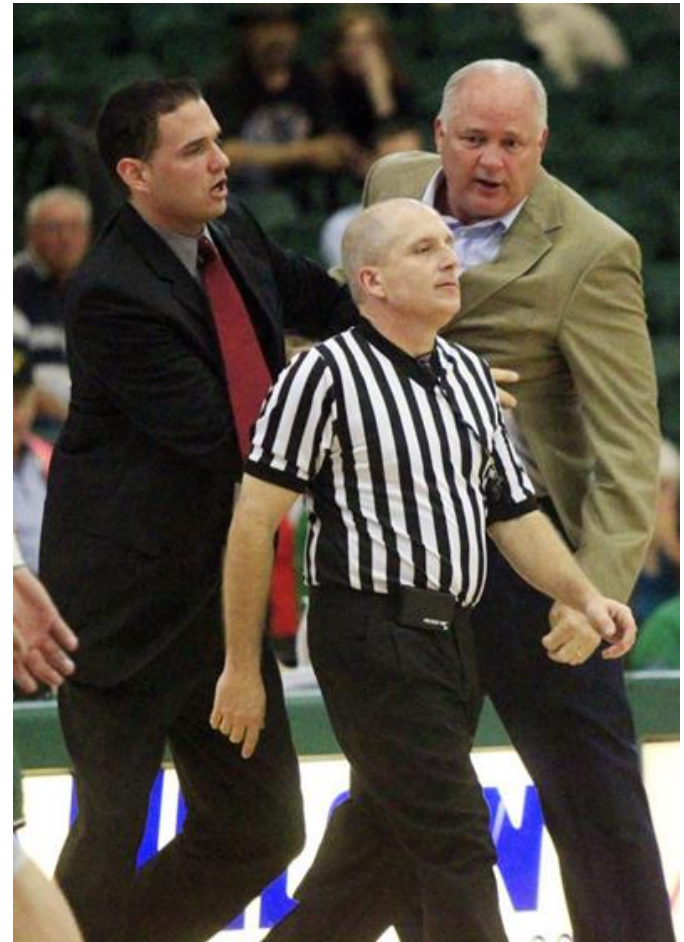
- ◆ **We must be an effective communicator.**
- ◆ **We should provide answers to participants' reasonable questions and requests.**
- ◆ **Our job is to be a responder – not an initiator.**

Why shouldn't we talk

- ◆ **They can't quote silence. You might say the wrong thing and add fuel to the fire.**
- ◆ **We should not initiate dialogue – we are there to be a responder not an initiator.**
- ◆ **We should not engage in conversation – it must be communication not conversation.**

Things You Never Say To a Coach

- ◆ One more word and you're out of here.
- ◆ Shut up.
- ◆ Calm down.
- ◆ You're wrong.
- ◆ Are you serious?
- ◆ That's not my call.
- ◆ It's just a game.



Things You Could Say to a Coach

- ◆ I heard you.
- ◆ You might have a point.
- ◆ Our crew will talk about that at halftime.
- ◆ Now we must move on.



Coaches Say Funny Things

**Coach (directed towards a photographer):
“Did you guys get a shot of that? We may need it as evidence in the criminal investigation.”**

Referee: “OK. I heard you. Now it’s time to move on.”

Did you ever hear...

Coach: “The fouls are seven to one.”

Comments by coaches, which are not questions, do not need a response from officials.



But when it is a question...

Coach: “Do you know that the fouls are seven to one?”

An appropriate response could be:

Official: “That’s correct, and we are going to continue to call the game according to the rules.”

The “stop sign” is the most important traffic sign on the road. It should be also be one of your most effective communication tools.



The 20 – 50 – 100 Rule

When we have to consider to penalize players, coaches or spectators for unsporting behavior, we should consider the 20 -50 -100 rule.

A technical foul to a player, also counts towards one of the five personal fouls before they are disqualified (which is 20%).

The 20 – 50 – 100 Rule

A technical foul to a coach counts towards one of the two direct technical fouls before they are disqualified (which is 50%).

Action against a spectator warrants immediate ejection as they are disqualified from watching the rest of the game (which is 100%).

Coaches & Spectators

We must handle coaches and spectators differently. A coach is a participant.

Rules govern the actions of participants. Guidelines govern the actions of non-participants.



Technical Fouls: Coaches

The rulebook covers when a technical foul should be assessed to a coach for unsporting behavior:

- ◆ Using profane or inappropriate language or obscene gestures.
- ◆ Inciting undesirable crowd reactions.
- ◆ Disrespectfully addressing an official.

Action Against Spectators

Remember the 20-50-100 Rule. If action against a spectator must be taken, it is equal to the most severe penalty which you can assess.



Spectator Discipline:

Spectators should be removed from the contest when they:

♦ **Commit criminal acts.**

Which includes contact with or threats upon a participant.

♦ **Become part of the game.**

Including entering the court or throwing objects on the court.

Possible Discipline

Spectators could be removed from the contest when they:

- ◆ Exhibit unsporting behavior, such as vulgar, profane language or obscene gestures.

The responsibility of decisions on removal of spectators from the facility lies with game management.

Code of Conduct

Since there are only guidelines which govern non-participant actions, spectators showing displeasure with officials decisions is not automatic grounds for dismissal of the contest.

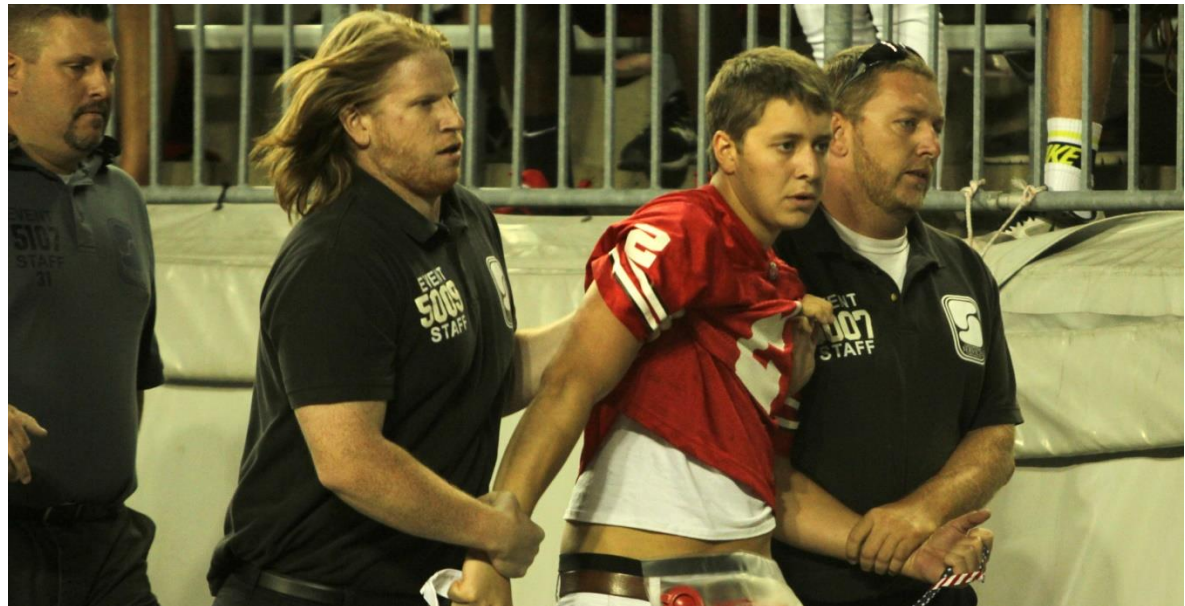


There are actions you can use

- ◆ **Stop conversing with non-participants.**
- ◆ **Utilize supervisory game personnel.**
- ◆ **Utilize game management or public address announcers to remind offenders to exhibit good sportsmanship.**
- ◆ **Stop the contest and let those responsible for crowd control do their job.**

Let them do their Job

Non-participant issues must be handled by the game personnel and management. Officials are not to verbally eject unruly spectators.



OFFICIATING PROFESSIONALISM AND USE OF PROPER TERMINOLOGY

A good relationship with game management is also critical. Officials must identify their “go to” person in the event of a situation such as the need to address a conduct situation involving fans. **Officials should not, as a rule, have any dealings with fans but must rely on the game administration to intercede in these cases.** Therefore, the development and nurturing of that positive relationship with game management are essential to the conduct of a contest.



Action = Follow-Up

All ejections (player, coach, spectator) require filing a Special Report Form on the Officials' Center on the IHSA website.

Technical fouls issued to participants may require contacting the assignor. Make sure that the assignor is not the person who is “last to know” about any incident.

Spectator Issues: It Happens to Everyone

- ◆ Fenton Thanksgiving Tournament
- ◆ Lane Tech Thanksgiving Tournament
- ◆ Mid-Suburban League Pack the Place
- ◆ Hinsdale South Regional Championship



got questions

