The Nation’s Best Pre-Game

Presented By: Joe Spagnolo
IHSA Basketball Clinician
This presentation includes pre-game discussion from NCAA Division I officials and supervisors. What is covered is the same message that we try to get across at the high school level.

Next three slides are from J.D. Collins, NCAA Coordinator
Trust your partners.
Stay in your primary.
If it’s game deciding and you are 100% certain, go get it.
Let’s hope the ball goes in the basket, which makes for an easier night.
Every night is a new night.
Enforce the rules as they are written.
The obvious trumps everything.
The only thing that can get us in trouble is a lack of communication.
Find the defensive player, let the play develop and finish to determine the call.
Referee from the floor up.
The three C’s: Communicate – Concentrate – Be Consistent.
Attach to a Rule.
Attach to a Play.
Don’t change anything that you have been doing, if you’ve been doing it right.
I don’t care about uniforms, but someone above me cares.
We have to expect the unexpected and know how to handle things when they come up.
C to C: Don’t think the trail has everything. Officiate until the ball becomes settled.
Take care of business of stuff that is obvious.
Don’t overanalyze stuff.
Keep it simple.
Take care of the basics and get all the little stuff right.
Be great helpers on anything we can help on.
You don’t need an invitation. If you have information, share it.
You can’t help if you are in another zip code.
Status of the Ball: The closest official may not be thinking of it first.
When all things are equal, referee the game and go with your gut.
We make it more complicated than it needs to be.
Establish a tempo by letting the game come to you.
Never call something you cannot administer.
Choose your words wisely.
Silence cannot be quoted.
All of us have clock management responsibilities on every whistle and throw-in.
With coaches, be a responder, not an initiator
Ignore, acknowledge, warn or penalize.
If a call needs to be made for the good of the game, go get it.
We have to know what we are calling and we have to know why we are calling it.
We have to know what we are not calling and we have to know why we are not calling it.
Don’t rotate into a bad angle.
When there are cutters there are screeners.
Fouls must be a guideline or a rule. Not all contact is illegal.
This game isn’t about us, it’s about them.
Type A personalities, sometimes need to listen.
The Final Five Slides
We can’t fudge a guideline when players are displaced or impeded.
We need to be A-plus tonight. A-minus doesn’t cut it.
Be real patient on plays that are going to the basket.
Always ask yourself, what did the defense do wrong?
Smile and enjoy it!