

IAABO Early Season Memo 2009-10

Marked lane space and player “near” the outer edge of the free throw lane line

“Near” is subjective and officials are encouraged NOT to “split hairs” on this editorial change and officiate within the spirit and intent of the rule – which is, that the player should not be at the “back” of the lane space. “Near” is an approximate term and if the covering official believes that the player has one foot ‘close” or “near” the line, he or she has met the spirit and intent of the rule. The Rules Editor and Rules Committee are not comfortable with defining “near” with a measurement at this time.

Pre-game Conference Reminders

Each game requires a thorough pre-game conference (the pre-game card is a good guide).

Enforce the rules with no regard for the time or score.

Enforce the rules, players will adjust.

Freedom of movement is a rule given right of players – offense & defense

Keep in mind, each ruling affects both teams.

Unofficial warnings assist/help only one team.

What is allowed/condoned is encouraged to continue.

Officiate the game to the end with no regard for the margin of score; care/respect the team members who may not get regular playing time. They want to catch and pass the ball; try for goal; play defense; etc. To those players, the time is precious. Family may be in attendance to watch them play.

Points of Emphasis Summary Points

Guarding & Block/Charge – **Obtain** legal guarding position; **Maintain** what has been obtained; Maintenance is in place until the defender is **Beaten** (head and shoulders past the front plane of the defender) by the offensive player. See the play of both players – the beginning, the development/progress and the finish/result.

Closely Guarded – care about the rule; the defense expects enforcement; there is no requirement that the defender be playing intensely; progress toward the basket does not end the rule or count; expect to be busy recognizing the play, applying the rule and count.

Free Throw Administration/Coverage – care about the rules in place; two teams involved; carelessness, on the officials’ part, can favor one team; the plane of the free-throw lane line cannot be broken until the ball is at the basket or backboard; disconcertion cannot be allowed; lane space players cannot leave the lane space area in any direction; do not close toward the end line prior to the ball contacting the basket or backboard; proper attention and enforcement will nearly eliminate the potential for rough play.

Three seconds – care about the rule; be a good three second rule official; Lead, ball watching results in poor coverage; Trail and/or Center, must provide coverage when the ball is not within your PCA; the proximity to the basket and potential scoring, makes the attention and coverage more vital

Traveling – care, be aware of the rules importance; concentrate, watch the player receive the pass, secure the rebound, end the dribble; identify the pivot foot; view video clips – doing so is valuable to one’s realization of what is being missed and to improved rulings (jump stop not ended properly, preparation move for a dunk, on the move transition pass receptions followed by a dribble, post players moves with back to basket, three point attempts – all need greater attention).

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It matters - Example: Team A player has the ball, official misses a travel violation near the basket; player dribbles; makes a lay-up; is fouled; makes the free throw (Team A has 3 points); Team B player has a foul charged; Team B has one more team foul; Team B opponent has 3 points it should not have; Team B should have had a possession. The equivalent misbehavior by a coach would result in a Technical Foul. What is the penalty for such a mis-ruling?

Continuous Motion – only of significance when the foul is committed by the defense; an offensive player has a rule given right to try for goal anytime, anyhow, any place on the court, provided he/she does so legally; the try need only to have merely begun; the player does not have to be into the final stages of the “shooting” motion; the rule pre-supposes that a foul occurred after the “shooter” begins the try, but before the ball is released; the “shooter” is entitled to complete the act by legal means; the rule applies whether the “shooter” is fouled or a teammate is fouled; the “shooter” does not have to be off the floor/airborne – “on the floor” is not a factor; when the official sounds the whistle and signals the clock to be stopped -- it does not end the try, the ball remains live and the “shooter” may continue (Continuous Motion) the try for goal.

Palming & Carrying – watch the dribbler dribble; when the ball comes to rest upon or in the hand, the dribble has ended, to dribble again is an illegal dribble (“double dribble”); dribbling behind the back is legal; ending a dribble, then for a split second, holding the ball in the hand while bringing it behind the back is ending the dribble – to then throw the ball to the floor is the beginning of a second dribble which is a violation. Depending upon how the pivot foot is used, during the “behind the back” effort, the violation would be either an illegal dribble or traveling.