

**Topeka Officials Association**  
**Basketball Newsletter Update**  
Monday, December 11, 2006

**Rather** than wait until after the Holidays, I thought I would update the December *Newsletter* with some thoughts for you for the last week or so of this month. From watching and officiating games, here are some areas where we could improve;

A lot of our early season issues center (pardon the pun) around the Center (C) position:

The C position is designed to be an **off-ball** position. If you find yourself at C with a competitive match-up that includes one of the players with the ball in the front court, immediately back out to a T position – thus forcing a switch for L to come over to that side of the court. Keep your eyes open and your mind working!

The second issue that involves C is coming up the court on a change of possession. **Reminder:** C, your area on the floor is from end line to end line – you must stay back and come up court with the play – **do not** run away from your coverage. In addition, when you are C in the back court, you are responsible for 50% of the floor (vs. 40% in the front court). Hence, if you are following a play starting in the back court and that ends with a competitive match up just over the mid-court line, you have effectively “Flexed on the Fly.” So to speak – the new L and C must be aware of what is going on (remember, keep your chins up and see more of the court) and flex appropriately.

In a tournament game last week, I saw a C official sprint past a competitive match-up and the ball went out of bounds behind him – he had at least a 50% chance that his ‘guess” was correct.

Finally, **Trust Your Partner(s):** Whenever play leaves you with a Closed look and there is a drive to the basket or other action, trust that one of your partners will work to get the Open look. Partners, always move to be in a position to help. Officiating is a **team** activity and probably the best way to achieve that team work is with an excellent pre-game conference. Let your commissioners know if partners do not arrive in time to participate in a complete conference – let them know if they are there but do not participate. Officiating is a privilege, not a right!