

Topeka Official's Association
2006 Basketball Newsletter
December Edition

Off to a Good Start: If you are a TOA member, there are lots of things for which you can be proud. Last week your Association sponsored one of the best clinics I have had the privilege of attending. It was heartening to see so many officials participate – so many young officials working to become better and so many veteran officials working to help others. Congratulations to everyone involved – I left feeling that an excellent precedent had been set and that the members of the TOA were well served.

Off to a Good Start II: There is no better way to start a game than having an excellent pre-game conference – the purpose of which is to get all the officials involved on the same page. For starters, many veteran officials go over some of the changes in the rules and mechanics from past years, as well as the new rules for the current season. One of the new rules, 3-5-3, concerns new guidelines for headbands and sweatbands. Take care of this during the pre-game warm-ups to the extent possible – while some officials take offense at being “Uniform Police,” adhering to the rules is a major part of our job.

Another major change involves the clock and fact that if we have specific knowledge of the time that should be on the clock, we can have that exact time placed on the clock – a word of advice: Do NOT guess at that exact time – if you have it for sure, fine. But do not guess. I would suggest that this is probably a good time to check with your partner(s).

Delay (4-47-4 & 10-1-5e New and 9-2-11 & 10-1-5 c, d): Part of the new rule adds 10-1-5e – “Not having the court ready for play following any time-out after team warning for delay. This should not be a problem (I hope) for a 30-second TO but may well be for a full TO. Discretion IS the better part of valor – if cleanup work is finishing at the second buzzer, I don’t see the need for assessing a formal warning or, in some circumstances, a Technical foul. Be firm, but be reasonable! There is only one warning for any of the four delay situations (it used to be three). Be prudent!!

Points of Emphasis: Concussions (see page 71 of the Rules Book); Uniforms; Time-Outs; Intentional Fouls; Rules Enforcement and Proper Use of Signals. Be sure to read pages 69 and 70 to learn what is expected of us.

John Laurie has long been a great resource for area officials and recently he spoke to the MIAA Basketball Official’s Clinic concerning the ability to effectively communicate with coaches. Here are just a few of his gems:

“Expecting a Coach to treat you politely because you are a “good” official is like expecting a bull not to charge because you are a vegetarian!” “The key to visiting with a coach is to determine if he has something to say, or whether he is simply trying to say something!” “If you have never been hated by a coach, you have never been an official.” And, finally, “Tell the coach Exactly how you feel when you are angry and you will make the best statement you will ever REGRET!” More next time!

Work Hard to get the Open Look!!!