

Dead Ball Efficient...Si!

Several observers have commented that as a whole, the GGOB is very consistent about good dead ball procedures, like holding your partner from inbound during substitution and taking control of the substitution process. Good job all around!

Legality Is in the Eye of the Glass Be-Holder

Recently, observers have noted players with glasses wearing restraining straps that go completely round the head. This is legal. However, some of these restraining straps have tails, or are multi-colored. This is **not** legal. The straps must meet the color and style restrictions of any other head band or accessory.

Video Quiz Question Follow-Ups

Two quick recaps on videos from the most recent Video Quiz that generated some discussion –

Backcourt video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BS3aOtuVNAM>

The answer – that this is not a backcourt violation – is based upon the lack of clearly-established front court possession. The player definitely touches the ball in the front court, but doesn't appear to possess it until she is in the backcourt. If you had to run the video 4 times, frame by frame, to see if front court possession was truly established, it wasn't!! (BTW, this is the current video philosophy in both the NCAA and the NBA.) Don't split hairs. There are more than enough clear violations to call in any of our games.

Verticality video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4M94ZLW1UQ&feature=youtu.be>

This one is also a tough one, especially in real-time. If the defender had jumped straight up, the principle of verticality would have kept him legal – and justified a “play on.” However, when he moves sideways and drifts into the attacking player, the body contact warrants a foul. (Look at the spot where the defender takes off from and where he lands.)

And, yes, these videos are close calls or “borderline.” That's the point. The majority of the plays we see in games are close decisions, and we need to be able to apply the rules and judgment criteria to each situation. Good officials can agree to disagree, but the quizzes are designed to give you pause to think.

Count Down to Excellence

Observers have noted a number of officials either not using visible 5 second closely-guarded counts **at all**, or less effectively than the rules intend. You are rewarding good defensive play if you call legitimate closely-guarded violations, and defensive-minded coaches are looking for us to initiate this count. Please review this video, which has some great information on the “closely-guarded” distance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LShUTiNjxxY>

Remember, under CIF rules, girls only have closely-guarded counts if they are holding the ball, and that includes if the ball is in the backcourt. Boys have closely-guarded counts in the front court only, dribbling and holding the ball.

The 10 second backcourt count in boys' basketball is also required to be visible. Remember, this count helps with other things as well, like having good knowledge of time consumed if a game or shot clock doesn't start appropriately. Also, while using the shot clock as a 10 second count check-off is nice, the reliability of high school table personnel to be accurate enough to safely use the shot clock is not really supported by any consistent observations. So, unlike college or pro officials, we have to rely on our own visible counts.

Officials also have requirements for 5 second inbounding visible counts, and to ensure that a free thrower shoots the ball within 10 seconds. The Mechanics Manual recommends the free throw count be subtle, unlike the other more obvious counts – usually a small, but visible flick of the wrist at your side.

2-Person OOB Reminder

As we discussed in the pre-season meetings, there has been a change in two-person mechanics in situations where the Lead makes an out-of-bounds call on their sideline in which the offensive team retains possession. There are three separate components to this mechanic, depending on the location of the inbound spot:

- 1) *OOB on Lead's sideline in the backcourt*: Trail comes across and inbounds the ball.
- 2) *OOB on Lead's sideline from free throw line extended to division line*: Lead moves up to become new Trail and inbounds the ball. Trail switches to become new Lead.
- 3) *OOB on Lead's sideline below free throw line extended*: Lead bounces the pass to inbounder.

(See Mechanics Illustrated pages 91-93 for details and illustrations.)

Some officials have informed me that other associations may not be following this new mechanic, but the GGOB definitely is. The approach just makes sense from a game-flow point of view. So, please pre-game the mechanic and follow through in your games.

We Now Pause for this Important Announcement

There appears to be a gradual return of play-by-play or “color announcing” at MCAL, NBL, and SCL games. So, let's quickly review the NFHS guidelines around game announcers (in italics):

The announcer shall be prohibited from making an announcement:

- while the clock is running and

- while the clock is stopped and the ball is live...such as during a free throw, a throw-in, etc.

Announcements or comments shall be made during those times when there is a stoppage of the clock and the ball is not live, such as time outs, between quarters, pre-game, half-time and post-game.

The announcer is allowed to announce basic information that does not potentially affect the play in general, the players, the coaches, or the officials. The announcer's information is not official information and could be misinformation shared with all. Appropriate training of announcers by school personnel and proper pre-game instructions by the referee are necessary.

Examples of what MAY be announced:

- *Player who scored*
- *Player charged with foul*

- *Player attempting free throw*
- *Team granted a time out*
- *Length of time out: 30 seconds or 60 seconds*
- *Player entering game*
- *Team Rosters*

Examples of what MAY NOT be announced:

- *Number of points player scored (e.g., “That’s 30 for BillyBob tonight!”)*
- *Number of fouls on player (e.g., “Oh, tough luck, that’s foul number 4 on #22.”)*
- *Number of team fouls (e.g., “That’s 6 fouls for our Banana Slugs versus only 1 on the visitors.”)*
- *Number of team time outs or number remaining*
- *Time remaining in the quarter/game (e.g., “Two minutes remaining!”)*
- *Type of foul or violation (e.g., “Pack your bags, #12, that’s a travel.”)*
- *Emphatic 2 or 3 point goal (e.g., “THREE!!! From Noodleman! From downtown!”)*

The announcer’s role does not include “cheering the home team on” or otherwise inciting the crowd. Doing so is common at other levels of athletic events. But high school athletics is different because sports are educationally based.

We don’t advocate having “rabbit ears” for this type of behavior. But, if an announcer is making themselves the obvious focus of attention or inciting the crowd, you need to take care of it at the next opportunity. The key words here would be persistent and/or blatant. As with the fashion rules, if we all enforce these guidelines, the message will get across and the issue will resolve itself.

Finally: Please stay dry and stay healthy! Drive carefully and allow yourself extra time to get to sites during the storm season. Check conditions on GPS or Weather apps before leaving for your games.