

NEW YORK STATE IAABO BOARD 19



TO: ALL NYS BOARD INTERPRETERS

FROM: LEE PAVLOT, BOARD 19 STATE RULES INTERPRETER

The 2012–13 basketball season is just a couple of months away and very soon you will be holding your board meetings and training classes for new officials. Rule changes again this year are very limited, in fact there is only one rule change and the New York State Basketball Committee has chosen not to use the change during the regular season. Secondly, I sincerely want to thank the members of Board 19 for presenting me with the Tom Emmanuel Award in appreciation for my work as State Interpreter. It was a complete surprise and certainly means so much to me to be recognized by my peers. I look forward to working with each of you each year and enjoy the friendship and the working relationship we have. Thank you all, it means a great deal to me.

RULE CHANGE:

The rule change for this year is that the official scorer is required to wear a black-and-white striped garment. **(Rule 2-11-12 new)** New York State did not adopt this for the regular season, but did adopt it for the State Tournament. The new rule will be used during the semi-finals and the finals at the tournament.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS: The points of emphasis this year primarily have put attention on rough play.

The first item of emphasis deals with closely guarded situations. The basketball committee feels that when the closely-guarded rules are not followed properly, there is a significant advantage to the offense. Therefore, interpreters should address this issue in their interpretation meetings. Be sure that the officials know what constitutes a closely guarded situation and then be sure to administer the rule.

The next items address rough play and excessive contact especially contact above the shoulders. With concussions being a major issue, officials should be aware of a player excessively swinging his elbows and quickly put a stop to it. It is a violation of rule 9, section 13 for a player to excessively swing his elbows even when no contact occurs. If contact occurs as a result of a moving elbow, it could be intentional or possibly flagrant, depending on the severity of the contact.

Another point of emphasis is the lack of intentional foul calls. Contact away from the ball or when not making a legitimate attempt to play the ball, specifically designed to stop or keep the clock from starting, shall be intentional. A foul that causes excessive contact with an opponent, even while playing the ball, should be ruled intentional. Grabbing or shoving a player from behind when an easy basket may be scored or grabbing and holding a player from behind or away from the ball should also be ruled intentional. Fouls late in the game designed to stop the clock may also be ruled intentional. Officials should have the courage to properly enforce the intentional foul rule.

The last point of emphasis is in regards to illegal contact. The basketball committee feels that escalating fight situations that occur late in the game can often be traced back to illegal contact not being enforced and penalized previously. They listed several examples of illegal contact, such as, hand checking not being called, illegal post play, hooking by the offensive player, pushing and holding an opponent, dislodging an opponent by using a leg or knee to the rear of the opponent, and dislodging an opponent by backing them down. In

rebounding, the emphasis should be to curtail activity to illegally gain rebounding position. Actions such as displacing, charging or pushing an opponent, extending the arms and elbows to impede the movement of an opponent, using the hips or knees to hinder or impede an opponent are all actions to gain illegal rebounding position. All of these items are part of the “points of emphasis” for this season. All board members should be made aware of these points.

MECHANICS: With this year having so little to do with rule changes, it may be a good year to emphasis and spend time on the IAABO mechanics. We are an IAABO State and, therefore, should be using the approved IAABO mechanics. We **must** emphasize this to our officials. This past year at the State and Federation Tournament, Peter Webb, IAABO Supervisor of Interpreters and Rules, many times noted that the tournament officials deviated from the use of proper IAABO mechanics. The most noted improperly used or unused mechanic was the calling of fouls and primarily in the lead’s area. Officials failed to raise their fist while sounding their whistle to stop the clock. The proper IAABO procedure is to stop the clock with fist up while sounding the whistle, followed by, at the site of the foul, identifying the player who committed the foul; then signal the foul, identify the shooter, indicate the number of shots or point to the spot for a throw-in if it applies and then go to the reporting area and report the foul to the scorer’s table. Again, we should be emphasizing to our officials to use the approved IAABO signals and mechanics while working boys’ high school games.

THREE-PERSON MECHANICS: Three-person crews were again used at the State Tournament and most did very well. Each official and crew was evaluated on their game performance and was mailed an evaluation report noting items that were observed during their games. Before each game Bill Varno and I met with each crew and discussed the use of IAABO signals and mechanics in each of their games. Other interpreters also assisted with the evaluating of the officials. We must continue to push the use of three-person crews whenever and wherever possible. Make every effort to work three-person crews into your regular season games if possible, even if it means working for a reduced fee. Hopefully, the schools, coaches and athletic directors will see the benefit of the three-person crews.

CONCUSSION RULE: The concussion rule and the official’s duties have not changed. Officials shall immediately remove from the game a player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion. However, this year more responsibility has been placed on the schools. I was advised by the State Office that the schools are mandated by the NY State Ed. Dept. and the NYSPHSAA to develop a protocol for handling players who are removed from the game under the concussion rule. It is **THEIR RESPONSIBILITY** to set this up. Once the player is removed, all of the responsibility rests with the school—it is in their hands. The State Office adds that if a player is removed under this rule, the likelihood of the player returning to the game is very unlikely. However, if he or she later appears at the table to reenter the game he/she should be allowed to reenter the game. Nothing says that if, as an official, you observe the symptoms again that the player cannot once again be removed. With concussions being a hot issue in all sports on all levels, high school, college and even pros, schools are very cognizant of the dangers and ramifications involved in evaluating the health status of student athletes. This year the state has taken steps to strengthen the procedures schools must follow.

RULE CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR: The use of the compression sleeves remains the same—they can only be worn for a medical purpose. Nothing in writing is required. Last year the change limited the colors allowed to be worn. Acceptable colors are white, black, beige or a **single** solid school color and all players must wear the same color. Last season players were observed wearing multicolor sleeves, even at the State Tournament. They were corrected. Don’t let it happen.

PERMISSION TO WEAR SPECIAL DEVICES: Every situation in which a player requests permission to wear prosthesis or a special device (including religious apparel) is evaluated on an individual basis and must be approved by the State Office. The procedure is basically as follows:

1. A player must have school physician approval for the device in order to participate in a specific sport while the player is wearing the device
2. The school should review the NYSPHSAA approval rules for the sport to see if there is a prohibition.
3. If the school feels the device may be acceptable, the school contacts the NYSPHSAA Office in writing asking for an evaluation. All requests are to be accompanied by photos of the device being worn by the student. Also, documentation of the school physician approval is to be sent.
4. The state office review consists of reviewing the game rules, evaluating if the student would be able to safely participate while wearing the device, evaluating if teammates and opponents are placed at risk, and possible consultation with the state's medical advisors.

NOTE: Also, wearing of long-leg tights is not permissible without state approval. They must be approved by the state to wear for a medical purpose.

BODY-PIERCING JEWELRY: By rule, no jewelry including body-piercing jewelry shall be allowed to be worn in any sport. Body-piercing jewelry covers any piercing you as an official can see. Taping over a new piercing is still not allowed. Again, remember the liability if someone was injured because an official allowed the pierced jewelry. Medical alert medals are permitted but must be taped and may be visible.

NEW YORK STATE SPORTSMANSHIP CARD: NYSPHSAA requires that the Sportsmanship Card be read at each contest at all levels. In addition, by rule, it is the referee's duty to verify with the head coach, prior to the contest that his/her team member's uniforms and equipment are legal and will be worn properly, and that all participants will exhibit proper sporting behavior throughout the contest. (Rule 2-4-5)

UNIFORM SHIRTS: The black & white stripe shirt is the official shirt. The shirt with the wide stripe down the side is also acceptable. However, when the wide-stripe shirt is worn, all officials in that game must use the same style shirt. All must wear regular stripes or all must wear the wide stripe. Emphasize to your officials to call each other to be sure they are wearing the same style shirt.

During the past season there were some questions regarding the correct location of the flag on the shirt. The flag should be located 1 to 1 ¼ inches below the neck line on the back of the shirt. This is part of our uniform and should be placed in the correct spot. All officials working the State Tournament including regionals, must have the flag appropriately attached to their uniform shirt. Also, officials should be reminded to bring both types of shirts, regular stripes and wide stripe to the State Tournament.

ADDITIONAL NOTES: Each year I like to take this opportunity to thank each interpreter across the state for the opportunity to serve as your State Interpreter. I enjoy working with each of you. E-Mail is a very useful tool and it enables me to get back to you with answers to your questions fairly quickly. We have continued to use three-person crews for the State Tournament, including regional games and right up to the State's semis and finals. Evaluating the crews and the officials at the State and Federation Tournament continued this past season. I attended the tournament in Glens Falls and the Federation in Albany and observed every game. The crews did a very good job. The feedback from the State Committee continues to be very positive. I talked with several members and they were very favorable in their remarks. Hopefully three-person is here to stay. As I have said before, we must continue to train our board officials in three-person mechanics so they are ready to work the games. With education cutbacks and games being reduced it is more difficult to get three-person crews into games, but take advantage whenever you can. Holiday Tournaments are an excellent time

to use the three-person crews. You may have to negotiate a fee with the schools and offer them a deal, but again it is a good time to use the three-person. Once again, we must remind and stress to our officials that we are to use IAABO mechanics. Our manual has an outstanding section explaining and illustrating the proper mechanics that we should be using. Many of the officials on our boards work different levels of basketball, be it NCAA-Men's, NCAA-Women, and High School Girls and each level has a few different mechanics. However, we must remind our officials that when doing a boys' high school game that they use the IAABO mechanics and not mix in NCAA and girls mechanics.

Again I look forward to working with each of you across the state and will do my best to get answers to any of your questions as quickly as possible. My e-mail address is: lpavlot@yahoo.com and cell phone number is 315-729-7960. Good luck in the 2012-13 season. Thanks to all, Lee Pavlot.

Let's all work together to accomplish the IAABO philosophy of
"ONE RULE, ONE INTERPRETATION"