Be The Referee

"Be The Referee" is a series of one-minute messages designed to help educate people on the rules of different sports, to help them better understand the art of officiating, and to recruit officials. "Be The Referee" features insights from MHSAA experts on officiating.

Misunderstood Rules – Three Seconds

It's hard to go to a basketball game and not sit near other fans who are yelling about the officials not calling three seconds. The three second rule is one of the most misunderstood rules in the game of basketball.

The purpose and philosophy of the rule is to not allow a player who is significantly taller than his or her opponent to camp out in the middle of the lane and create an unfair advantage.

The three second count is in effect whenever an offensive player has at least one foot in the lane when their team is in possession of the ball. That count stops as soon as a try - a shot - is attempted or a try is imminent; and the count cannot start again until there is control of a rebound.

Keep this in mind at the next game you attend.

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