

When to Rotate?: That is the Question for the Lead

The Answer: "The realization by Lead that the on-ball competitive matchup and the predominant population of players has moved to Center's (Trail's in 2-person) side of the court, that Center (Trail in 2-person) has more matchups, action, and activity in his PCA than he can rightly observe – is the indication that a rotation is necessary." (pp.94,117, MHSAA Officials' Manual)

NOTE: The "2-Person Ball-side Mechanic", where Lead rotates just like in the 3-person system is still new to most officials. It really does enhance play calling proficiency when done correctly. Take the time to study it as it is explained on pp.93-95 of the MHSAA Officials' Manual. Pregame it with your partner, and try to implement it into an upcoming game soon, if you haven't already.

Don't Bail...Walk Down Drives to the Basket

As T and C, when the drive goes away from you to the basket, that competitive match up that originated in your primary coverage area is yours all the way to the basket. It's not correct to say, "Well, the pressure's off. That matchup going away from me into my partner's area, that's all his now." As an involved Center and/or Trail, stay visually and mentally connected to the drive from your area by a taking step or two in the direction of the drive to remain connected to it. Walk it down, stay engaged and maintain avid observance of the play at hand. If that primary defender gets beat, your lead will take that secondary defender match up that results. However, that tailing and trailing defensive player from the primary matchup is still yours. You need to

monitor any illegal contact he may undertake from behind after getting beat by the dribbler. And you can do that best by stepping toward it, walking that drive down a step or two as it goes away from you. (Reference article: Referee Magazine, Feb.,2019, p.30ff) [HERE'S AN EXAMPLE OF THIS GOOD HABIT.](#)

Free Throw Positioning: A Reinforcement

We are making some progress statewide conforming to the approved free throw positioning mechanics. However, old habits are taking a while to fade. All other unapproved places where officials are standing result in surveillance lapses and unintended consequences that detract from accurate play calling.

MHSAA-Approved officials' positioning during free throws



MHSAA Basketball Officials Manual

LEAD: "...approximately a step off the boundary line and a step outside the tableside lane line extended." (pp. 72, 79)

CENTER (2-Person TRAIL): "a step above the free throw line extended and halfway between the free throw lane and the sideline..." (pp. 74, 81)

3-Person TRAIL: "...28 feet from the end line, half way between the nearest lane line extended and the sideline..." (p. 83)

3-Person TRAIL (Alternative): "...back toward the division line on any free throw that does not have the possibility for rebounding action." (MHSAA-Approved Revision)

Rule Review:

Which causes the ball to become dead so that a score cannot count? (answers in **BOLD**)

A. A team control foul by A2 prior to release of scoring attempt by A1 (6-7-4).

B. A "blarge", where one official calls a blocking foul on B1 for initiating illegal contact on A1 at the same time that another official calls a player control foul on A1 for crashing into B1 (4.19.8C).

C. A4 commits a pushing foul against B4 while A5's scoring attempt is in the air on the way to the basket (6-7 EXCEPTION a).

D. A player control foul by A2 prior to releasing a scoring attempt. (6-7-4)