



2021-22 Basketball Memo – December 20, 2021

December 21, 2021 Memo #3

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We are off to a strong start. Many good things we are doing across our entire state. Let's build on this strong base.

Observation staff: To make a difference, be specific with the 2 or 3 priorities that you would like to see for improvement. The same way when suggesting praise, 2 to 3 area, but be specific. Be real and honest with feedback. Make sure we are entering all observation comments in our new online forms in a timely manner. Our officials deserve and appreciate the timeliness.

Officials: Be open and receptive to the insight offered and work to improve your game on the areas being suggested. If you have any questions or need further clarity, please reach out directly to me. Our goals are clarity and consistency across our entire state. Continued progress, not perfection is what is expected.

As we enter the Holiday break and many games scheduled, let's remain diligent in our work to improve, especially as we prepare for the January grind and heat of conference schedules. Remember all games are important to our student athletes, coaches, and communities. Our best effort always is the minimum expectation.

FOCUS AREAS AND OBSERVATIONS

Our depth as the C and T: Where we will continue to miss calls or incorrectly make calls can be attributed to being too deep (away from the baseline) as the C and T. Working tighter gives us the advantage of seeing between players and not being caught looking at their backs. T should work tighter than the 28" mark and C's home position is along the sideline and straddling the FT line extended. Don't get too deep. Always step/close down on the shot. This will put us in better position to get the look we need to see between players.

Active as the L: Look for reason and/or situations to "go" as the L. When we hesitate, it often becomes too late. This puts our C in a position where they now must officiate two spots/matchups on the floor – the ball, (likely in the wing area) and the play in the post area. Work to go early and often as a L. From the proper closed down position, it is a quick three steps across the lane for a better positioning.

NHFS Signals: Our signals tell the story. This is how we communicate with all in the entire arena. Crisp proper signals are a must. Inconsistent, sloppy, lazy signals will always erode our credibility as an official and for the entire crew. Focus on stopping the clock correctly, reporting from reporting area, and matching preliminary and reporting signals with the action/foul called on the floor. Example: don't call an illegal use of hand (hit/hack) with a preliminary signal and then report it as a push. Remember, once we put air in our whistles we must become great communicators.



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Crew Commination: Officials huddling should be the exception rather than the rule, but when the situation warrants, it is critical to get together as a crew. A few examples for a quick huddle that are appropriate: clock/timing situations, getting the correct number reported, and of course during timeouts in a tight game simply to review situations such as last shot coverage, number of remaining time outs, etc. In these situations, we must often turn chaos in to calm. Slow your mind down, don't talk over one another in these huddles, stick to the facts, no "I think" statements. The only purpose is to get it right.

Bench or Behavioral Warnings – Rule 4-48, Warning for misconduct: This is a formal warning and is one of our "tools in our tool belt". Use this tool where appropriate and when necessary. The head coach/bench shall only receive one warning for unsporting behavior. All other unsporting behaviors should be ruled as such and a technical foul executed. When using the Bench/Behavioral warning make sure the entire arena knows you have issued one. Clear yourself, be in plain sight of the table and state clearly to the table personnel and your partners that you are issuing a bench/behavioral warning. Make sure the game time is marked in the book and promptly resume play. These warnings are not a debate. Be matter of fact and move to resume play.

OFFICIATING RESOURCES LINK

As we are into the 2021-22 SDHSAA girls' and boys' basketball season please refer to the link below where you will find many officiating resources available. By posting documents and other resources we will have a single site to house and locate materials. If you have any materials you feel valuable and worthy of sharing in these memos or on our website please forward to Jo Auch, Marsha Karst or me for review and publication.

NEW POSTINGS:

1. The presentation given by Francine Martin, Assistant Executive Director, Kansas High School Activities Association (KHSAA) where amongst her responsibilities are Boys and Girls Basketball, and Supervisor of officials. This is an excellent presentation! Thank you, Francine!
2. A link to the recording of the Black Hills Region meeting held in conjunction with the Lakota Nations Invitational (LNI) has also been posted. This is well worth the watch as Francine Martin did an excellent job presenting. Thank you, Black Hills Sports Officials Association, for a great Region Meeting event and for sharing as we all will benefit. (link listed below)

Resource Link: <https://www.sdhsaa.com/activity/basketball-officials/>

Francine Martin's Presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0oquwQaVQ8&t=121s>

REMINDER RESOURCE: A BETTER OFFICIAL – YOUTUBE LINK

Below is a link for relevant, updated teaching, instructional video and narrative solely focused on NFHS rules and mechanics. Please make it part of your growth and development. I/we have used the tool at various Region Meetings and found the content very beneficial and great for discussion.

A Better Official: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLI4T_SHvEVdekqAKvW-rxQ

Wishing you the happiest Holidays
See you on a court soon