

11.5.18

Teamworks Message to Officials

This is J.D. Collins, the NCAA National Coordinator of Men's Basketball Officiating.

The 2018-19 season starts today, November 6th!

You have been working scrimmages, controlled scrimmages and exhibition games.

We have spent the months of September and October talking about the new rule changes/interpretations and the directive to reduce physicality to create freedom of movement.

You have proven that you are capable of enforcing these directives, don't back down!

As a reminder, the directive is to reduce physicality in order to create freedom of movement in the following 6 areas:

Hand checking/body bumping the ball handler – rule 10.1.4

Freedom of movement for players without the ball – or cutters

Screening – make sure all screens are legal

Offense initiated contact on legal defenders – do not reward the offense when the defender is legal

Physical post play – call the first displacement whether on the offense or the defense

Rebounding – call displacement fouls

Additional attention should be given to traveling, the elimination of the hook and hold play, screen and roll plays and the consistent enforcement of bench decorum, the coaching box and unsporting conduct rules.

Work hard at being approachable and do your part to bring the optics of sportsmanship and bench decorum back into balance.

Work hard as a crew to:

- Assist on plays involving the restricted area;

- Assist on plays that may involve loose ball fouls;

- Assist on plays that may involve the hook and hold;

Use proper mechanics, positioning and signals – including stopping the clock on all fouls and violations!

Be mobile, close down on all shots and find the best angles possible on each play

Stick to your guns regarding cylinder plays. If we call the first foul when a defender invades the vertical cylinder of the offensive player and makes contact, the defense will back off and allow the offensive player to have freedom of movement. Remember, a normal basketball play includes shooting, passing, starting a dribble or pivoting.

Take seriously the Rules Committee's desire to eliminate the hook and hold from our game. If you will call it in November, the players will stop doing it and you won't be bothered by it the rest of the season.

Focus hard on screening plays. Often this requires dual coverage by the crew. Officials must determine if the offensive player is a screener or a cutter in order to adjudicate these plays correctly.

More than ever before, you have the support of the National Coordinator, your coordinators of officials and all of the stakeholders of the game.

We have continued our efforts to educate and inform the media and fans about the upcoming changes & prepare them for the results of the changes.

It is GAME TIME! It is time to be disciplined with the whistle, change some paradigms and change some habits. It is our responsibility to do our part to reduce physicality in order to create freedom of movement for the game we all love.

I am confident that we can accomplish this together and that you are up to the challenge!

Best of luck – Have a great season!