



IAABO

Inside the Lines

IAABO Official Wins Over \$1 Million Dollars on Game Show

Congratulations to Kirk Spangler, Bd. 50, Southwestern New York, who recently won over \$1 Million Dollars on the game show, "The Wall". Click [here](#) to view the entire episode of the show.

IAABO Spring Meeting on Ocean City, MD



The IAABO Spring Meeting will take place in beautiful Ocean City, Maryland. Reservations are now open for the Holiday Inn in Ocean City, MD April 19-22, 2018, by calling 410-524-

1600 (ask for the IAABO rate ---Rates are \$99 for Wed, and Thursday, \$149 Friday and Saturday). Meeting highlights include the Life Membership Luncheon, committee meetings, elections, an awards program and the annual golf outing. Click [here](#) to register for the upcoming spring meeting



Click [here](#) to view the IAABO Play of the Week No. 15. At the end of the video, you will need to click on the link shown below to access the survey question. In addition, all IAABO Plays of the Week are archived at www.iaabo.org.

Click [here](#) to answer a survey to ensure that you have an accurate ruling. Once you submit your answer, you will receive a response with IAABO's point of view on this play



The results from IAABO Play of the Week No.14 are shown below.

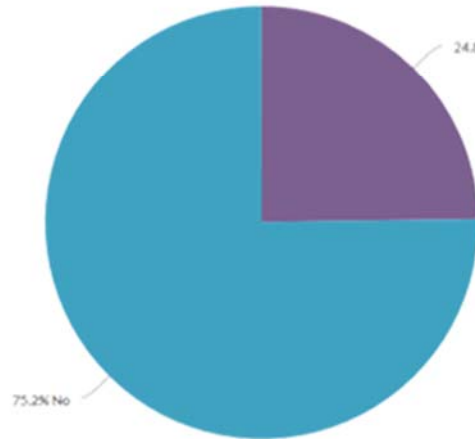
1. Is the contact by White 44 legal?

29.2% not a legitimate attempt to play the ball and/or player, specifically designed to stop the clock.



70.8% a legitimate play on the ball and/or player

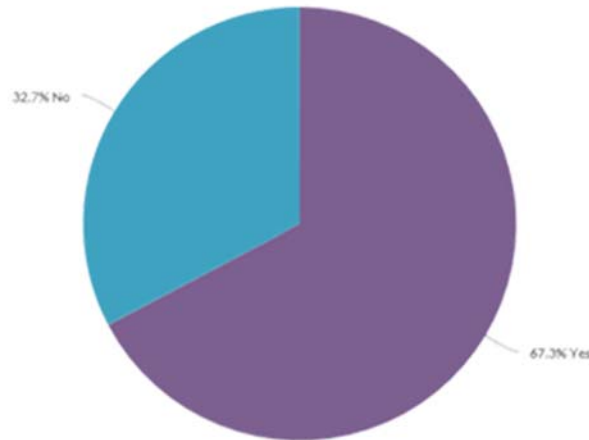
2. Was the contact made by White 44 excessive?



24.8% Yes

75.2% No

3. Is the official in proper position to officiate the backcourt pressure on the play?



67.3% Yes

32.7% No

Congratulations

The winner of this week's prize is John Rooney, Bd. 30 MA. John will receive a prize in the mail from IAABO, Inc. A special thanks to everyone who participated.

FIBA Officials

Click [here](#) to view the most recent release on the FIBA Travel Rule that was changed during the past season.

Closely Guarded

“Closely guarded” is a basic and essential aspect of officiating basketball that runs the gamut from being properly applied and ruled on to being totally ignored. Different codes have different rules regarding closely guarded, so it is important to understand the differences between NFHS and NCAA.

Here are the basics on closely guarded, as they apply to areas utilizing NFHS rules (4-10):

- Can only occur in the front court
- Defender must be within six feet, measured “front foot of the defender to front foot of the dribbler”
- Defender(s) may switch, as long as the defensive coverage is continuous
- The closely guarded count will terminate when the offensive player gets his/her head and shoulders past the defensive player.

Seems pretty simple and should be easy to do, but for some reason many officials seem reluctant to enforce this rule properly. Let’s look at a routine play and see how the rule should be applied and some visuals to help officials adjudicate this rule properly.

A1 receives the throw-in in his/her backcourt and begins to dribble toward the division line while being “pressed” by B1. Is the 5-second closely guarded count in effect? No. The closely guarded rule -applies only in the front court. The only count taking place with a team in control of the ball in the backcourt is the 10-second backcourt count. In this situation, B1 could be within six feet of A1 for the entire time in the backcourt (up to nine seconds) and there would NOT be a 5-second closely guarded violation.

A1 now crosses over the division line, still being pressed by B1. Does the closely guarded count begin? Yes. Now that the dribbler is in the front court (both feet and the ball), the closely guarded rule applies. Here is where many officials do an injustice to the rule AND to the defensive team. Six feet is BIG! Some officials would do well to revisit, mentally, their elementary math class lessons on estimation, because that’s what we are charged to do, estimate when the defender’s front foot is within six feet of the dribbler’s front foot. Since that is difficult to do, the basketball court gives us three distinct areas to help us visualize what six feet looks like on the court and thus we can apply to players in those areas on the court and help us create an image of six feet in our brains.

As the player crosses the division line, that is the first visual. The distance from the division line to the outside of the center circle i.e. the radius of the circle, is exactly six feet. As the player continues dribbling in the front court and moves toward the lane area, the court provides two more visuals. The distance from the free throw line to the semi-circle aka the “top of the key” is six feet AND the distance between and two lane spaces is six feet (each lane space is 36” wide). Officials can use these references to help them estimate whether a defender is closely guarding a dribbler, or not-.

To count or not to count...that also appears to be a question. Many times officials are slow to recognize, or poorly estimate, the six foot distance and thus require a defender to play defense for six, seven, eight or more seconds OR get within three to four feet before the count is applied. In codes that use a shot clock, typically there is no count if a player is dribbling while being closely guarded because the shot clock is going to force the player/team to give up the ball. However, in areas that utilize NFHS rules, the failure of the official to accurately judge six feet and immediately begin the 5-second count creates an enormous advantage for the offense in two ways: 1) it makes the defense work that much harder, that much longer than the rules -require and 2) IF a defender must get within three or four feet before the count is implemented, it is much easier for the offensive player to “beat” the defender.

A nuance of the rules, if you will, is that it is possible to be in a closely guarded situation for up to 12-seconds in the front court without a violation being called. How is that possible? The closely guarded count will terminate when the “status” of the ball changes i.e. “holding, dribbling and holding” are three separate situations.. A player, closely guarded, can hold the ball for up to 4-seconds and then begin a dribble (5-seconds would be a violation). When s/he starts a dribble, a new closely guarded count begins, and assuming they stop dribbling at 4-seconds (before a 5-second violation), they have now been closely guarded for 8-seconds. The player could now legally hold the ball for an additional 4-seconds without a violation ever occurring.

The IAABO Mechanics Manual, both Crew of Two and Crew of Three require the counting official to change arms when the status of the ball changes to indicate the change in counts and to help eliminate the less than knowledgeable fans/coaches from screaming “seven, eight, nine!”

Almost all of this counting takes place in the Trail’s PCA (primary coverage area) and thus, a Trail official who is giving both teams fair treatment and accurately applying the rules, will be quite busy as the ball is passed between teammates, players are holding and then dribbling the ball and many times defenders are within SIX feet of the dribbler. Many teams employ man-to-man/person-to-person defense and officials owe it to those teams and those defenders to

recognize six feet and accurately apply a count when appropriate. The court markings and the officials' attention to detail will make this an easier rule to apply.

Bonus Rules Questions

Question: If defender A1 obtains a legal guarding position and begins falling prior to ball handler B1 making contact with A1, would this fall under rule 10.3.6 f and have A1 penalized for "flopping?"

Answer: If a defender who has obtained legal guarding position falls backward, it does not necessarily mean they have violated a rule. If contact occurs on the defenders torso a player control foul is still possible, as is incidental contact.

There mere fact that a defender falls backward would not justify ruling a blocking foul. A blocking foul would only occur if the defender impeded the offensive player in some manner. (4-7-1)

If the covering official feels that the defender was being deceitful (acting as if fouled), a technical foul would be warranted. (10-4.6f)

Question: If a player has blood on the uniform and it cannot be cleaned can the team elect to: give him the jersey of a rostered player and accept the administrative technical penalty? Give him a spare jersey they have brought to the game and change his number without penalty?

Answer:

BLEEDING PLAYER

3.3.7 SITUATION A: B1 is directed to leave the game because of excessive blood on his/her uniform jersey. Team B does not have any extra jerseys. (a) The coach asks one of the substitutes to give his/her jersey to B1; or (b) Team A is able to find a jersey which B1 can wear although it is not exactly the same color or style of the Team B jersey. The jersey will, however, clearly identify B1 as a member of Team B and will not be confusing to either team or the officials. **RULING:** Acceptable procedure in both (a) and (b). In both situations the scorer will make necessary changes in the scorebook without penalty. **COMMENT:** The spirit and intent of the rule is to do everything possible to allow the player to use a different jersey and return without penalty. However, identical numbers shall not be allowed on the same team.

IAABO Foundation Raffle Underway (Cash Option Available)



Help support the IAABO Charitable & Education Foundation by purchasing a raffle ticket to win this beautiful 2018 Nissan Rogue. Tickets are \$100.00 and can be purchased at the upcoming Fall Seminar in Delaware. Tickets can also be purchased by contacting IAABO Past President and Foundation Trustee Peter Carroll, who is the Raffle Chairperson, directly at: commishbd@aol.com

You can also purchase a ticket by contacting any other IAABO Foundation trustee or IAABO Inc. Executive Committee member. Note: A maximum of 1,000 tickets can be sold. The drawing date for the car will be April 28, 2018. The winner may elect the cash option.



Thanks to everyone who participated in the annual Officials vs. Cancer campaign that was held during the past week. Donations are still being accepted. To make a donation, please send your check or money order to your board Point of Contact or mail it directly to: Officials vs. Cancer, P.O. Box 355, Carlisle, PA 17013.

To make a donation online, click on the following

URL: www.main.acsevents.org/officialsvscancer

Officials vs. Cancer apparel items are available at: <https://iaabogear.com/collections/officials-vs-cancer>



WWW.IAABO-GEAR.COM



Game Tracker Journal

You have likely heard the saying, *"a goal without a plan is just a wish,"* and this age-old adage rings so true for all people pursuing all types of endeavors.



And for basketball officials embarking on the 2017-2018 season absent a basic strategy on how to achieve a stated desire -- a better schedule; advancement to the next level -- you are in a rudderless boat on an open sea hoping the winds of fate blow you to your destination.

Seeking officiating success described in this manner seems laughable, but yet many officials take this approach with their beloved avocation.

But Ref, don't panic now...Help is on the way in the form of the new, and first of its kind, **GameTracker Journal**.

This latest publication from long time IAABO members Billy Martin, Tim Malloy and Al Battista, the creators of Ref60.com, is an innovative tool that provides a template for every basketball official, at every level, to create your own realistic roadmap helping to guide you to your desired destination - one game at a time.

For more information on this **GameTracker Journal** tool visit www.Ref60.com/gametracker.

Special Deals for IAABO Basketball Officials

Briggs and Riley Luggage

Briggs and Riley Luggage - Officials will receive a 60% discount on any product. Officials must use the form which can be obtained by clicking [here](#) - There is a lifetime guaranteed on the luggage.

ASICS

Asics - IAABO Officials (U.S. ONLY) will receive a 40% discount on all Asics products - **EXCLUDING CLEARANCE**. Log into www.asics.com and place an order. (It is recommended that you create an account if you plan to order more than once. Upon checkout, they should enter the following promotion code- DayofgameE



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