

Good morning! Hope you have survived scrimmage season and are looking forward to Friday! With that in mind, take tonight and tomorrow night to make sure that your significant other and your family know that you appreciate them and that you are thankful that they support you in this avocation we have.

Today's tip.....dead ball efficiency. In my neck of the woods this past season, sportsmanship was about rock bottom. With what we see on TV from players in the NFL committing taunting penalties and celebrating like it is nothing, disrespecting officials by acts such as throwing penalty flags into the stands or back at officials, NBA players getting penalized almost nightly for disrespect of officials and taunting, I do not expect it to get better. As is commonly said (but not always practiced), '*all we can control is ourselves.*' With this in mind, we need to be in TOTAL control during dead balls. THIS is when WE need to be on high alert. Dead ball time is not the time for us to take a break.....we must be actively observing during dead balls.

We obviously know when there are dead balls that deserve special attention.....we just had a hard foul and a player or players are on the floor.....the game is a rivalry game (in which EVERY dead ball is high importance). Take a look at the clip [here](#) to see what the officials do when a dead ball play *may* escalate.

What did you see? There was a foul on the drive to the basket and the offensive player goes to the floor after being fouled (two defenders were there at the point of contact). The calling official starts to make his way to the table when 2 teammates of the fouled player go to help him up and one of the defenders gets caught up in this action. The other two officials *immediately* make their way to the action where this is occurring and are talking to the players and getting between them. They do an EXCELLENT job of heading off what might have become ugly. If you really look hard, the calling official is still at his reporting box waiting until the players clear each other to report the foul. He correctly waited since there is a good chance that the table personnel are not paying attention to him anyway. In a two-person game, we would most likely want BOTH officials to go to the extra-curricular action to make sure nothing else happens. There is no problem with doing this in a three-person game either. We just need to slow down, be calm and report the foul after everything has cleared.

Remember, preventive maintenance is way easier to accept and explain than to have the situation escalate.

Have a great day today and remember.....we need to thank our families for allowing us to officiate these next few months.

Tim