

Good morning!

Amazing that this is the only full week of hoops until January! It feels GREAT to be back to a somewhat normal schedule! My chapter is lucky that a 2021 graduate who was an athlete passed the test and is now officiating his first game tonight (he must put up with ME as his partner!) and a friend of his who also played basketball is taking his test the next few days! TWO YOUNG new officials is AWESOME.....and in all seriousness is the shot in the arm we need and could be the future of our chapter along with a couple other 'youngsters'. As an official, my Christmas wish is for another one or two officials to pass the test and join us!

So freedom of movement has been a focus this past week.....and let's keep that theme but talk about consistency.....consistency in the gam within the crew. We all know that the way we call a game *can* be different from one night to the next, but we certainly do not want that either. Most importantly, we want both (or all three) crew members on the same page within the game with play calling. The worst that can happen is if one official is calling every hand check and another calls nothing. The players and coaches have no idea what to expect. These ([clip one](#) [clip two](#)) are two plays from the same game (scrimmage). Consistency, and hence credibility, are achieved. The players and coaches *know* what is being called and should adjust to that. *Inconsistency* leads to unknowns and players do not know what is going to be whistled. This is something that needs talked about in the pregame conference.....'Let's make sure to get hand checks from the opening toss.....all of us.....we do not want to officiate have that all game long'.

I hope these clips generate discussion among you and your friends, partners and maybe even at meetings. I know there are disagreements and differing views on plays but that is a good thing! The most heated discussions I have seen are among best friends in a locker room (I MAY or may NOT have been part of them)!!! As an educator, I love when my students TALK about math.....and also love when officials are talking about plays. Talking leads to learning and improving! Thanks for the feedback I have received and remember, clips are welcome.....

Have a great game tonight!

Tim