

Good morning!

Hope everyone had a great game last evening!

Today's clip deals with a back court violation off the opening tip. Take a look [here](#).

Anyone ever have an opening tip in a middle school game where the players are obviously confused about what direction THEY are going and we have a back court violation right off the bat? How many times are WE confused then about which direction we are to be going??!! This clip serves a different purpose today than the back court violation.

Any time we have a directional situation, we need to make sur that we are going the CORRECT direction! This is funny if we are WATCHING a game but VERY embarrassing if we are WORKING a game and go the wrong way. There are a few cases when we are more prone to going the wrong way.....

- 1) Make sure the jumpers/players are facing the correct direction for the opening jump ball
- 2) Make sure the jumpers/players are facing the correct direction for any OT period (same as the fourth quarter)
- 3) When we have a back court violation right off the opening jump ball, MAKE SURE we administer in the correct direction
- 4) When we have a technical/intentional foul, make sure we go to the correct basket to shoot the free throws.
- 5) Coming out of a timeout

If you have not been in any of the situations above, you are either fibbing a little ☺ or haven't officiated long enough!

Making sure we are going in the right direction or shooting free throws at the correct basket is 100% being focused and is a CREW responsibility. If you as a non-administering official are unsure of the direction, SLOW DOWN by blowing the whistle and going to the administering official and discuss it.....usually able to think about it on the way to talk to him/her. Better to be right than embarrassed and go the wrong way!

Some games we have the next couple weeks will be between two GOOD teams.....really easy to stay focused because we have had this game circled on the calendar for weeks! Many of our games will be between one pretty good team and one not so good team and focus can be an issue. Some of our games will be between two lesser teams that aren't having great seasons but may be evenly matched and focus can be an issue since there is a 'better' game 25 miles away. No matter what game we have tonight, tomorrow, Friday or any day the rest of the season, one thing every one of us can control is how focused we are. Make sure to stay focused and as was mentioned in the most recent PIAA Basketball Bulletin, self-talk is a good tool we can use.....remind yourself AND your partners to stay focused!

Wednesday Extra: If you have a delay of game warning (player tips the ball after scoring a goal before going back on defense, water on the floor after a TO that needs time to clean up, etc), blow the whistle and go to the table and say "Delay of game on white for hitting the ball after a goal at 5:35 of the second period, please write it at the bottom of the page." Next go to the head coach and tell him/her it is a delay of game warning. No need to say anything else, get away and resume play. Sometimes the head coach will ask what happens if they do it again, then answer that it would be a technical foul (team technical and not an indirect so the head coach does not lose the use of the coaching box).

Have great game tonight!

Tim