

Good morning!

Today's tip may seem trivial or not have much substance, but it takes time as a new official to 'get it'. The ball...when it rolls away from us, LET IT GO. When we have a TO, one of the crew should HOLD it.

Thanks to Jeff Lane for the clip of a TO where the officials let a kid use the ball and it disappeared...humorous but serious. Take a look [here](#).

When the ball rolls away from us, LET IT GO....why? If we chase the ball, now we have one less set of eyes on the players. In addition, that players want to play, one of them will go get the ball. We all can think immediately of a team or teams who ALWAYS go get the ball then hand it to us. LOVE those teams! We also know teams or players who drop the ball or put the ball on the floor when a call goes against them. We cannot play without the ball, the kids want to play, and we should *not* chase the ball.

When we have a TO, one member of the crew should always be holding the ball. Even if that official needs to go talk to a partner, keep the ball with you. Setting it on the floor can result in it disappearing....that is not fun!

So, try to use 'ball etiquette' when it rolls away or during TO's!

Friday Extra: Who do you look at when reporting a foul at the table? Who SHOULD you look at when reporting a foul at the table? Well...I think we all know we are supposed to look at the official scorer...the scorer with the striped shirt on. As a scorekeeper for my better half's games, I know that does not happen. For her home games, I would bet that 25% of the time, the official looks at the *timer!* The only time we should look at the timer is to start the timing for a timeout or to ask for a horn for a disqualified player. Make sure to make eye contact with the official scorer!

Friday Bonus: As we are now 4 weeks from the end of the season, have you worked on your preseason goals? Have you improved? Have you read Marty's 'Weekly Reminders'? Have you read case plays and the rules book?

Have a great game tonight, safe travels on this snowy day in some parts of the state and have a great weekend!

Tim