

to make necessary adjustments to compensate.

- Learn how to select and react to the behaviour of particular key players.
- Anticipate the play by reading and understanding the game. Judicious anticipation allows the official to move into the most advantageous position
- Officials should know the crucial stages of a game that fatigue or lapses in concentration can effect their performance. This awareness may result in more focus and harder work to get the best position.
- Use all the cunning and experience from countless games to get to the correct position with a minimum of fuss. Cut corners if necessary.
- When running up court, try not to back pedal as it often is too slow and can be dangerous.
- Run with your torso turned slightly so you can see the action.
- Never run with your head down, you must always be watching the play.
- Proper spacing is crucial for making judgement decisions. Spacing is the distance between the official and the play. If you are too close or too far you cannot see the play clearly, your view can be distorted.

Conclusion:

Despite the best intentions and preparation, even experienced officials find themselves drawn to the wrong spots on the court sometimes. If an official is out of position to make a call, he or she has two choices. One is to make the best long distance call or the other is to rely on your partner. Either way sell the call as best you can.

And remember, as with real estate it is easier to sell if you have great Position, Position, Position.

WHAT'S YOUR CALL?

Blue 4 attempts a final free throw. In an attempt to gain possession from the anticipated rebound Blue 4 clearly steps into the free throw lane before the ball hits the ring. However, prior to the ball being released by Blue 4, Red 6 and Blue 6 illegally enter the free throw lane together,

The referee should,

- a) Call the violation by the free throw shooter Blue 4. Ignore the other violations by Blue 6 and Red 6 and award the ball to Red team from the sideline at the free throw line extended.
- b) Ignore all the violations and allow play to continue from the free throw.
- c) Call the violations on Red 6 and Blue 6. Ignore the violation by the shooter Blue 4. Resume play with a jump ball between any two opponents.

Answer: A is correct (Article 43.3.1)



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How to be in the Right Position to Make the Correct Call:



For more information visit www.basketball.net.au

Location, Location, Location:

You may have associated these words when considering buying or selling real estate. In fact these words have equal significance for a Basketball Official.

To get the best possible result you need to be in the best possible position.

The mechanics of officiating is a system intended to help obtain the best possible position, enabling decisions concerning infractions of the rules to be made correctly. Ninety percent of the perceived referee errors occur because of poor position. How can we achieve the best position to observe the play?

Basketball Manual:

The FIBA publication of the Referee Manual for two person officiating aims to provide an insight into modern mechanics and officiating techniques, in an endeavour to obtain uniformity and consistency. Referee Mechanics are the technical aspects of officiating, the basic fundamentals that referees need to learn and develop. One major aspect of officiating mechanics is court coverage or positioning.

Contrary to a number of beliefs there are no magic spots a referee must get to on a court. However, there are some basic principles that one can follow, that have been proven to be the most beneficial over the years. These positions for two person officiating are diagrammatically explained in the manual. The correct positioning of the two officials while the game is in motion, is a vital element in the ability of the referees to make the foul and violation judgement decisions. Positioning to gain the best vantage point to see the game is undoubtedly the most important of all the mechanics for a referee to learn.

In theory, the referees are expected to be in the best possible positions to allow the game to progress naturally and to take the necessary action in judging the various infractions and violations of the rules when they occur. Under the two person system, close cooperation between officials is vital to provide the best possible coverage of the play. The mechanics of coverage help both officials to know where their primary vision areas of responsibility are while at the same time giving them assurance as to where their partner will be looking. This dividing of play into areas of responsibility is not to be taken as a rigid guideline as to which referee is allowed to make calls where; for both referees have the duty and the right to make decisions anywhere on the court when they think it is necessary. Rather the areas of responsibility are to assure that all aspects of play are being watched and policed. Spectators tend to watch the ball, good officials have to see both the movement of the ball and the actions of other players.

Helpful Hints to Get the Right Position:

- Basketball officiating is always about angles.
- Officials should be striving to get a good angle on the play. Once this good angle is achieved, stop and take a look at the action, don't leave it.
- When the players move, the referee must move as now the good angle has gone.
- Moving, does not necessarily mean running. Moving is stepping rapidly, moving one step to the right or to the left, finding the angle.
- Do not confuse moving, as just moving the head or shoulders. This will promote

leaning, which is not an acceptable way to make judgements.

- It is essential that both officials stay on their toes and keep moving constantly to avoid getting straight lined (ie. viewing angles blocked by bodies of players, being in a straight line with the players)
- The aim is to look for the gaps, look between the players.
- Move with authority, but move under control and with your eyes on your primary area of responsibility. eg. if moving along the baseline in the lead position, keep your head and shoulders turned towards the players in the key, as they are in your primary area.
- Hustle to get on top of things and to reach the right place at the right time.
- Try to be stationery when making a decision, as often judgements can be distorted when an official is still moving.
- Try to observe the whole play from the beginning to the end by getting the correct position right from the start.
- To be in the best spot to make correct calls referees need to identify what teams are trying to do and how they are trying to play.

Look for specific keys that may require adjustments to your court positioning.

- Know how a fast breaking team operates, how teams attack a zone press and a half court trap.
 - Establish if the ball carriers can control the ball on one or both sides of their body. If they are only one sided they will be forced to one side of the court, thus requiring an adjustment from the trail official.
 - After some frustrations and reactions from players you may have to adjust your position to get closer to the action to provide a calming presence,
 - After a time out or a key substitution, teams will usually change their style of play. eg. from a zone defence to a man to man, from a structured offence to a motion offence, etc. This requires a change of positioning of the referees to cover the plays.
 - After a substitution teams may be forced to change their philosophy of play. eg. when a three point specialist subs in, a team are usually looking to shoot from outside. Referees now may need to adjust their court coverage to make sure they are protecting the outside shot, and are aware of the three point line.
 - State of the game. The time remaining. The point differential. All require the referees to adjust their court coverage. eg. a team may need to score quickly so they will look to shoot early in the offence, both in transition and from outside.
- Try to anticipate what strategies a coach will employ from the outset, to play a particular opposition.
 - In the pre game discussion with your fellow referee establish from previous experiences, if there is any advice for court positioning while officiating these teams.
 - In the pre game discussion establish if your partner has any different positioning techniques that you may need to accommodate.
 - Always be alert to help your partner if they are caught out of position, be willing