

Strategic Development Committee Charts NASO Course

The most successful associations not only look at what they are doing for their membership in the present, but also try to look forward and chart a course for future growth and development of the group.

NASO is no different, and to that end, it reconvened the Strategic Development Committee (SDC) to examine the association's current status and future goals.

The committee (see sidebar) includes NASO board members, experts from other industries who have a tie to officiating and a member of the NASO staff. They met for the first time in person in October in Racine, Wis., one day in advance of the NASO board meeting (see "Ambitious NASO Board Promotes Growth" below).

"The first thing that was extremely helpful when this group was constituted, we looked to populate it with three different groups of people," said Patty Viverito, the commissioner of the Missouri Valley Football Conference and a current NASO board member, who serves as the SDC chair. "We had some past board members and people who were

on the first SDC to make sure we didn't lose sight of where we've been while we were trying to get where we're trying to go.

"Then, we included a group of people who are more the present. They are current board members and people who have a great look at what's going on now within NASO and our industry. Then we looked at what the missing piece was, and we decided that was technology, so we added someone who could solve that. We populated the group with people who no matter which direction we decided to go, we would have a view of the past and a view of the future with the tech expertise that we would need to get there."

Over the past year, the committee has conducted surveys of *Referee* subscribers, NASO members and also two focus groups of attendees at the NASO Summit in Minneapolis.

"When we started this process, we decided we wanted our decisions to be data driven," Viverito said. "The results from the surveys and focus groups, particularly the focus groups, made me realize that we couldn't go

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SDC MEMBERS

- **Patty Viverito**, chair, commissioner of Missouri Valley Football Conference, current NASO board member
- **Bill Carollo**, coordinator of officials for the Midwest Football Officials Alliance, former NFL referee, current NASO board treasurer
- **Ronnie Carter**, retired executive director, Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, former NASO board member
- **Dave Dodge**, retired college basketball official, president and CEO of Palmetto Hospital Trust, former NASO board member
- **Ron Foxcroft**, chairman and founder, Fox 40 International, former college and international men's basketball official, current NASO board special adviser
- **Jamie Hoefgen**, high school football official, vice president for information technology of DCI Marketing
- **Bill Kennedy**, NBA referee, current NASO board member
- **Barry Mano**, NASO founder and president
- **Kathy Strahm**, former national coordinator for NCAA softball umpires, current NASO board member

Ambitious NASO Board Promotes Growth

Thanks to a combination of outreach and support by many associations and individual sports officials, NASO experienced a steady growth in 2010, which has the association's board of directors feeling as good as ever about NASO's future.

That excitement was certainly in

the air when the NASO board of directors met on Oct. 14 in Racine, Wis. The Strategic Development Committee (SDC) met a day earlier, then presented the board with initiatives and goals that it feels NASO can accomplish in 2011 and beyond (see "Strategic Development

Committee Charts NASO Course" above). The board also addressed a number of agenda items, including the 2011 budget and group memberships.

Most encouraging is the fact that NASO is prepared and dedicated to
See "Board" p. N5

Who's Responsible for What?

Do you subscribe to the philosophy that “the buck stops here”? Or do you “pass the buck” as quickly as you can? Are you a team player when it comes to questions or do you let your fellow officials and coworkers deal with the scrutiny on their own?

Bill Carollo, Midwest Football Officials Alliance coordinator and former NFL referee, delved into what is meant by shared responsibility in his address to kick off the 2010 Sports Officiating Summit sessions. In his speech, “Who’s Responsible for What?” Carollo highlighted good and bad examples in case studies, which focused on accepting responsibility. He asked officials and officiating leaders to determine what category they fall into.

Carollo shared headline-making examples of individuals who faced crisis and were forced to respond:

- Mark McGwire, former star of the St. Louis Cardinals, faced steroid allegations.
- Alan Greenspan, an economist who served as chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve from 1987-2006, was confronted by the financial crisis.
- Tony Hayward, former CEO of British Petroleum, faced the recent oil crisis in the Gulf.
- NFL referee Ed Hochuli’s blown call during a September 2008 San Diego Chargers-Denver Broncos game garnered extreme media attention.
- MLB umpire Jim Joyce made an incorrect call at first base that cost Detroit Tigers’ pitcher Armando Galarraga a perfect game.

Some of those individuals responded better than others. Carollo asked Summit attendees how they would handle those situations. How would you handle them?

Responsibility before consequences. Officials and officiating leaders have to step up to make tough decisions in real-time. Regardless of the decisions you make, you should be ready to shoulder the responsibility for them. Take responsibility, even before you find out what might result.

“We talk about the last play of the game, bring it to my side of the field, I want DPI, pass interference, the last play of the game,” Carollo said. “Have some guts. That’s how we learn.”

Administrators and state leaders embrace the responsibility of assigning and training officials. The decisions they make help shape how games are managed by officials.

“Responsibility is easy to talk about and act when something happens, when you’re forced to take on the challenge and make a decision what to do,” Carollo said. “But responsibility is all the time. It isn’t just when we have a problem.”

Put your reputation on the line. Hayward tried to shift blame for the oil crisis. That cost him his reputation and job.

Don’t be the official who says, “Sorry, Coach. Yeah, he might have gotten hit, but it wasn’t my call. It was the side judge’s call, not taking responsibility.” That’s the wrong answer to the coach on the sideline.

“It’s ‘we’ in officiating — it’s we with the team,” Carollo said. “When something happens, you don’t point fingers.”

Many don’t have the guts to put their job, their reputation on the line and make a decision, but officials and officiating leaders have to do it.

Accept responsibility and move forward. Joyce is a perfect example of someone who admitted his mistake and thrived in the aftermath. His reputation preceded him in a good way though. He took on responsibility his whole career. It wasn’t just when disaster hit and he missed the “perfect-game” call.

Hochuli is another good example. Two years ago, he made a high-profile error in the Denver-San Diego game. Carollo said that led to 25,000 e-mails, hate mail, phone calls. Mike Pereira, then-NFL vice president of officiating, helped him through it.

“That’s teamwork,” Carollo said. “That’s shared responsibility. Mike Pereira stepped up. He was the first one that called. ... When I called Ed, he said, ‘Mike was good; he helped me through it.’” Hochuli ended up handling it well. He admitted he made a mistake and moved on.

Shared responsibility. Do you demonstrate shared responsibility in everything you do? Carollo suggests the majority — about 80 percent — shirk responsibility in tough times. They say, “It’s not my call, Coach. It’s the side judge’s call. Not my responsibility.” About 15 percent, once they’re caught and everyone knows they are wrong, admit it later. And then there are the five percent who accept responsibility all of the time. They follow the example of Joyce and Hochuli. They accept responsibility and make the tough decisions.

Follow the minority. You’ll be a

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NASO MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of NASO is to:

- Serve members by providing benefits and services.
- Improve officiating performance through educational programs.
- Advocate opportunities for officials and engage in programs to recruit and retain officials.
- Create alliances with organizations that benefit from healthy officiating programs.
- Enhance the image of officials.

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NASO is for You, the Official



NASO's mission is to serve as a leading source of officiating information, programs and services. NASO is committed to:

- Serve members by providing benefits and services.
 - Improve officiating performance through education programs and training materials.
 - Advocate opportunities for officials and engage in programs to recruit and retain officials.
 - Create alliances with organizations that benefit from healthy officiating programs.
 - Enhance the image of officials.
- Our mission is clear. NASO was established to provide you, the official, with information, programs and services that are a benefit to you. Officiating is no different from any

other avocation or profession when it comes to leadership. We need role models. We need individuals who will step up and lead the way.

Surveys have indicated that the highest percentage of our members are high school officials. Most of us started at that level. We had goals to move up through the officiating ranks to the college and/or professional level. I can remember watching Jerry Markbreit, Jim Tunney, Jerry Seeman, Jim Bain, Dave Dodge, Marcy Weston and Ed Rush, just to name a few, as I started officiating and progressed in my career. I had high hopes and aspirations. Those individuals were role models and leaders who inspired me and others. What they did, I tried to fit into my "package," which included involvement in some way with *Referee* magazine and NASO.

My message in this article is that we need the role models and leaders of today. We need the professional and collegiate officials to be NASO members, not only to set the standard for officiating but to have input and

contribute to something that has merit and is good for all officials. If the leaders come, others will follow as they set their goals and aspirations of someday being in the position that others have attained. Your support of NASO will broaden the information, services and programs NASO can offer to the industry. I applaud the college conference football officiating staffs that have joined en masse — Big Ten, SEC, Missouri Valley and Mid-American. They have demonstrated great support and commitment. There is strength in numbers. We want to continue to grow something that has been beneficial to officials throughout the U.S., Canada and the world.

Encourage the leaders you know to go to our website (www.naso.org) or call 262-632-5448 to become a member of NASO. It is a win-win. We need you for the growth of our organization in expanding the aspects of officiating that will benefit you as a member and all officials. Your personal and professional consideration is appreciated. n

SDC (continued from p. N1)

into this thinking monolithically."

The committee then presented five initiatives to the NASO board, which approved them. The board asked the staff of Referee Enterprises, which manages the day-to-day operations of NASO, to develop plans to implement the changes.

The initiatives were to develop a strategic alliance plan, further develop the NASO-ON program, study branding issues, analyze the goals of the annual NASO Summit and formulate an information technology (IT) strategy to support the goals of the organization.

"We listed IT strategy last for a reason and delved into it last for a reason," Viverito said. "The first four are directives — broad, purposeful directives. The IT strategy is going to be the delivering mechanism for those four if we get it right."

Growing membership was not listed as a specific goal of the SDC, and that was by design, she said.

"Look at those five goals, and it's reasonable to ask, 'Shouldn't membership be a part of any plan?'" Viverito said. "If we do those five and do them right, membership will increase as a result of those other initiatives. Membership is obviously the goal of everything we are doing."

In developing more strategic alliances, the goal is to look at sports organizations from all levels and determine how NASO can work with those groups for a mutual benefit.

For NASO-ON, the SDC wants to find better ways to assist associations in delivering educational materials.

The branding topic deals with how people perceive NASO and how it can do better at getting its message out to members and non-members.

Although the Summit has expanded over the past several years, there are always ways to make the event better, not only for NASO, but for those who attend and support it.

Last, the SDC wants to develop ways to use technology needed for all of NASO's initiatives to be successful.

"We've done a lot of good work, but it was always with the understanding that we wouldn't have a finished product," Viverito said. "We've established the framework, which was endorsed by the board. Now we turn it over to the staff to flush it out and develop it."

"There's a lot of different ways we can move forward with those, and now we are trying to develop the blueprint to do that. We fully expect to have a more structured report built upon these priorities by the next

NASO in the News

NASO is the leading voice for sports officials across the country. Because of that, various media will contact NASO for comments or opinions on matters that affect sports officials throughout the U.S. Here are several recent examples of NASO being in the news:

- “New NFHS Officers, Board Members Elected” appeared on the NFHS website. The story states that the new president-elect (Rick Wulkow) and one of the new board members (Ralph Swearngin) also serve on the NASO board. The article can be found at: www.nfhs.org/content.aspx?id=4080.

- “Unruly Sports Fans Sending Some Officials to the Sideline” appeared in *The New York Times* and online on the publication’s website in late June. The article covers how hard it is to find youth sports officials and to keep experienced ones on the job. It

quotes a number of state association officials, including past NASO board member Henry Zaborniak. However, the article is no longer available on the newspaper’s website without paying a fee.

- “Area Avoiding Shortage of High School Referees” appeared in the *Daily Comet* (Thibodaux, La.) in August. The article deals with how local officials associations have dealt with challenges of keeping members, especially since the area was hit by Hurricane Katrina. The article references a 2001 NASO survey and can be found at: www.dailycomet.com/article/20100823/ARTICLES/100829800/1032?Title=Area-avoiding-shortage-of-high-school-referees

- “Little League to Expand Replay” appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* in August. The article deals with how replay was going to be used in the Little League World Series. NASO

President Barry Mano was quoted in the article, which can be found at: articles.latimes.com/2010/aug/02/sports/la-sp-0803-little-league-20100803

- “Seeking Officiating Perfection in an Imperfect Sports World” appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* in August. The article looked at an ESPN survey that claimed MLB umpires missed nearly 20 percent of close plays. Mano was quoted in the article. It can be found at: www.latimes.com/sports/la-sp-0817-close-calls-20100817,0,3702050.story

- “Fox 40 founder Foxcroft feted” appeared in *The Hamilton (Ontario) Spectator* in October. The article mentioned that Ron Foxcroft was selected as one of the 30 who made a difference in NASO’s 30-year history. The article can be found at: www.thespec.com/sports/local/article/268488—fox-40-founder-foxcroft-feted. n

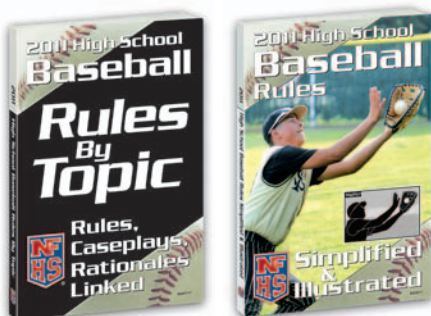
Umpiring Essentials From the NFHS

With the high school bat rule getting a major re-write and five more critical changes, making sure you are up-to-speed is definitely important this year. Studying, though, can be a tedious and daunting task to say the least and let’s face it, not everyone learns as much as they could just from reading the rulebook. NFHS *Rules by Topic* and *Rules Simplified and Illustrated* were created specifically to break down the rules changes and points of emphasis in ways that make it easy to know the rules better than you ever have.

To make study easier, *Rules by Topic* takes the official rules and puts them in logical categories just like you remember them during a game. Definitions and references are linked in each topic and found in one location — making it the perfect tool for rules study and open-book exams.

But let’s say reading the rules

doesn’t work that well for you, or maybe you are just tired of going over them repeatedly and hoping for better retention. *Rules Simplified & Illustrated* uses PlayPic® and MechaniGram® graphics from *Referee* to take the rules and break them down visually, including the most complex. Pairing the rules with simple explanations helps visual learners pick up the rules faster and easier and makes the process much more interesting.



Rule changes include the rewritten bat rule that will help you understand what makes up a legal bat, know which bats are legal for 2011 and which ones are not and will fill you in on the additional changes that are coming for 2012. You’ll also get critical information about new guidelines for handling a player with concussion-like symptoms, new guidelines for braces and padded casts, why substitutes must be on the lineup card, who can legally catch a foul tip and clarification of a common baserunning infraction.

The 2011 NFHS baseball *Rules by Topic* and *Rules Simplified & Illustrated* are available for order now at a price of \$8.95 each. Associations are eligible for discounts. For more information and to place an order, call 262-632-8855 and press 5 at the automated menu. Reference item codes BBSRBT11 and BBSSI11 when ordering. n

NASO Board Member Kennedy Works World Championships



NBA referee and NASO board member Bill Kennedy spent the end of his offseason doing what he does during the year — officiating top-level basketball.

Kennedy, who had worked two prior major international tournaments, officiated the World Basketball Championships that were held in Turkey in August and September.

Working international basketball provided one set of challenges, while going to a foreign country where English is not a primary language presented another.

“The international game is different than in the United States on all levels,” Kennedy said. “First off, the rules are different. The officials have different mechanics, too.

“The philosophy is totally different. They have a more ‘let ‘em play’ ideal as far as contact. What we consider fouls in the U.S., probably 30 percent of them in international play would be marginal or just not worth calling.”

The tournament featured 40 officials from six continents, presenting communication challenges for officials.

“Crew dynamic is the most important thing, maintaining the flow of the game,” Kennedy said. “But the communication is very difficult when

your partners don’t speak English and you don’t speak their language. It’s just one more thing to adapt to.”

Language barriers also presented problems off the court. “Our air conditioning in the hotel was broken and it was hard to get that point across since we didn’t speak the same language,” Kennedy explained.

Kennedy wasn’t eligible to work in the semifinals or championship since the U.S. team was in those games.

“I absolutely enjoy that I’m working the best the world has to offer,” Kennedy said. “Those types of experiences you cannot replace. My goal would be to work the 2012 Olympic Games in London.” n

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significantly growing its membership base of nearly 18,000 members and serving more officials throughout the nation and beyond like never before.

“Our momentum is great,” said Rick Wulkow, chair of the board and executive director of the Iowa High School Athletic Association. “I came out of this meeting with real positive vibes on the direction of NASO. The Summit is growing and has progressed into a fantastic event. That’s really the highlight of our year and it has certainly lived up to that with what has been introduced there and the sponsorships that are coming onboard in support of it. The cross section of groups and alliances that we have been attracting is at a high point in NASO history.”

The board is confident that NASO will continue to grow.

“We got a lot done,” said board member Don Collins, commissioner of the California Interscholastic Federation San Francisco section. “We looked at how to expand relationships and better serve various partners who help us throughout the year and at the Summit.”

Other agenda items covered were:

- Insurance program review
- NASO board candidates
- 2010 NASO Summit review
- Adopting SDC initiatives
- Approving the 2011 budget
- Group membership strategy

“This past year has caused all of us on the board to feel that NASO is moving in the right direction in membership growth, particularly with groups,” Wulkow said. “We put an aggressive growth plan into place. We would like to increase membership by 20 percent. We feel we can do that and we will do that.

“The Strategic Development Committee presented its recommendation. We mapped out the course for NASO for the next five years,” Wulkow said. “We must be in the 21st century and moving forward with membership growth and the continued support of services that NASO has developed. We must market that and make people aware of the opportunities that membership provides.”

The NASO board is scheduled to meet again in April 2011 in Dallas. n

Call Out for Board Candidates

Do you know an official or administrator who would be a good candidate for the NASO board of directors? NASO is seeking input from members on board candidates. Criteria for evaluating board candidates includes:

- Current NASO member status in good standing.
- Attendance at one NASO Summit.
- Ten-plus years of officiating experience.
- Current board has some firsthand knowledge of candidate.
- Background includes some “organizational” experience.
- Background includes some “management” experience.
- Officiating philosophy is “in tune” with NASO’s philosophy.

Those points are considered by the Nominating Committee as ideals during the search process. However, all of the criteria may not apply. The idea is to find individuals meeting as many of those criteria as possible while keeping in mind the demographic, geographic and sport experience of the current board.

Members who wish to nominate someone for the NASO board should submit the name of the individual, along with a brief biography to the Board Nominating Committee, c/o NASO, 2017 Lathrop Ave., Racine, Wis., 53405. You can also send your candidate suggestions to editor@naso.org. The deadline for submissions is Jan. 14.

Great Calls Celebrated at Summit

While the entire NASO Summit is intended to make officials feel better about themselves through educational sessions, one session in Minneapolis was meant to do it without an educational component.

“Great Calls: Indisputable Video Evidence” was a session that featured presenters from nine different leagues or levels, each of whom showed one to three plays to the Summit audience,

explaining why each call was one of the best of the past year.

Moderator Ron Foxcroft started the session by inviting Big Ten replay official Jim Kemmerling on stage to provide an explanation of the instant replay system in effect in college football. With the assistance from DVSport, one of the leading replay technology companies, the audience was shown three plays at real speed,

then shown the definitive angle on whether the initial call was correct.

Great calls from the past year in various sports were presented by:

- Rich Kaufman, the director of officials for the U.S. Tennis Association.
- Tommy Keith, the supervisor of officials for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.
- Julian Tackett, the executive director for the Kentucky High School Athletic Association.
- Kathy Strahm, the NCAA supervisor for softball umpiring.
- Larry Young, an MLB umpire supervisor.
- Mike Pereira, former vice president of officiating for the NFL.
- Joe Borgia, vice president of referee operations for the NBA.
- Terry Gregson, NHL senior vice president and director of officials.
- Joan Powell, past president for the Professional Association of Volleyball Officials.

“The enormous credibility of the presenters made an incredible impact on the audience,” said Foxcroft. “It was so good to share and celebrate the litany of great calls.

“It was so refreshing as an official to see a collage of great calls as opposed to the highlighting of the incorrect calls.” n




(From left) Ron Foxcroft speaks as Joe Borgia, Joan Powell, Rich Kaufman, Terry Gregson, Larry Young, Tommy Keith, Julian Tackett, Kathy Strahm and Mike Pereira wait to present great calls.

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JOE MICHAUD-SCORZA



Choose the Mentoring Program That's Right for You

By Bob Masucci

Associations can benefit from starting a mentor program. There are basically two types of mentoring programs: informal and formal.

Informal relationships develop on their own between partners when an experienced official will take a new protégé under his wing, so to speak, or conversely when a new official will seek out an experienced official to help him negotiate the “speed bumps.” Formal mentoring, on the other hand, refers to assigned relationships, often under the auspices of an association mentoring program designed to promote official development. In well-designed mentoring programs, there are goals, schedules, training (for mentors and mentees) and bidirectional evaluation.

In the case of formal relationships, mentoring involves the concerted efforts of three separate parties. Not only must the mentor and mentee devote themselves to the engagement, but the mentor program coordinator must also ensure that all details related to the program requirements are cared for and that all commitments by the parties are continually being met. Additionally, the coordinator is responsible for assessing the mentor and mentee evaluations and improving the program as necessary.

There are three areas in which local association mentoring can offer value:

New officials. Newer officials can benefit greatly from mentorship. Often, they need extra help that can't be effectively gleaned from training sessions because of the one-to-many nature of those sessions. Mentors can aid by filling in the gaps and by providing the “individual attention” that some students may need to get

through their primary training. Don't forget that new officials can easily be overwhelmed and feel unable to grasp everything that's coming at them.

Also, it is considered in Beverly Kaye's 2005 book, *Love 'Em or Lose 'Em: Getting Good People to Stay*, that new employees who are paired with a mentor are twice as likely to remain in their jobs than those who do not get mentorship.

Officials experiencing difficulty.

One often overlooked audience for a mentoring program is those officials who are experiencing some sort of difficulty. Often that difficulty is in a specific area in which a focused mentorship program might succeed in improving that deficiency. For example, you might have a very good rules person who can't quite grasp proper mechanics. Or vice versa. Or maybe the official can't quite comprehend the philosophies necessary to officiate games at a particular level. Maybe all of the above. Mentoring could help get that official over the hump.

Officials showing promise. Some officials just seem to have a knack for learning quickly and putting those new techniques into immediate practice. Some show the promise to move up, whether from youth ball to high school or from sub-varsity to varsity contests, or even from high school into the college ranks. Regardless, providing access to experienced mentors for such officials may provide them with a material opportunity to turn promise into reality. Mentors can quickly help to identify in those prospects any minor deficiencies and help them to understand what supervisors at the next level are looking for in officials.

After you have defined the populations that you want to serve

and considered the types of individuals to recruit as mentors, you need to determine the kinds of mentoring that you will offer:

- Traditional mentoring — one mentor to one mentee.
- Group mentoring — one mentor to up to four mentees.
- Team mentoring — several mentors working with small groups of mentees. The mentor-to-mentee ratio isn't greater than one to four.
- Peer mentoring — mentee to mentee.

Any of those can make use of electronic mentoring, which uses e-mail and Internet to facilitate learning.

Once defined, just like any other relationship, the mentoring relationship must be nurtured in order to be effective. Relationships that start with a clear “learning contract” which outlines roles and responsibilities are the most successful.

It is important that ground-rules are established at the beginning of the relationship to avoid any chances of misunderstanding later. Those may include length and frequency of meetings, turnaround time when an e-mail or a voice mail message is left, how long the commitment will continue, and by what means the parties will communicate.

Early on, possibly as part of the learning contract, the partners should discuss and formalize all expected outcomes of the relationship. It is important to state any specific results the mentee hopes to gain, and most importantly how the parties will know to what extent those identified expected results have been realized. *Bob Masucci is an official from Clifton Township, N.J., with more than 25 years of officiating experience. He is a mentor and has developed materials used for training officials. n*

NASO-ON is a networking conduit with the means to effectively provide information and educational resources needed by local sports officiating associations. If your association is not an NASO-ON member, discuss joining with your association leadership. For more information about NASO-ON membership and benefits, please call toll-free 262/632-5448 or go to www.naso-on.org.

NASO and NASO-ON Provide Quality Insurance

If you don't have all of the NASO and NASO-ON insurance benefits figured out, here's a quick reference guide to help.

NASO | With the \$97 NASO membership fee, NASO members receive extensive insurance coverage through the Sports Officials Security Program.

BENEFIT	COVERAGE DESCRIPTION	COVERAGE AMOUNT	SIMPLY PUT
General Liability Insurance	Provides excess coverage for claims for bodily injury, property damage and personal injury during sporting activities that are organized by recognized sports organizations, leagues and associations and while assigning, attending seminars, conferences, camps, clinics and similar meetings designed to improve officiating knowledge and skills.	You're covered for up to \$3 million per occurrence.	NASO covers you for all sports, all levels and what you do as an official.
Game Call and Assigners' Insurance	Provides for claims alleging an error on the court or field or for a decision that you made as an assigner.	Coverage extends to \$50,000 per occurrence and is included in NASO's aggregate limits.	Even if there is no bodily injury, if someone sues you because of a game call you made, you have coverage. You're also covered if someone sues for a decision you made as an assigner or clinician.
Heart or Circulatory Malfunction Death Benefit	Provides coverage in the event of an officiating-related cardiac death.	NASO provides \$5,000 in coverage.	Most policies don't count cardiac death as "accidental death." With NASO, you have coverage.
Assault Protection Program	Provides coverage for certain expenses and loss of game fees resulting from injuries suffered when an official is the victim of an assault and/or battery by a spectator, fan or participant while the official is performing officiating duties or as a direct result of performing officiating duties at an organized sporting event.	NASO puts you in contact with appropriate legal counsel and provides up to \$3,000 reimbursement of attorney fees incurred by the member in bringing a claim against the perpetrator. Reimbursement will be made based on attorney invoice and will be made on a 60/40 percent co-pay basis with the member paying 40 percent. Expenses are shared on a 60/40 percent basis until the insurance has paid \$3,000. Further expenses incurred are the sole responsibility of the member. Additionally, NASO's Assault Protection benefit pays up to \$100 for each game lost within 21 days after the injury with a maximum total of \$500.	If you are assaulted while officiating, NASO can assist you in finding an attorney and help with your legal fees.
Optional Game Fee Loss Insurance	NASO members can purchase a program with one of two coverage options. It is available for officials who are assigned or would have been assigned to officiate a regularly scheduled activity but can't work because they were injured during a regularly scheduled sports contest.	The annual premiums are \$114 (Option 1) and \$277 (Option 2) with corresponding annual maximum benefits of \$1,000 and \$2,000. The benefits are payable up to 26 consecutive weeks.	No matter what type of schedule you work, NASO has a game-fee loss plan for you to purchase.

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BENEFIT	COVERAGE DESCRIPTION	COVERAGE AMOUNT	SIMPLY PUT
<p>Optional General Liability Insurance</p> <p>Note: Associations can earn a 50 percent discount on their coverage if all of the members of the board of directors have their own individual NASO memberships.</p>	<p>Insurance NASO-ON associations can purchase, which covers an association, its board of directors, officers and committee members while the group is acting in its capacity as an association (including assigning, sponsoring seminars, clinics and meetings to improve officiating knowledge and skills). It provides excess coverage for claims for bodily injury, property damage and personal injury. It also includes claims by reason of error or omission occurring while acting as an association, officer, director or committee member. Note: It does not cover individual local association members with liability insurance.</p>	<p>The limit of insurance provided is up to \$3 million per occurrence and \$4 aggregate. The limit for the errors and omissions is up to \$50,000 inclusive of defense costs.</p>	<p>NASO-ON offers coverage for an association and its officers of any sport and at any level.</p>
<p>Optional Directors and Officers Insurance</p>	<p>Insurance NASO-ON associations can purchase, which covers the association, its directors, officers, committee members and employees. It covers added exposures not covered under general liability insurance that board members or officers face in making decisions on behalf of the association. Coverage is provided for an officer who commits a wrongful act, including actual or alleged errors or misstatements, or breach of duty committed by an insured in the performance of duties on behalf of the insured's association.</p>	<p>These coverage limits apply to D&O coverage: \$1 million limit for each loss; \$1 million aggregate for the policy period; \$2,500 retention for each claim. Defense costs are included within the limits stated.</p>	<p>Many directors and officers assume that because they have General Liability insurance, all of their exposures to loss are covered. That is not true. Directors and officers insurance has your group covered for any added exposures.</p>
<p>Optional Game Fee Reimbursement Excess Accident Medical</p>	<p>Insurance NASO-ON associations can purchase, which covers enrolled member officials of an association who are assigned or would have been assigned (with proof of proper documentation) to officiate at a regularly scheduled activity. Coverage is provided while the member official is engaging in officiating activities (which include assigning, chain crew, attending or operating camps, clinics or meetings) during regularly scheduled sports or activities. Coverage is provided for traveling specifically related to officiating.</p>	<p>Game Fee: When covered injuries result in total disability beginning within 90 days after the date of the accident, benefits are at the rate of \$50 per scheduled game missed subject to a maximum of \$500 a week. Benefits are payable for scheduled games missed for 52 weeks from the accident or when the maximum of \$2,000 per official per year has been paid, whichever occurs first. Fees are payable after a 14-day deductible period.</p> <p>Accident Medical: When a covered injury to a the member results in treatment by a physician or surgeon within 30 days of the accident, the policy will pay up to a maximum benefit of \$25,000 per occurrence after the \$1,000 deductible amount has been met (eligible medical expenses payable under any other insurance policy or service contract will be used to satisfy or reduce the accident medical deductible). There is a \$1,000 maximum benefit amount for: Dental expenses, Outpatient Physical Therapy and Orthopedic expenses.</p>	<p>The game fees of the officials in your association are protected and NASO provides basic medical expense coverage to those officials.</p>

Improve Your Communication Skills

By Todd Korth

To be effective as an official often means to effectively communicate with players and coaches during a contest. By applying solid interpersonal communication skills, officials will find themselves gaining a measure of acceptance and approval by the participants while making the many judgment calls and rulings.

How can officials build on those skills? Here are some communication suggestions that are important during any game or match, especially when judgment is questioned. Some of the techniques work better with coaches than with players, and vice versa, but all are worthy of consideration in the name of improvement.

Be approachable. Coaches will often complain that they cannot get an explanation from an official on a ruling because that official simply will ignore them. Officials must realize that effective communication with coaches means, "Someone will talk to me." Officials have got to be fair and firm, but they also have to be approachable and realize that they often owe coaches an explanation, no matter what the situation or actions of coaches and players.

"Approachable is the key," said Rich Kaufman, director of officials for the United States Tennis Association. "If a guy comes up to me and reams me out with a string of obscenities, of course I'm going to penalize him. Otherwise, we'll listen to anything he has to say and deal with it." The chair's job is to help drain some emotion and overturn an error if, in fact, one has been made.

Kaufman says that the challenge in tennis is trying to be approachable from a lofty perch, beneath an umbrella. He coaches chair umpires to literally level that relationship by leaning down toward a player when

he or she approaches with a problem. He finds that effort helps soften the players' attitude and makes them more likely to behave rationally.

Coaches and players, more often than not, prefer to work with officials who display confidence minus the cockiness as long as they are approachable. Give the coach or player an explanation, then move on.

Listen. It's great to be an approachable official as long as you decide to listen to a complaint or concern from a coach or player. Esse

Even if you do not speak directly with a player or coach, let them know in a non-verbal way that you are listening to them with a simple nod of the head.

Baharmast, FIFA technical instructor, said, "I wish somebody had taught me how to listen to the players with a little more empathy and try to see the grains of truth in their complaints. I rarely did that when I was a young official. The players would complain and I would turn a deaf ear. It wasn't worth my time to listen. It took awhile to understand that when players gripe about something, there usually is a little bit of truth in there — maybe not all the time and maybe not a whole lot, but most of the time you can see where they are coming from. It does not mean that you have to agree with it, but you should understand their source of frustration and then deal with it in your own way."

Even if you do not speak directly with a player or coach, let them know in a non-verbal way that you are listening to them with a simple nod of

the head. That at least will buy you some time until you have a minute to verbally explain a ruling or situation.

Talk. Many players — particularly those at the youth level — don't talk to officials because they're intimidated by the officials' authority. Put them at ease by saying hello and letting them know the doors of communication are open. Make players aware they may ask questions in a sportsmanlike fashion. Even friendly small talk is allowed. Open the door to communication, and when the time comes, they will be ready to listen.

"The most important thing for me was to finally learn what to say and not to say to coaches, players and fans," said Mike Thibodeaux, NCAA men's basketball referee. "I remember early in my career I was in a game with a veteran official and the coach was very vocal with both of us. But one thing I noticed was my partner was only responding a few times and I was responding every time I was near the coach. At halftime I asked my partner why he was not communicating with the coach as much and he gave me some great advice. He said, 'I am only answering questions, not responding to statements.' As a younger official I was trying to respond to statements like, 'That's a walk,' 'That's a foul,' 'He's holding my player,' etc. You have to have good lines of communication with the coach but still have only limited conversation."

Coaches may be very emotional and if you become emotional as well, you will only spew more gasoline onto the fire. Remain calm and steady as you explain a ruling. Be honest and up-front with coaches you are addressing. They have the right to hear your explanation. You also have the right to maintain your decision and not be swayed.

Todd Korth is a Referee associate editor. n

BASKETBALL

Closer Together or Farther Apart?

By Todd Warnick

Unlike soccer and its *Laws of the Game*, handed down from on high by its world governing body, FIFA, basketball has never had a unified set of rules.

Basketball is played outside the U.S. at all levels and for both genders (not withstanding some minor local adjustments for youth basketball) according to rules set out by basketball's governing body, the International Basketball Federation, known by its French acronym, FIBA. Most Americans are generally unfamiliar with international basketball and basically get a glimpse of the international game and FIBA

rules every couple of years in either the Olympic games or the FIBA World Championships (which took place recently in Turkey and was won by the U.S.).

Within the United States, basketball is played according to a whole host of rule variations, depending on whether it's professional, semi-professional, intercollegiate or high school, male or female — and at least at the high school (NFHS) level, with some degree of flexibility for each state to make adjustments as it sees fit.

When basketball players and fans outside the U.S. look at American basketball, they are watching in almost all cases the NBA, which has developed particularly over the last decade a significant international profile: The recent 2010 NBA Finals between the Celtics and the Lakers were broadcast in 215 countries in 41

languages and streamed over broadband to 200 countries and territories.

One set of rules worldwide. Thus, it's no wonder that when FIBA decided on changes to its rules to take effect Oct. 1, it announced that the goal of those changes was to "attempt to further unify all existing game rules and to have, in the future, only one set of rules for the game of basketball worldwide." What it really meant is that it was making the international game almost identical to the only game that people know worldwide, which is the NBA.

First and foremost, the international basketball court will now look very much like an NBA court, with the same wide and rectangle three-second area. Gone is the funny-looking trapezoid three-second area that so distinguished international basketball — and also served

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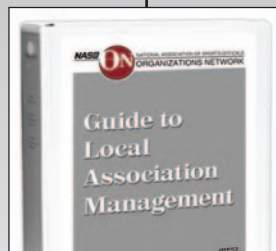
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somewhat to equalize players regardless of height.

FIBA has also added a throw-in line equidistant to the top of the arc of the three-point line from which throw-ins can take place after timeouts during the last two minutes of a game or during overtime — exactly as in the NBA.

FIBA extends three-point line.

FIBA's shot clock and three-point line — which is the same for all age levels of international basketball — continues to differentiate itself significantly from all levels of American basketball, including NFHS rules and the NCAA, and brings it closer to NBA rules.

FIBA has in its new rules extended the three-point line, moving it from 20'6" (6.25m) to 22'2" (6.75m). It was already greater than the NFHS (and NCAA women's) 19'9" line, and is now almost 18 inches more than the NCAA men's three-point line of 20'9". The FIBA three-point line is in large part nearly identical now to the NBA three-point line, which is 22' (6.71m) from baseline to foul line extended, but extends to 23'7" (7.23m) at the point in the middle of the court where the arc centers on the basket.

NBA 24-second clock. FIBA has also adopted the NBA 24-second shot clock rule with regard to fouls or violations that take place in the frontcourt and where the offensive team retains possession (exception: ball going out of bounds and remaining in possession of the offensive team). In those situations, the shot clock will not be reset (previously, the clock would be reset to 24 seconds); or, will be reset to 14 seconds only, whichever is the greater of the two. In other words, if B1 fouls A1 in the frontcourt, it is a non-shooting foul and there are 18 seconds left on the 24-second clock, it will not be reset; if there were, for example, eight seconds left on the 24-second clock, it would be reset to 14 seconds only. That is pure NBA and unrecognizable to anyone who watches only NFHS- or NCAA-sanctioned games.

FIBA has succeeded in changes to its international rules in nearly creating "only one set of rules for the

game of basketball worldwide," particularly as it pertains to FIBA and the NBA. For the tens of millions of American youth, junior high, high school and college students who play organized and playground basketball, FIBA rules will be for the most part more familiar to them now to the extent that they are familiar with NBA rules, which is no doubt not a significant number; but it doesn't mean that the NFHS and NCAA will be adopting 24-second clocks and three-point lines that are 22 feet from the basket tomorrow.

Todd Warnick refereed in Israel's top professional league and for 20 years in Europe on behalf of FIBA and the Euroleague until he retired in 2004. He is now the head trainer for Israel's professional referees and a FIBA commissioner. n

FOOTBALL

Ethics in Officiating

By George Demetriou

Integrity is perhaps an official's most valuable commodity. The NFHS Code of Ethics can be found in the back of the rulebook and contains eight guidelines to which all officials must adhere. The Collegiate Commissioners Association's (CCA) Code of Ethics states in part, "No official shall obligate himself to any person affiliated with any game which he might be assigned to officiate." Also, "No official shall accept league assignments for any school he has attended, coached or had any relationship with the affiliates or coach." Here are the ethical guidelines officials should have as part of their personal creed.

High school officials face different challenges than those faced at the college level. Those challenges vary widely depending in part upon whether the official lives in a metropolitan or rural area. Regardless, conflict of interest is more perception than reality and there are few absolute rules. Situations that may cause an official's fairness to be questioned can

be put into two general categories: relatives and school affiliations. Hopefully, some of the following examples will help you draw the line.

One guideline that transcends both categories is, don't officiate a game in which you are concerned that someone may question your integrity. The person you are most accountable to is yourself. If your conscience is not clear, the game should not be worked. The converse of this statement is not true. As you'll see from the following example, just because you are not concerned about being questioned, it doesn't necessarily mean officiating a particular game is a good idea.

A few years ago, the following conversation took place in the locker room during halftime of a JV basketball game. At halftime, an official was bragging about his son's athletic savvy. He was asked, "Is your son playing in this game?" He replied, "Sure, this is the only way I get to see him play." He went on to explain that he had no conflict of interest concerns because he could do his "thing," while his son did his "thing" and he viewed those as totally separate. There are not many people who would agree with that view. Certainly the opposing players and their parents would feel suspicious if they knew about the father-son relationship.

That brings us to the first category: relatives. Everyone has more distant cousins than we'll ever know. Obviously that criterion doesn't help drawing a line for conflict of interest. The father-son relationship is on the same level as spouses and siblings. Those are the closest relationships that exist. It rarely makes sense to officiate a game in which a relative is playing. If such a game is at the varsity or equivalent level or the official is being paid to officiate, he or she is courting trouble by accepting the assignment.

That leaves scrimmages and other volunteer assignments. It may also be acceptable in some rural areas where everyone knows everyone and the availability of officials is limited. If you do undertake such an endeavor, there should always be full disclosure so no one will feel misled, or more accurately, so no one will have

sufficient grounds for feeling misled.

The next echelon of relatives is cousins and nephews. The guidelines are fuzzier, but again caution should be exercised. A relation beyond cousins and nephews is probably OK, unless the surname is the same or the relation is a superstar and your connection is well known.

School affiliations are clearer cut. Many officials work for a school district and will not work games involving the school with which they are affiliated. Some will not work for any school in their district. A Colorado Springs official, not a school district employee, blocked out three schools one season: the school where he had coached another sport, the school his children attended and the school his wife worked as cheerleader adviser.

Indirect conflicts can also matter. For example: An official is associated with school A. School B is contending with A for the league title. Should that official work B's game against C? What if a close call in C's favor eliminates B and gives the title to A?

Assigning procedures vary widely throughout the country. In some areas crews are used, but in most areas officials are assigned as individuals. In some areas the association assigns; in others, a person hired by the league assigns. Whatever the policy, the primary responsibility for not working the same school too often is on the official. Even though an official may have no affiliation with a school, if he ends up working half its schedule, the "homer" label will follow. Three games (home and away) is a good limit for a 10-game football schedule.

Whenever there is doubt regarding a conflict of interest, the official should share his thoughts with those responsible for assigning and weigh their response heavily. A joint decision will stand up very well if the situation is subsequently questioned.

It should be understood that in some cases everyone will not be satisfied. A coach once complained about a referee working his game because the referee's daughter was dating a captain of the opposing team.

George Demetriou has been a football official since 1968. He lives in Colorado

SOCCER

Matters of Interpretation

By Al Baer

When the Supreme Court is asked to rule on a specific statute, justices often look at the legislative debate to see if the law was passed for a constitutional purpose. They also look to see if the matter before the court is one that Congress intended for the law to cover. In some ways, the International Board, NFHS and NCAA deal with those matters of interpretation better.

If the International Board has a significant change that is being considered, it often authorizes second- and third-division leagues in two or three countries to test the new rules. The board sees if the desired results are achieved. If members get what they want, they will put the change into effect. NFHS and NCAA generally tell everyone what they expect and often will poll coaches and officials to see how new things worked and change those that did not. NFHS also allows some states to experiment and report results to the rules committee.

Reason behind change. It is helpful for a referee to understand why a new rule was authorized — it helps the referee decide how to make a specific decision. Rather than e-mail the NFHS or the NCAA, read the books when they come out (there is often a "Comments on the Rules" section) and check their websites periodically. You might look on asktheref.com or askareferee.com to see if it has been discussed there. For an authoritative USSF answer, look at askasoccerreferee.com.

If you make a mistake implementing a new soccer rule, most often no one will know that and corrections can be made quickly. It doesn't work that way with Congress. Congress can't pass a law just for Tennessee to see if it works — correcting it may take a lifetime.

Referees can correct things more quickly. After the match, please check if something came up that you weren't

sure about. Check first with a knowledgeable referee or your local interpreter. If they are not sure, they can check with their State Director of Instruction, an official website or published materials. That should cover 99 percent of the questions. If that doesn't work, they will contact their regional or national staff.

Not official. There are many more unofficial websites, blogs and chatrooms than official ones. They are generally interesting and informative — *but are not authoritative*. Most information out there is good; but I have seen some information on those sites that is contrary to authorized information. Sometimes the people who run those sites do not check out the data, so beware. If sites disagree, check with the "horse's mouth."

Don't call something differently than is authorized because you think it is better. It may be — but we are not authorized to make alterations to the rules. It is obviously a problem if Al Baer, in Nashville, Tenn., is doing things differently than the rest of the nation. Know competition rules.

Referees not calling what they should seems to be a bigger problem than calling things that they should not. Usually, the referee knows the interpretation, but chooses to ignore that interpretation. They might be doing a college contest but prefer to use the NFHS interpretation — either follow the right rules or give up doing contests at that other level.

Difficult player or coach. It could very well be that you not following the right rules is the reason why those people are difficult. They want you to make a decision that favors them — not necessarily the correct one. If you are being pressed to your limit, deal with the coach or player. Some won't back down until you take action. For me, the best way to deal with them was to confidently make my decision, including any necessary cards, before dealing with their dissent.

If you know the right rules for the contest you are working and are confident that you can keep things under control, you will survive even the most difficult situations.

Al Baer lives in Nashville, Tenn., and is

ASK US RULES REVIEW

FOOTBALL

Roughing Foul?

Play: On a field goal attempt, R1 dives in an attempt to block the kick. R1 deflects the ball and lands on the holder. Is that a foul? **Ruling:** Under NFHS rules, if the official judges R1's contact with the holder was unavoidable, there would be no foul (9-4-5b). In NCAA play, a player who actually touches the kick is exempt from being called for roughing the kicker or holder (9-1-4a-7).

Touching of the kick by the defense is generally an excuse for contacting the kicker or holder. However, the ball must be touched near the spot of the kick and the contact must be a result of an honest endeavor to block the kick. A defender may not stop and renew his charge into the kicker, nor may he change direction. Touching the kicked ball is, in itself, not license to whack the kicker. If the player who contacts the kicker is not the player who touched the kick, there is a difference. In NFHS, the contact *may* be excused. In NCAA, the contact is a foul.

Fourth-Down Fumble

Play: On a fourth-down play or try, the ball falls to the ground during (a)

the exchange between quarterback A1 and snapper A2, or (b) a handoff from quarterback A1 to back A2. In each case, A2 recovers and scores. **Ruling:** NFHS rules do not include the fourth-down fumble rule. Any player is eligible to recover and advance a fumble. Therefore, the score counts in each case (7-4-2). Under NCAA rules, in (a), because A1 muffed the backward pass, the score counts. A muff is not the same as a fumble and is not included in the fourth-down fumble rule. In (b), the unsuccessful handoff is a fumble by A1 (not A2, who never had possession). Because of the fourth-down fumble rule, only A1 can recover and advance for team A. The ball is dead when A2 recovers and there is no score (7-2-2a Exc 2).

SOCCER

Player Leaves Unannounced

Play: During a men's amateur game, A6 is cautioned in the first half. Fifteen minutes into the second half, team A has used only one of its three substitution opportunities. Team A is on the attack, and A6 leaves the field, heads to the parking lot and drives away. At the next stoppage, the referee is informed that A6 "is no longer with us today." Team A wishes to have A14 enter the game. **Ruling:** The best approach to use comes from *Advice to Referees* 12.28.7: "Players who leave the field without the referee's permission most often do so for unsporting reasons — for example, to create an unfair offside situation (see *Advice to Referees* 11.10). They may also leave the field to indicate dissent or to 'manage' the referee's next decision." That does not seem to be the case with A6. *Advice to Referees* 12.28.7 continues, "Where it is apparent to the referee that the player leaving the field without permission has not done so to express dissent or to gain an unfair advantage (e.g., exited to change shoes or replace a torn jersey) and has merely forgotten to obtain permission (or thought he or she had obtained it), the referee should consider that a trifling breach of the Laws. A word/warning to the player should be sufficient in such circumstances, even if that player then

re-enters the field without obtaining the referee's permission." Thus, simply making note of A6's departure in the game report is sufficient.

Card Count

Play: B6 has accumulated eight cards so far this season. The coaches can't agree about whether B6 should sit out. **Ruling:** The referee should *not* resolve that, but rather report it to the proper authority to resolve after the game, if B6 does play. Unless a league or state association has instituted one, there is no standardized card-accumulation system (no rule reference for FIFA, NFHS). Some state associations are putting an upper limit on cards accumulated by a *team* before it becomes ineligible for tournament play, but few penalize individual players. After a 2010 NCAA rule change (12.18.1), suspensions for yellow cards now accumulate at 5-3-2-2 instead of 5-3. By NCAA rule, B6 should not play, but if team B's coach allows B6 to play, report it in the game report and let administrators resolve it.

Wrong Team Gets Kick

Play: Team A is awarded a free kick. The referee realizes an error (he incorrectly pointed with the wrong arm) has occurred just after team A has restarted the game with that free kick. **Ruling:** That is a case where Law 18 (common sense) would trump the written word in the rulebook. FIFA (5), NFHS (5-1-2) and NCAA (AR 5.5.1.c) all agree that once the game has restarted (which technically it has, given the free kick was taken), the decision may not be reversed. The best guidance comes from *Advice to Referees* 5.14: "If the referee awards a restart for the wrong team and realizes the mistake before the restart is taken, then the restart may be corrected even though the decision was announced after the restart took place. That is based on the established principle that the referee's initial decision takes precedence over subsequent action. The visual and verbal announcement of the decision after the restart has already occurred is well within the Spirit of the Law, provided the decision was made before the restart



took place.” If your tendency is to strictly follow the written guidance, you could have an “inadvertent whistle,” stop play after the restart and then restart with a dropped ball (Law 18).

Concussions

Play: Which code of rules mentions players having a concussion and gives guidance on what players, coaches, referees and medical staff must do when players exhibit signs of a concussion? **Ruling:** FIFA does not specifically mention unconscious/concussed players; some league rules may address the topic. NFHS 3-3-1c 3 has addressed the topic for years, but has added elements for the 2010 season and made it a point of emphasis. The NCAA was silent on the topic (other than as an injury) for years but for 2010 added to 3.5.3.2: “Players with a bleeding injury, blood on the uniform or signs of a concussion shall be substituted for ...” and “if a

player leaves the game for displaying concussion-like symptoms, that player must be cleared by the team physician or their designee according to the concussion-management plan. Student-athletes diagnosed with a concussion shall not return to activity for the remainder of that day.”

BASKETBALL

Re-entering a Game

Play: A1 fouls B2 during an unsuccessful try for goal. Substitute A6 enters the game for A1. After having a brief discussion with A1, team A’s head coach sends A1 back to the table to re-enter the game (a) prior to B2’s first free throw, (b) before B2’s second free throw, (c) after having called a timeout before B2’s first free throw, or (d) after having called a timeout between B2’s first and second free throws. Shall A1 be allowed to enter the game? **Ruling:** A1 is not allowed to enter the game in any of

those scenarios. Whether or not a timeout has been called and the fact that the ball became live during B2’s free throw(s), the clock must have been properly started before a player who has left the game can re-enter as a substitute (NFHS 3-3-4; NCAA 3-4-13).

Foul on Last-Second Shot

Play: Team B is ahead, 78-77, with time running out in the second half. A1 drives to the basket, picks up the dribble, begins the shooting motion and is fouled during that shooting motion. Before the two-point try is released, the game-ending horn sounds. A1 continues with the shooting motion and the ball goes through the basket. The whistle for the foul was clearly blown before the ending horn. The officials rule the try occurred after the ending buzzer sounded. Shall the basket count? Shall free throws be awarded, and if so, how many? **Ruling:** The ball becomes dead when the time expires at the end

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of the game since the ball was not in flight prior to the end of the half. The try ends when the ball becomes dead, so no basket is scored. Since the foul occurred prior to time expiring, it shall still be penalized. The foul occurred while A1 was in the act of shooting, but the apparent goal was not awarded because the ball was dead. So two free throws will be awarded to A1. The outcome of A1's free throws will determine which team wins or whether the game goes to overtime (NFHS 4-41-4, 6-7-6 Exception 3; NCAA 4-65-3, 6-5-1e, 6-9-1b).

Alternating-Possession Throw-in

Play: During an alternating-possession throw-in by team A, the pass was last touched by two opponents simultaneously and goes out of bounds. Which team shall get the resulting throw-in? **Ruling:** The alternating-possession throw-in ended when the ball was legally touched by an inbounds player. Therefore, the alternating-possession arrow is immediately reversed to point to team B. Since the ball was caused to go out of bounds by two opponents simultaneously, an alternating-possession throw-in results and team B shall make that throw-in since the alternating-possession arrow points to team B (NFHS 4-42-5, 6-4-3b, 6-4-4, 7-3-1; NCAA 6-3-1b, 6-3-2, 7-3-1a).

Failing to Award a Free Throw

Play: A1 is dribbling in team A's frontcourt, and B2 is called for a hand-checking foul. The foul is team B's seventh, but the officials fail to realize team A is in the bonus, and the scorer also fails to remind the officials of that fact. Team A is mistakenly awarded a throw-in. After receiving the ball on the throw-in, A3 (a) is called for a traveling violation, (b) makes a successful try for goal, but no team B player has retrieved the ball for the ensuing throw-in, or (c) makes a successful try for goal, and B4 has retrieved the ball for the ensuing

throw-in. At that point an official realizes that team A is in the bonus and should have been awarded a one-and-one free throw attempt for the earlier foul by B2. Can the error be corrected? **Ruling:** In (a), the ball became dead after the traveling violation. In (b), the ball became dead after the successful try but had not been made live again as no team B player had the ball at his or her disposal for the throw-in. In (a) and (b), since the official recognized the error during that first dead ball after the clock had properly started, the error may be corrected. Since there was a change in team possession since the error occurred, A1 shall be awarded a one-and-one free throw with no players on the free-throw line, and play is resumed at the point of interruption, which is team B's non-designated spot throw-in along the endline. In (c), the ball became dead after the successful try and had become live again when B4 retrieved the ball for the throw-in. Thus, the error was not recognized during the first dead ball after the clock had properly started, and the error is not correctable. Play shall continue with team B's non-designated spot throw-in along the endline (NFHS 2-10-1, 2-10-2, 2-10-6; NCAA 2-12-1a, 2-12-4).

Illegal Entry

Play: Team B is charged with a technical foul for an excess timeout. During the stopped-clock interval, A1 is replaced by A6. A1 then returns to the game and attempts the two free throws which are (a) both successful, (b) both unsuccessful, or (c) one is successful and one is not. **Ruling:** Once A1 re-entered, even illegally, and the ball became live, A1 was a legal player at that point. The resulting action in (a), (b) and (c) stands. The situation does not come under the provisions of the correctable-error rule, nor is there any provision for penalizing either team A or A1 (NFHS 3-3-4; 8-1; NCAA 3-4-5). n

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