

Wisdom of a Wednesday (on a Friday)
October 22, 2021

I hope this WOW finds you and your loved ones doing well. October is coming to a close and conference championships, as well as NCAA Championships, will be here before you know it. Many, many games between now and then so please stay diligent in your referee duties - ALL OF THEM.

My thoughts this week are focused on a few areas, so bear with me and please take the time to read everything here.

PRE-GAME

My last WOW was focused on the rules book items. This week I want you to think about your personal pre-game and how you and your partner can be the best team possible.

Talk about the NCAA rules together:

- Swimming with the ball IS considered in play
- Stalling/wasting time IS NOT an NCAA rule
- Penalty fouls ARE NOT called while the player is holding the ball just because they are inside 6 meters

POSITIONING

As perimeter referee - be mindful about your positioning on deck relative to the play in the water. You may need to advance down inside 6 meters at times as the perimeter referee, but when your presence is no longer required, please be sure to return to a where you can more readily monitor the top line in the impending transition. Generally speaking, the perimeter referee should be about even with the last matched pair of players.

INITIATION OF CONTACT

There are many things that both referees must monitor. One of these things must be to identify the player that initiates contact by means of a foul and enforce the appropriate rule. Often, we catch the second foul or the player trying to free themselves from the contact.

- Anticipate the action
- Position yourself accordingly
- Make the correct call

MANAGING PLAY AND PEOPLE

We are not only responsible for the play in the water, but also ALL the people involved, including the coaches and the athletes on the benches. No matter how passionate they may become, it is

imperative that we remain focused and enforce the rules clearly, consistently and correctly. Please, be clear and polite with your requests and responses.

- By rule, the Head Coach and the Captain are the only two allowed to address the referee at intervals between periods and during timeouts or WHEN THE REFEREE GRANTS PERMISSION
- Other players and coaches in the bench area may stand and cheer, but MAY NOT leave the bench area and MAY NOT address the referees

TIMEOUTS

Make sure you know prior to the start of the game if the clock operator is able to keep track of the time on the scoreboard or if you will be solely responsible for monitoring the time. As soon as a timeout is called, the two minutes or 30 seconds start. Immediately ask the coach what timeout they wish to use if they still have both types remaining.

Unless the team decides to shorten their timeout, after 15 seconds or 1:45 have passed, you must whistle to indicate that the play will re-start in 15 seconds. Some timing systems require the operator to "clear" the timeout if the team chooses to shorten their timeout. Again, find this out prior to the start of the game to avoid any extra buzzers once you have started play.

ORDINARY FOULS

Do not hesitate to whistle ordinary fouls when appropriate. This includes AT THE CENTER POSITION. Not every call at center is exclusion or nothing. Ordinary fouls can happen. Judge the play and whistle the appropriate foul for the action.

Thank you to all the members of the National Evaluator Group and the Supervisors of Officials from all the conferences for their invaluable input. It is great to have everyone working together once again.

Finally, what you all do is not easy. Your dedication and commitment are noticed and appreciated. I will end this WOW with a quote from Lou Holtz...

Talent determines what you can do.
Motivation determines how much you are willing to do.
Attitude determines how well you do it.

As always, more to follow...

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