



## ***WELCOME TO A BRAND NEW SEASON!***

Post Play Express is back for the 2011-2012 season. The plan is to have a monthly issue between September 2011 and June 2012. A rather small number of people provided articles last year. These authors made very worthy contributions to our newsletter for which we must all be grateful. But the burden of producing materials fell mostly on the editor. Post Play Express should not be the publication of one person. There is no doubt that many members have interesting ideas or points to share and that many events mark the actuality in each corner of the country. Anyone may contribute. A special invitation is launched to each National Council member to submit at least one article for the coming year. Let's hear from you!

## ***NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING***

In the May-June issue of Post Play Express, it was pointed out that one of the interesting points coming out of Canada Basketball's first Congress held in Toronto in May, was the willingness of all stakeholders to work together for the improvement of our game across the country. Following up on this, Canada Basketball organized a technical meeting in July, just prior to the CABO camp in Longueuil, QC. The topic of the session was to discuss the three points of emphasis proposed by CB in an effort to improve the game domestically and internationally. These points are (1) travelling, (2) illegal contact, and (3) dialogues between coaches and officials. It must be said that there has been no rule changes. The points of emphasis are formulated in order for the existing rules to be better understood and more adequately applied across the country at all levels. For Canada Basketball, the participants were Michele O'Keefe, Mike MacKay, and Renato Pasquale. Also in attendance were CIS supervisors Bill Crowley (Canada West), Guy Cipriani (OUA West), Mike Currie (OUA East Men), Rob Ferguson (OUA East Women), Mike Homsy (QC), Roger Caulfield (NS), and Rob Anderson (PEI). For CABO, Jim Walsh CABO President and also CIS supervisor (NL) and Paul Deshaies, National Interpreter took part in the discussions. Coaches were represented by Rod Gilpin (CIS Men), Ryan Thorne (CIS Women), Greg Norman (CCAA Men), and Harley Lawrence (CCAA Women). Everyone came out of

the meeting with a positive and optimistic attitude and with the feeling that working together is a promising approach in making the game better for the athletes across the country. It was agreed that a document explaining the points of emphasis would be produced and submitted to the participants. Such a document was written by Jim Walsh and Paul Deshaies and sent to everyone who took part in the meeting. A phone conference was held in August and suggestions were made to further clarify the document. The final version appears below.

Officials and coaches are expected to co-operate in making sure that the guidelines described in the document are respected. No doubt that a period of adjustment will be necessary. A follow-up process is in place so that the application can be monitored at different times during the coming season.

## ***TECHNICAL POINTS OF EMPHASIS 2011-2012***

### **INTRODUCTION**

Canada Basketball, together with its partners CABO, CIS and CCAA, has identified areas of concern that need significant improvement if our game is going to flourish both domestically and internationally. To that end, three Technical Points of Emphasis have been identified for all parties to focus on for the 2011-2012 season. These are (1) travelling; (2) illegal physical contact, especially in the post and off ball; and (3) the interaction between officials and coaches.

The intent of these points of emphasis is to have officials, from coast to coast, to make the calls for infractions in light of the spirit and intent of the rules.

For those in the game who have experience with NCAA rules, points of emphasis were addressed annually. This is Canada's first attempt to do so in the FIBA Rule set.

Please note that what is asked is a more consistent enforcement of the travelling rule, as it applies to picking up of the pivot foot prior to releasing the ball at the start of a dribble, when a player is attacking the basket. This is by no means an endorsement of any technical teaching nor a dispute on coaching philosophy. Coaches are encouraged to teach whatever method of pivot/attack move they deem most effective (without violating the travelling rule), as officials are being asked to enforce the rule and not the method.

### **TRAVELLING**

Every travelling violation is linked to illegal movement of the pivot foot. The main areas of focus for this season are

- (a) dribbler's illegal movement of the pivot foot before ball leaves the dribbler's hands;
- (b) changing the pivot foot to set up for a shot especially on long range shot attempts;
- (c) illegal pivot foot movement by post players such as on "spin moves" or "changing pivot foot after the reverse pivot";
- (d) players who receive the ball on the run in transition who often fail to release the ball before lifting the pivot foot when starting a dribble.

Officials will be instructed to pay particular attention on the pivot foot in these situations. If the pivot foot movement is illegal, the officials are expected to call the travelling violation.

## **ILLEGAL PHYSICAL CONTACT**

Three areas of focus have been identified for this season. They are

- (a) illegal bumping of a “cutter”;
- (b) excess contact in the post; and
- (c) illegal contact on dribblers that force dribblers off their intended path.

Illegal bumping or holding of cutters has been on the rise and inconsistently called by officials. With three person crews, the weak side official (usually the Centre) or the baseline official (the Lead) are often in the best position to judge this contact. Officials will be instructed to penalize players who illegally bump cutters (defensive fouls) or prevent defenders from staying with the cutters (offensive fouls). Screening principles are to be strictly applied.

Post play has become increasingly rougher as a result of officials inconsistently enforcing the rules. On one hand, offensive players are often given a free pass to force their way to the basket by whatever method they choose. On the other hand, if a player is in possession of the ball, the opponent must not make physical contact with the player with the ball. That is the time for “hands off”.

In the post, it is common for defenders to have a bent forearm on the opponent (provided that the opponent does not have the ball). It is always illegal to place two hands or arms on an opponent. It is always illegal to contact an opponent with an extended arm (offence or defence). A defensive player may use an “arm bar if the offensive player being guarded in the post, with his back to the basket, begins to back up into that defensive player and attempts to dislodge him. The arm bar is for protection only. Offensive players backing into their defensive opponent to get nearer the basket shall be called for pushing. Advantage/disadvantage will be judged to determine whether the illegal contact displaced, dislodged, put an opponent off balance or impeded his/her progress. Any such result puts the opponent at a disadvantage and a foul **MUST** be called.

For years we have heard the phrase “protect the dribbler”. Forcing dribblers off their intended line by the use of a hand, forearm, hip or leg is a foul and **MUST** be called. This will apply in both the front and back court. In particular, officials will be looking for this contact as a dribbler starts a drive to the basket.

## **INTERACTION BETWEEN OFFICIALS AND COACHES**

The purpose of this point of emphasis is to try to reduce the frequency and length of discussions between officials and coaches. For a game to run smoothly, there must be communication between officials and coaches. It should be respectful at all times. It should be for information purposes. It should not delay the game.

Officials and coaches will be expected to follow the following guidelines:

- There should be no dialogue between officials and coaches during live ball situations. If the clock is stopped (except after a basket in the last 2 minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> period or overtime), there is an opportunity for dialogue.
- Once free throw or throw-in activity has begun there should be no discussion between officials and coaches.

- In time out situations, there should be no discussions with coaches at the start of the time out. Such brief and focused discussions can occur later in the time out.
- At half time, officials are not to have discussions with coaches at the end of the half. Rather, use the three minute period prior to the start of the second half to have those discussions with both coaches present.
- There should not be any discussions during warm ups prior to the game or at half time except as outlined above.
- Coaches will be expected to ask questions. Officials will be expected to answer appropriate questions at the appropriate time.
- Officials will be instructed not to respond to statements by coaches (unless the statements would be the subject of a technical foul).

### **CONCLUSION**

*It is the hope of all partners to this initiative that, through cooperation and consistency of all participants, the game will be better and more enjoyable for one and all.*

**HAVE A GREAT SEASON!**