



Post Play Express

Vol.5, No.9, May 2014

SOME BUZZER BEATER GUIDELINES

Submitted by **Bill Carr**, Supervisor of Alberta

A few weeks ago, the 4A Boys High School Provincial Championships were played at three venues in Southern Alberta - Magrath, Raymond, and Lethbridge. This sixteen team tournament features the premier teams from across the province of Alberta, primarily comprised of the larger population schools together with a few smaller population schools that regularly compete at that level. I was fortunate to be one of the assigned Observers at this event, and over the course of the three-day tournament, I witnessed more buzzer beater situations than I can ever recall seeing in a single weekend of High School Basketball. And knowing that our Post Play Express editor was expecting an article from me for the month of May, I thought this might be an appropriate topic.

As we all know, there are many things that can happen when either the Game Clock or Shot Clock are winding down. Shots can be attempted from either the two or three point field goal areas, a travelling violation may occur as the shooter squares up before the attempt (a CB/CABO Point of Emphasis), shooters can be fouled, the released attempt may be touched or tapped by either offence or defence, goaltending and basket interference can occur, a buzzer can sound indicating expiration of time (correctly or inadvertently), the ring may or not be struck by a missed shot and put-backs may be attempted. Other than getting all these things done correctly and without incident, the role of the officials is pretty simple.

Before getting started, I first want to itemize a few caveats:

1. Local situations such as the position of Shot clocks and to whom they may be most visible, may well be overriding variables to the general guidelines below.
2. Similarly, the position on the floor where the sounding devices may best be heard is a key variable to consider.

3. Therefore, the importance of a good pre-game conference by the officials should not be taken lightly and the procedures a Crew of officials agrees to employ in their game may well be different than the guidelines offered below.
4. I highly recommend that any pre-game conference addresses the responsibilities of each on-floor official in Buzzer Beater situations.

Buzzer beater situations by their very nature involve a shooter. The shooter is the primary responsibility of one of the on-floor officials regardless of whether the game is being officiated by a Two or Three person Crew. Yes, there are a number of areas on the floor where dual coverage occurs; see point 3 above regarding the importance of a good pre-game conference. Determining from whose Primary a shot is being taken is not the purpose of this article.

The Official Who Has Primary Responsibilities for the Shooter assumes these duties:

1. Determines if the attempt is for 2 or 3 points, and where appropriate gives the three point attempt signal,
2. Determines if a violation such as Travelling occurs,
3. Calls fouls committed by the defender or shooter during the act of shooting (remember a shooter is still considered a shooter until both feet have returned to the floor),
4. Determines if the try for goal has been released prior to the sounding of either the Game clock or the Shot clock, and
5. Possible fouls committed by either player after the shooter has returned to the floor, regardless of whether or not either the Game clock or Shot clock has sounded.

Essentially, the official who has primary responsibility for the shooter takes care of things around the shooter until the release of the ball.

For a Two Person Crew, the TRAIL has the responsibility for the flight of the ball.

Therefore, after the release of the ball, the Trail assumes these duties:

1. Watches for touches or taps of the ball by offence or defence once the ball is in flight, and more specifically, when those touches occur with respect to the possible sounding of the Game Clock or Shot Clock,
2. Goaltending and Basket Interference,
3. Determines if a missed shot did or did not strike the ring,
4. Determines if the Shot Clock or Game clock has been properly stopped and/or started.

I believe it's important to emphasize that in a game being officiated with a Two Person Crew, the Trail official often has both shooter responsibilities and "ball in flight" responsibilities. Therefore, in buzzer beater situations, being prepared for or anticipating what might happen are key to successful game management of this often critical call in a game.

Similarly, with a Three Person Crew, one of the three officials, will have Primary Responsibility for the Shooter. That official, regardless of his or her position on the floor as Lead, Centre or Trail, or on Table side or Opposite has exactly the same responsibilities as with a Two Person Crew.

But who in a Three Person Crew has primary responsibility for the flight of the ball?

It's here where the term Ball Side becomes quite important, as buzzer beater attempts originate from the Ball Side. I like the term Ball Side, as it has a quite definitive meaning. However, since the word Opposite refers to the table and not the ball, I've introduced the term Other for the convenience of this article. I sincerely hope that both the FIBA and CABO police will forgive what I believe is only a minor indiscretion.

When the attempt originates from the Lead's primary, the official on the Other side of the floor, the Centre, assumes primary responsibility for the flight of the ball.

When the attempt originates from the Centre's primary, the higher of the two officials on the Other side of the floor, the Trail and not the Lead, assumes primary responsibility for the flight of the ball.

When the attempt originates from the Trail's primary, the official on the Other side of the floor, the Centre, assumes primary responsibility for the flight of the ball.

In all situations, the official on the Other side, away from the ball, assumes the Primary Responsibility for the flight of the ball and consequently the duties outlined above for the Trail official of a Two Person Crew.

One last point I'd like to make - the term Primary Responsibility does not mean Exclusive Responsibility. There are many times when that extra set of eyes on a play results in an overall better outcome, something desired by all.

Hopefully some of these guidelines regarding the buzzer beater plays will be of benefit. Following these guidelines may even reduce one of the the buzzer beater equivalents of a "Blarge", where one official is waving off a shot attempt at the same time his or her partner is giving the signal for a successful three point field goal. Nah, that couldn't happen.

I've attached a link to two successful buzzer beater shots that occurred in one of the quarter final games of the recent 4A High School Boy's Provincials in Alberta. Hopefully, this site will still be available at the time this article is published. The shots occurred less than 5 seconds apart in overtime. Nah, that couldn't happen either!

<http://globalnews.ca/video/1224140/high-school-basketball-2>>

BENEFIT FROM WHAT YOU PAY FOR

Submitted by Martha Bradbury, Interpreter for Manitoba

As I write this article, we are approaching the official close of our fiscal year and the completion of my first year as the Interpreter for Manitoba. The toughest part of writing this article has been the struggle to pick a topic that is interesting, informative, though provoking and (hopefully) has value for CABO members from coast-to-coast. I decided the best course of action would be to write on a topic that draws on personal experience and that isn't often thought of or is thought of more as a financial draw than as an actual benefit.

Insurance is something that every official has at their disposal, regardless of the province in which they are located. According to Adam Wedlake, Executive Director of Basketball Manitoba, "*All Provincial Sports Organizations offer a*

similar package as we do in a similar price range. Our current Membership that Basketball Manitoba charges MABO is \$30 + GST (\$31.50) per year. Of that, about 1/2 of that is the actual membership premium we pay the provider..."

That means, for a mere \$15.00 per year, we are covered for many things that we often don't see as important until we need to make use of them. Over the course of my approximately 7-years on the MABO Executive, I have often heard members raise concern over having to pay for something they don't feel offers value, like insurance. In our province, insurance is mandatory and is automatically added to membership fees. This isn't just for the protection of the official, but for the protection of all of MABO, and, in fact, all officials across the country.

Here's where I relate the topic of insurance to my personal experience. Late in November of 2012, while playing in the Senior Women's Basketball League in Winnipeg, I had the unfortunate experience of tearing my ACL, for the second time! The ultimate result was a requirement to have a second ACL reconstruction surgery. Because I had already had one ACL reconstruction, the options from where the graft could be taken were limited and resulted in a secondary injury, after reconstruction, to my quad.

After the initial injury, I was aware that, because I was part of a league that was a member of Basketball Manitoba, I had the same insurance available to me that all MABO officials in Manitoba are entitled to and pay for every year. I immediately submitted a claim through Basketball Manitoba. Key here is that the claim must be submitted a minimum of 60 days after the initial injury. Coverage continues until one year from date of injury, so the earlier the claim is submitted, the sooner treatment can begin, the longer the insurance can be used. The process requires a simple one-page form that requires the details of the injury (not a lingering injury but rather a one-time event that resulted in injury) and the signatures of the official, assignor and Executive Director of the relevant Provincial Sport Organization. This insurance is a secondary plan that only kicks in once any personal plans already in place have been depleted. However, keep in mind that many personal plans don't cover Athletic Therapy, which is often most effective since we are all, after all, athletes. The plans available through our Provincial Sports Organizations usually do cover Athletic Therapy. Therefore, if a doctor's referral is given for Athletic Therapy, then there is no need to deplete a personal plan prior to this secondary insurance kicking in.

Personally, I benefitted financially somewhere in the range of about \$12,000 in reimbursements from the secondary insurance company over the course of my rehab. The physical benefits of my rehab are almost immeasurable. I personally chose to prehab (to strengthen prior to surgery in hopes that it would speed up my recovery) and rehab after surgery. The secondary insurance through Basketball Manitoba covered 100% of my treatment, 2-3 hours per day, 5-days a week, from November 2012 until November 2013. The result for me was that I was given the all clear from my surgeon and was fully recovered 6-months after surgery and didn't miss any of the 2013-14 basketball season. I would have been nowhere near where I was had I not had such an all-encompassing plan to pay for the extensive rehab that was required. My measly \$500 per year through my personal plan would have slowed my recovery considerably or would have resulted in a significant financial drain had I had to pay for all treatment on my own. So for me, there is no question that the insurance we pay for should never be optional and offers real value. This all-encompassing insurance doesn't stop at personal injury. It covers so much more. In particular, liability insurance is very important, for all our sakes. In today's world, it seems that people are much quicker to sue for anything that might result in personal financial gain. None of us earns enough through our extra-curricular life of officiating to pay for any kind of significant financial settlement imposed against us if we are found liable for an injury to a player. Not that it happens often. Adam Wedlake says that, *"There have been 3 serious ones exceeding*

\$100,000 each in my time at BM (23 years)." For me personally, it brings peace-of-mind to know that we all have access to that kind of protection should it become necessary. As an example of what the insurance policy in Manitoba offers MABO officials:

- Liability Insurance – \$5M
- Dental - \$10K
- Accident (including Athletic Therapy and Physio Therapy) - \$25K – for up to 52 weeks after the date of the injury
- Disability - \$50K
- Accidental Death - \$25K
- Fractures - \$500
- Occupation Rehabilitation - \$5K
- Tuition Fees (if confined after injury) - \$5K
- Emergency Transportation - \$100
- Eyeglasses - \$200
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I urge you all to make yourself aware of what insurance you have available to you in your province. After all, you are paying for it. Be sure to know the specifics of what the plan covers so that you're not just paying for something without taking advantage of the benefits should the need arise. In Manitoba, on average, roughly 3% of our membership submit an injury claim each year. Given the number of officials I have spoken to, the injury rate is much higher than that. Those officials are rehabbing on their own or paying out of their own pocket for rehab when they pay for a plan with substantial coverage. I have lost count of the number of officials I mention the insurance to that are unaware that they have it, no matter how many times it's outlined during our provincial pre-season clinics.

In summary, I want to leave you with these key learnings:

1. Know what insurance plan your local association has.
2. Know what benefits are included in that plan.
3. Reach out to any member of your Provincial Executive if you have questions about your coverage.
4. Submit a claim within 60-days of the initial injury, even if you're not sure you'll require treatment.
5. Deplete your personal plan before making claims with the secondary insurance provider.
6. Submit receipts in a timely manner.

I sincerely hope that no official ever has to use the insurance we all pay for but, isn't it nice to know that if you need it you have it?

Enjoy your "off season!"

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION OFFICER

Submitted by Jim Cervo

Appointing Assigner/Evaluators to the National tournaments that take place in the spring & summer and managing the National Evaluators Panel keep me pretty busy. The spring tournaments have wrapped up recently and all the officials should have received their tournament evaluation report. At the conclusion of each tournament, the Lead A/E provides me with a Tournament summary report and the evaluation reports for each official. I forward these reports to the CABO Executive and the Provincial Supervisors. A list of the A/E's appointed to the 2014 tournaments is provided at the end of this article

This year I had the opportunity to participate as an A/E at the CCAA Women's tournament in Longueuil alongside Jim Walsh and Mario Lessard. This was a great privilege for me to work with these gentlemen who are excellent evaluators and represent their province and CABO with dignity and professionalism. I felt having three evaluators at this tournament was an asset. It was agreed that all three were consistent in the messages delivered to the officials. I thought I might talk about the experience there as it would mirror most of the other National tournaments.

The tournament committee members from Champlain College were a pleasure to work with. A special thank you also goes out to the representatives from the CCAA National organization and in particular to Sandra Murray-MacDonell. They all went out of their way to involve us in all aspects of the tournament and treat us as partners.

The officials assigned to this tournament did an outstanding job. The games were exciting and well played for the most part. What I was most pleased to witness was that everyone from the officials to the evaluators were using correct FIBA mechanics & signals and with a few exceptions that I would like to discuss, called the game the same.

- 1. Contact – Officials are being instructed to “have a patient whistle” and “and one fouls” should not be called. The FIBA rule book has provisions for players who are fouled in the act of shooting. It is a rule. Instructing officials to show patience and judge the entire play may bring about more desired results. Certainly minor contact that has no effect on the player should be ignored.**
- 2. Dribbler Contact – whenever a player has their speed, rhythm, balance or path altered due to contact by an opponent, a foul should be called. Contact with the dribbler, especially in the backcourt is becoming a growing concern.**
- 3. Jump Ball – officials should allow players “one good tug” when the ball is tied up between opponents. If the ball is still tied up, a jump ball needs to be called or this may lead to rough play.**
- 4. Free throws – Paul Deshaies sent an email to the Provincial Interpreters at the beginning of the season addressing the concern of players taking too long to take a position in the key during free throws. The ball must be promptly put in play and a violation needs to be called for players coming in late as per the FIBA rule book.**
- 5. Lead Position – Officials are setting up too wide when using 3-person mechanics. FIBA Lead positioning needs to be followed**
- 6. Trail Position – Officials area setting up too high in the Trail position when using 3 person mechanics. FIBA Trail positioning needs to be followed**

5. Time out/Substitution – Officials are not checking the table before putting the ball into play and substitutes are not being permitted to play. At other times, Officials are waiting too long for substitutes to properly “check in” which causes unnecessary delays.

The A/E's for the National tournaments in 2014

CIS Men

Markku Peuhkurinen - Ontario
Roger Caulfield – Nova Scotia
Bruce Covert – Ontario

CIS Women

Mike Thomson – British Columbia
Rick Degagne – Manitoba
Nancy Ethier – Quebec

CCA Men

Mike Homsy – Quebec
Jake Steinbrenner – Alberta
Rob Anderson – Prince Edward Island

CCAA Women

Jim Cervo – British Columbia
Jim Walsh – Newfoundland/Labrador
Mario Lessard – Quebec

U17 Men

John Weiland – Alberta
Morgan Munroe – Alberta
Tom Christie – Ontario

U17 Women

Reg Jewkes – Nova Scotia
Karen Lasuik – Alberta
Rob Ferguson – Ontario

U15 Men

Bill Denney – British Columbia
Jamey Jennings – Newfoundland/Labrador

U15 Women

Seward Nielsen – New Brunswick
Cam Moskal - Manitoba