

OREGON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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With Oregon implementing the NFHS mechanic of working “table side” on all free throws this year many officials have concerns about increasing negative interactions between coaches and officials. While these concerns are certainly justifiable there are many ways to turn this mechanic into a positive addition to the game through the power of communication. The following are just some suggestions and strategies that I pass along that I have learned through experience, listening to and watching others, as well as mistakes I have made through the years.

- ❖ Always be honest in your communication
- ❖ Keep any conversations short and to the point
- ❖ Let coaches know that you will answer reasonable questions at the appropriate time
- ❖ A statement is not a reasonable question and should not justify a response
- ❖ Keep in mind that coaches really just want to be heard
- ❖ Know the rules and respond with, “Coach, by rule.... “
- ❖ When the heat is on stay calm and restrained. Remember all eyes in the gym are on you.
- ❖ Have a conversation with the coach with your back to them or immediately to their side
- ❖ Don’t talk with your hands and ask coaches to do the same
- ❖ Above all be respectful

Remember that if you anticipate a real problem being table side you can switch with your partner and work lead opposite the table. Determine what style of communication works for you and share with other officials.

Play of the Week

Team A goes on a run of ten straight points and team B calls a time out. Bench players from team A rush on the court past half court congratulating and high fiving teammates interfering with team B trying to get back to their bench area.

Solution: Ask Team A coach to remind his/her players to remain in their bench area. If it continues to be a problem inform your commissioner.

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