

OREGON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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Most officials feel that the most difficult call in basketball is the block/charge. An argument could be made that knowing when to assess a technical foul to the bench or directly to a coach is in fact the most difficult call in basketball, especially for those officials new to the game. While administering some aspects of rules 10-4 and 10-5 are easy, those that deal with a coach's behavior can be more difficult. The following are simply points for your consideration when dealing with coaches and may help to prevent the "T".

- Most coaches just want to be heard. Lend them an ear at the appropriate time and acknowledge that you have heard them. "Thanks, Coach, I'll watch for that."
- Sometimes a gentle reminder works wonders. "Coach, you can really help me out tonight by staying in your box." Don't create friction when it isn't necessary.
- If a difficult conversation with a coach is necessary approach the coach and have the discussion with your back to the spectators. Don't talk with your hands and politely ask the coach to do the same. Be brief. Never shout across the court.
- The rule book does not provide for a warning, but that does not mean that you can't use them. If you do warn a coach or player do so professionally and in a calm tone. You must be the voice of reason.
- You should only give one warning per individual each game. Make sure you communicate with your partner that you have given a warning.
- The use of the "stop sign" can be an effective warning. The more emphatic you are the higher you raise your hand. OCEP trainer Tom Simshaw also suggests the two handed stop sign down low may be a calm way to issue a warning. Try it in the mirror. Use what works for you.
- If a technical is warranted, give it. It is a part of the game. Report it to the scorer and move out of the area. Most officials will tell you that the game went more smoothly after giving the "T".
- Above all be professional and businesslike. Stay in control of your emotions.

These are only a few suggestions. Have a conversation among your group and find out what has worked well for others. Listening equals knowledge.

Blood on the Uniform/Jersey

Anytime blood is detected on a player's uniform they are to be directed to leave the game until the uniform has been properly cleaned. If the jersey or uniform has an excessive amount of blood the player must change jerseys. The question becomes, what is excessive. Anything more than few drops from a bloody nose or a small smear from an opponent that is bleeding should be considered excessive and the jersey shall be changed. The rules are quite liberal when it comes to finding an acceptable jersey for the one that needs to be exchanged. See the Case Book on page 20 under Bleeding Player. Remind the coach that the player has to exchange jerseys out of the visual confines of the playing area.

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