

Texas High School Basketball Officials Association (THSBOA)



ONE-PERSON OFFICIATING MECHANICS

For those who officiate long enough, the inevitable will occur, i.e., your partner will get hurt or not show for a scheduled contest leaving you as a '**1 person crew**'. Guidelines and/or suggestions to how THSBOA registered officials might best cope with this situation follow.

- A. If no registered officials are available, do not accept an offer for a parent or other untrained, non-registered official to assist; liability, as well as competency and fairness concerns could be involved.
- B. Should a replacement registered official not be available, the official shall work the game as a '**1 person crew**', following the guidelines below.
 1. Have a pre-game meeting with the coaches, explaining your partner has not shown (or is injured) and you will be officiating the game alone.
 2. Request coaches' cooperation, express advance appreciation for them assisting you in keeping themselves and the game under control.
 3. In the pre-game meeting with captains, explain you will appreciate and expect the cooperation from the ten players on the floor.
 4. Advise game administration of your requests of coaches & players. The cooperation of spectators should also be expected! The game is being played for the benefit of young people; your best efforts will ensure a consistently and fair game.

SUGGESTED MECHANICS

1. The best position from which to work is probably from **Free Throw line extended to Free Throw line extended, opposite the scorer's table.**
2. As the ball goes toward the opposite sideline, you will have to move off the sideline toward the center of the floor.
3. **Out-of-bounds:** After designating the spot and the player is there, move a short distance away and bounce the ball (like a free throw) to the player for the throw-in.
4. Avoid getting caught on the baseline. While sometimes necessary to cover a player near it, the "seeing through" principle may offer better total officiating positioning.
5. Have players assist you on **out-of-bounds calls.** If you're not sure who touched the ball last, observe reactions of the players. If still not sure, ask who touched it

last. Any disagreement results in the alternating-possession arrow deciding. No dialogue / discussion/ disagreement ... Put the ball in play.

6. **Free Throws:** Administer both from the baseline position. Notice initial placement of feet with the shooter, but then focus attention on the non-shooters, particularly when a miss/rebound occurs.
7. **Reporting Fouls:** "Cheat" a little bit on the reporting position. By remaining in the middle of the floor (approximately the center circle), your peripheral vision should enable you to observe the players.
8. **Three Point Shots:** Admittedly one person will not be able to see everything so, **DO NOT GUESS!!!**
9. Coaches must control their emotions! Do not argue with them or let them put you in a position where you feel guilty about not being able to see everything. Do the best you can do; it's not your fault that this undesirable situation exists.
10. Remember the "**Attributes of an A Official**"

- **ATTITUDE**
- **APPEARANCE**
- **ACTIONS**
- **ABILITY**

- Commitment
- Character
- Calm & Composed
- Controls emotions
- Consistent
- Clean & Crisp
- Conscientious
- Confident, not Cocky
- Communicates
- Concentrates ... Covers
- Courage to make Correct Call

11. **Maintain your sense of humor and composure.** Some interaction with players and coaches will work to your advantage. From childhood memories, remember that ... approached properly ... people will almost always be willing to assist.
12. Remember, **you are the best official on the floor**, albeit the only one. While you may feel a call was missed, you will not be evaluated against another official.

Relax ... "Except for the calls you make", no one will expect you to be perfect.