

All,

This week, let's talk about our duties as officials and why we're there.

- We are on the court to be the only unbiased arbiters of the game. We should know the rules, where many others don't – but think they do.
- We are not concerned with who wins, or loses, but only fairness, and safety.
- It's important to know the intent and purpose of a rule so that it may be intelligently applied in each play and situation.
- A player of a team should not be permitted an advantage which is not intended by a rule.
- Other than the officials, everyone else in that gym cares about winning, and therefore, cannot look at the game objectively. We must be objective. Others see the game with their eyes and their heart. We see the game with our eyes and our head!
- Basketball is a contact sport. Players commit fouls, and violations; officials view those infractions, judge the action, and then apply the rules of the game to what they observe. The rules then determine the penalty.
- We are not required to explain judgment calls. But we may explain some calls or explain rules if approached by the head coach in a respectful manner. You can talk to assistant coaches during the game, but, only deal with the head coach for time outs and rules.
- You should call technical fouls for profanity, unsporting acts, excessive complaints, or verbal abuse. Don't tolerate any kind of abuse by a player, coach, or spectator, and ensure to report that conduct to the league.

Have a great season and see you in the gym!

- Rob Grunewald, National Federation High School, Certified Basketball Official

Questions or comments? Email Rob @ grunewar@yahoo.com