

# *Craig's Call*

## New Year's Edition

1/1/2024

Happy New Year! We have a month of PIAA basketball under our belt, and the new year gives us a chance to reflect on recent games and prepare for what is coming. How can we raise our play calling during the coldest and most difficult part of the season? We learn from our 'missed' calls and work on our fundamentals. Here are a few situations that have recently happened.

### **PREGAME MEETING**

The head coach must attend the pregame conference. If they do not, the head coach loses the right to use the coaching box. Either the assistant coach who attended the meeting is the new 'standing' head coach for the night, or the real head coach receives a direct technical foul and loses the coaching box. While this generally has not been a problem, the consequence is the probably the reason.

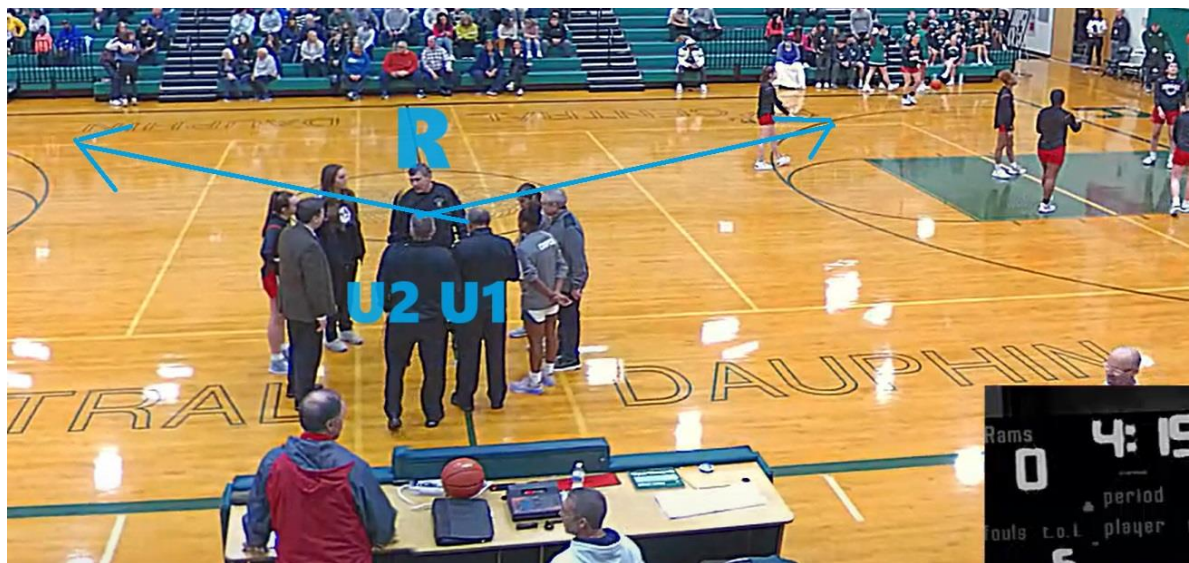
#### Fundamentals:

Hold the meeting between the 3:00-5:00 minute mark.

To observe warmups, Umpire(s) should stand closer to the table as.

Introduce yourselves by name.

Know the script, keep it brief, smile and make eye contact.



## FIGHT COVERAGE

We have had at least three fights/ potential fights before Christmas. Hopefully, everyone got some nice presents so that this foolishness will stop. Regardless, we need to be better prepared when mayhem breaks out. While officials have done a good job getting in to help deescalate emotions, in every situation bench personnel entered the court without consequence. Our first consideration is always player and official safety. Our second consideration is liability elimination. These goals are not accomplished when we allow bench personnel to enter the court, taunt, and engage with impunity.

### Fundamentals:

Recognize heated body language, and address it verbally.

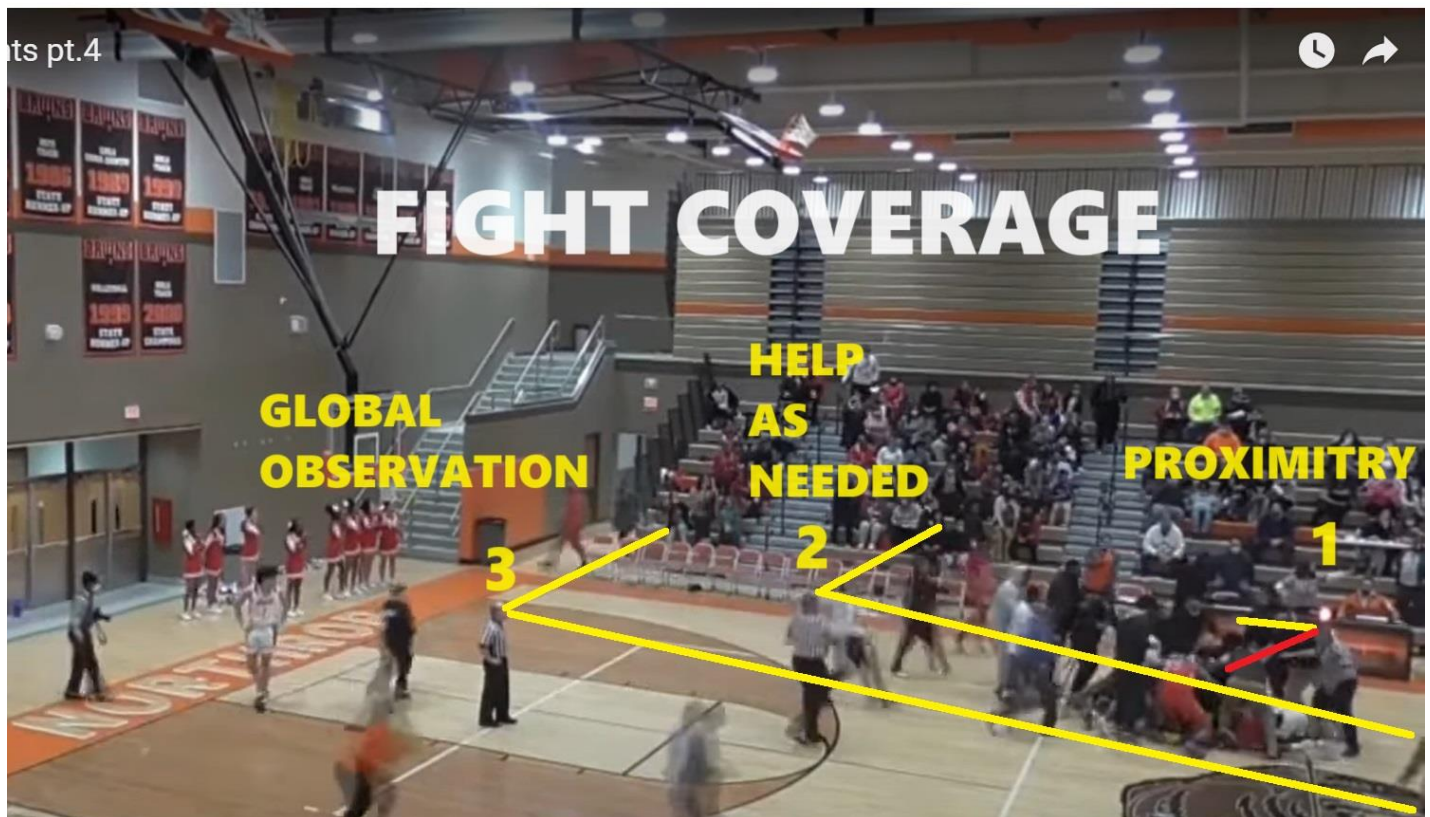
Penalize intentional/hard contact and go to the victim.

If two players go chest to chest, blow a whistle REPEATEDLY and only the NEAREST OFFICIAL get between them as best you can.

If punches fly, get out. Coaches and teammates can separate the combatants.

**\*\*Off official**(s) can blow a whistle, **observe** from a distance and attempt to monitor/control benches.

Send teams to their benches, discuss what you saw as a crew, penalize and play on.



## REPLACING A DISQUALIFIED PLAYER

This is often a contentious situation, usually late in the game, and emotions are not always stable. Let's not make it worse. Consistent procedure in every gymnasium can assist this process. Some clock operators do not know how much time to put on the clock nor when to blow a horn. 15 seconds is fast!

### Fundamentals:

Once the table informs you of the disqualification, SWITCH with an off official.

This action not only reduces the chance of confrontation,  
but it also buys the coach a few extra seconds to get their mind right.

Off official replaces calling official and informs the coach,  
instructs the table to SOUND a horn,  
set a 15 second substitution time, (~ to a time-out warning period),  
get the sub in before the second horn.



### Replacing a Disqualified Player

**Call foul**  
**Report foul**



**5th Foul**  
**Off official informs coach of DQ**



**Direct Timer sound a warning horn**



**Set a timer to 15 seconds**  
**Inform the DQd player**



**2nd Horn**



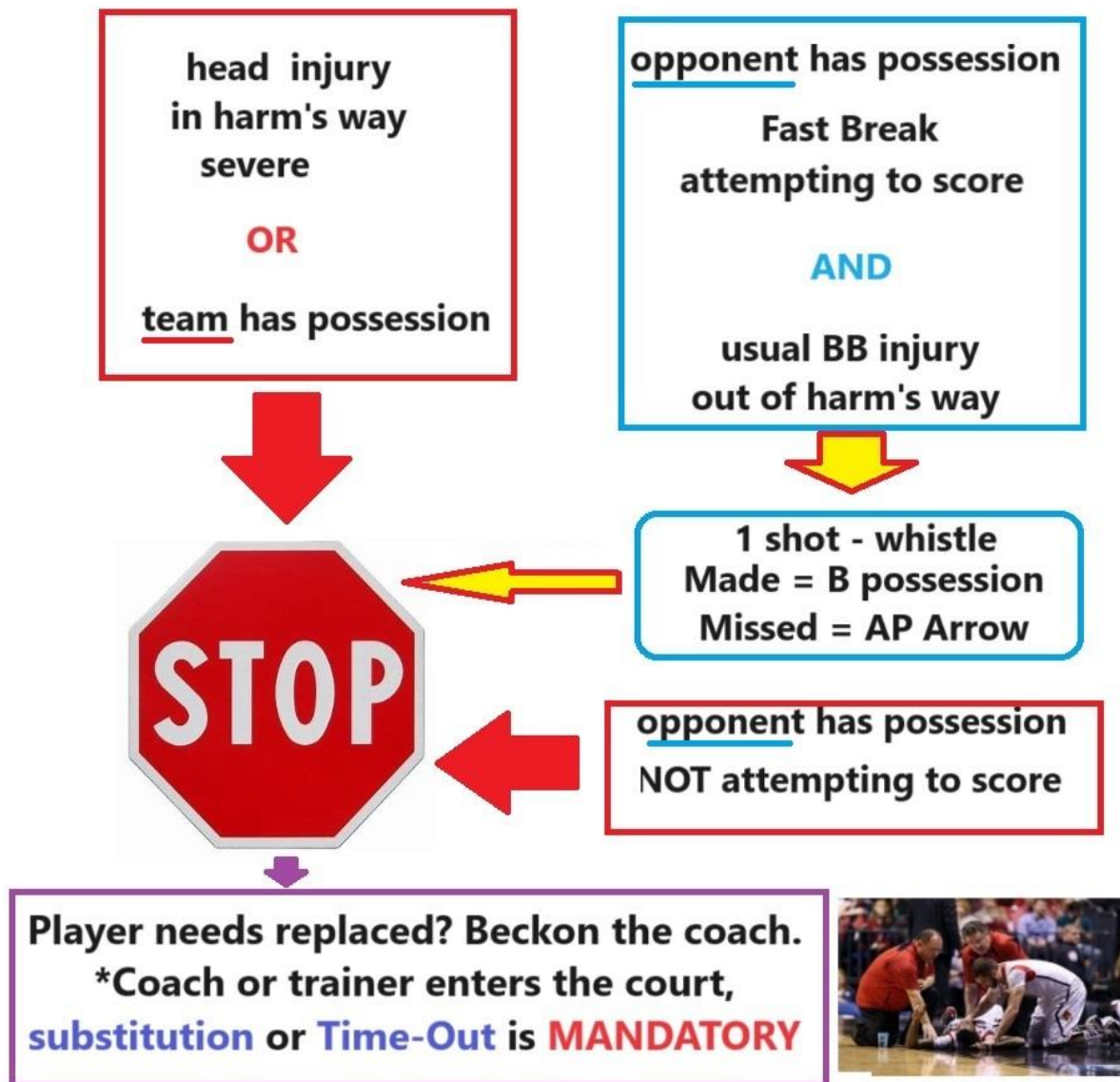
**No sub = Direct Technical to HC**





# INJURY MANAGEMENT

**LEVEL of injury and POSSESSION Matter!**



**Be aware of CONCUSSION Symptoms!**

While the coach **may use a 30 or 60** second time-out, the player MUST be ready to play at the end of the time-out. If not, a sub is required immediately. **BLOOD** = same procedure.

## MENTORS NEEDED

We still have a few officials that need a mentor. Please think about volunteering. Your future partners might be the official you could help today. If you are interested, please email me at [cbgolf62@aol.com](mailto:cbgolf62@aol.com).

### Fundamentals:

You owe you success in part to the work of others

Pay it Forward.

## What will I improve in 2024?

Watch my last game on video?

Uniform- tailored or fitted with bright white stripes?

Foot/leg care? New shoes and reduce the load.

Better clock awareness?

Improve counts on closely guarded plays?

How to respond to coaches?

Smile more (less scowls) to build relationships?

Hustle (don't hurry) on every play?

Stop and report all fouls 'in the box'?

See jump shooters land?

Reward verticality with a no call?

Stop taunting NOW?

Clean up my availability calendar?

Become a better partner?

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*Our time to Soar is 2024!*

*Craig*

# 2024

I entered a meeting I thought would be a bore  
Until I saw a video I could not ignore.  
The crowd was screaming surrounding the court  
Some chose to leave early, but I could not abort.  
The star drove to the basket and started to soar.  
The defender held their ground; a crash was in store.  
The collision was huge the defender was gored.  
Block or charge? What would the official award?  
He raised the fist in the stripes that he wore  
Putting air in the whistle and making it roar.  
Making a call that would go down in school lore,  
The ref signaled charge like never before.  
When the buzzer screamed, many fans were sore,  
As they yearned for the basket to play 4 more.  
The winning team's supporters soon rushed the floor,  
The ref and the crew quickly made for the door.  
The play brought back memories of this sport I adore.  
May your season be filled with highlights in 2024.

