

Make the Right Call



Washington Officials Association

Volume 5 Issue 3

Habit Forming

The Importance of a Pre-Play Routine

by Jeffrey Stern

Insanity, it is said, is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. It does not necessarily follow that sanity means doing the same thing over and getting the same result.

But a wise official would do well to develop a routine to be employed before each pitch, play, serve or similar resumption in play. Those habits help get you back into the swing of things and get you refocused on the action.

Once a play hits a natural break - the ball goes out of bounds, the runner is downed, the ball is thrown back to the pitcher, etc. - you need to observe players. Those dead-ball periods, when opposing players are milling about in close proximity to each other, are ripe for unfriendly exchanges (physical or verbal) between opponents. Keeping an eye and ear open at those times can head off trouble.

In the lull that follows that "alert time" and the start of the next play, you can prepare for what happens next.

Monitor substitutions. In sports that allow substitutions between plays, observe the players replacing teammates. Are the subs legally equipped? Are they eligible to enter the game?

Perhaps more important, when someone comes in, does

someone go out? Counting players is an important responsibility. Allowing one team more than the legal number of participants provides a huge competitive advantage and is a cardinal sin in officiating. Just a few seasons ago, a trio of NCAA Division I men's basketball officials failed to discern that a replaced player had not left the floor in the waning seconds of a close game. That team scored the game-winning basket on the ensuing play.

Is a player limping or otherwise showing signs of an injury? Don't let the game resume before that player leaves the field or court. If the player needs assistance from the athletic trainer or medical staff, beckon them so they can help.

Consider clock status. If the clock is supposed to be running, is it? If it is running but it shouldn't be, signal the timer to stop it. If you positive knowledge of what the proper time should be, and the rules of your sport allow it, have the timer make the correction. If the clock is supposed to start on the next play, make a mental note to check it once the action resumes.

Check with your partners. Make eye contact with your partners or crewmates to ensure they're ready to go. If they're answering a coach's question,

tying their shoe or are otherwise distracted, give them time to finish up.

The same goes for auxiliary personnel such as timers, scorers and chain crew members.

Know the game situation. Lack of concentration and communication can result in football crew giving a team an extra down or shorting them a down. Confirm the down with your crewmates after every play. If your down indicator and the down box don't agree, don't let the ball be snapped before getting the right answer.

In baseball and softball, don't rely on the scoreboard for the count. If you lose track, ask a partner.

If free throws are to be attempted in a basketball game, be sure the right shooter is at the line. Verbalizing the shooter's number is a good tool for keeping track. If a timeout precedes the attempts, make a mental note of who the shooter will be when play resumes.

Get in position. In many sports, officials adopt a stance or a position before a play. Whether that entails getting hands on knees, being in your plate stance or just being in the right place on the field or court, get there and get ready for the action.

(This article can be found in, Referee magazine, November 2013.)

Special Points of Interest:

- Dead-ball periods are ripe for unfriendly exchanges.
- Make eye contact to make sure your partner/crew is ready to go.
- Be aware of clock status and game situations.
- Counting players is an important responsibility.
- Lack of concentration and communication can result in an avoidable error.
- Get in position and get ready for the action.

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Football Quiz

1. Second and goal at team B's 14 yardline. A1 is roughed as he completes a pass to A2. A2 fumbles at team B's four yardline. The ball rolls over the endline. After the penalty is enforced, it will be:
 - a. First and goal for team A from team B's two yardline.
 - b. First and goal for Team A from team B's seven yardline.
 - c. First and 10 for team B from team B's seven yardline.
2. Fourth and goal at team B's four yardline. A1 fumbles at team B's two yardline and the ball rolls into the end zone, where A2 recovers it while grounded.
 - a. Team B's ball, first and 10 at its own two yardline.
 - b. Team B's ball, first and 10 at its own four yardline.
 - c. Touchdown for team A.
 - d. Touchback; team B's ball, first and 10 at its own 20 yardline.
3. Third and 12 at team A's 45 yardline. At the snap, team A has only 10 players on the field: five on the line are numbered 50-79, number 80 is on the end of the line and there are four players in the backfield. A1 completes a forward pass to number 80, who is tackled at team B's 40 yardline.
 - a. Illegal formation.
 - b. No problem.

(Answers on page 3)

Volleyball Quiz

1. Which of the following faults is not a responsibility of the line judge?
 - a. Signaling a line fault when the server has a foot clearly outside the short hash mark defining the service zone when the ball is contacted for service.
 - b. A player contacting an antenna during a rally.
 - c. Indicating when the ball touches the net, net antennas or net supports not entirely between the antennas.
 - d. A ball contacting the floor when a player is attempting to make a save close to the floor (i.e. a "pancake save").
2. While the ball is out of play in the second set, A9 enters the substitution zone, and the second referee whistles to acknowledge the substitution request. The scorer informs the second referee that A9 was replaced in the first set using an exceptional substitution. What is the correct action for the referees?
 - a. Allow the substitution.
 - b. Deny the substitution and sanction team A with an unnecessary delay.
 - c. Deny the substitution and assess a delay sanction to team A.
 - d. Deny the substitution and award a point/loss of rally to team B.
3. Team B has seven players, one of whom has been designated as the libero. One of team B's players sustains an injury and is unable to continue play. The libero is currently on the court for number 15. What is the correct action to be taken.
 - a. Grant team B a special timeout of up to three minutes.
 - b. Substitute number 15 for the injured player.
 - c. Player number 15 returns to the court for the libero. The libero will be used as an exceptional substitute for the injured player after changing into a legal team uniform.
 - d. Forfeit the set to team A.

(Answers on page 3)

Soccer Quiz

1. The first half ends. As the players are returning to their benches for the break, A3 pushes B9 hard, knocking B9 to the ground. The referee decides that act was unsporting.
 - a. Because it is halftime, the referee can take no action.
 - b. The referee cautions A3 but does not display the card.
 - c. The referee cautions A3 and displays the yellow card.
 - d. The referee can take no action, but informs both coaches of the misconduct.
2. The same as question 1, except A3's push is deemed by the referee as using excessive force (violent behavior/conduct).
 - a. Because it is halftime, the referee can take no action.
 - b. The referee sends off A3 but does not display the card.
 - c. The referee sends off A3 and displays the red card.
 - d. The referee can take no action, but informs both coaches of the misconduct.
 - e. Team A will start the second half with 10 players.
 - f. Team A will start the second half with 11 players.
3. A7 is sitting on the field with a minor injury. The referee does not immediately observe A7, allowing play to continue. The assistant referee at the end of the field near A7 should:
 - a. Wave the flag at the referee to stop play immediately.
 - b. Yell to the referee, "Hey, referee, you have an injured player!"
 - c. Wait until the ball is out of play, make eye contact with the referee and inform the referee of the injury by a signal agreed upon in the pregame.

(Answers on page 3)



Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

WOA Central Hub

Please take the time to browse the WOA Central Hub and Sport-Specific Central Hubs. The WOA will be posting information on these sites throughout the year.

We are attempting to make the site useful and to do that, we need your assistance.

If there are any suggestions on information that you would find valuable to the site, please contact the WOA.



Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

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NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

The fall season is coming to an end and the winter season is quickly approaching. We have received a lot of feedback from coaches and athletic administrators throughout the fall season and are very pleased with the overall performance of the officials representing the WOA and their local associations/boards. There are still a few areas to improve and we welcome the challenge to be even better. We continue to encourage officials to find someone to video their game, so they have a tool to review and find areas where they can improve their officiating.

Do you feel as though you are not progressing as fast as you would like? Reach out to your local leadership and see if there is a mentor that could help in honing the finer points of officiating.

Remember to contact your assigner if you are interested in purchasing a 2013-14 WIAA State Tournament Pass. The fall state tournaments are in mid-November.

Please send any suggestions/photos for the newsletter to info@woa-officials.com.

Todd Stordahl
WOA Executive Director

www.woa-officials.com

Ejection Report Reminder

When filing an ejection report, it is important to remember a couple things:

1. Reports must be filed within 48 hours of the ejection. Not turning in a report does not make the ejection go away. Schools are required to sit the offender regardless of whether a report is received. By not filing the report within 48 hours you create more work for your assigner and it brings up the discussion of accountability.

With the ability to report ejections online, there really is no good reason not to file the report within 24 hours of an ejection - so allowing officials 48 hours to complete the task should create 100% compliance.

2. Only include the facts surrounding the ejection. Please do not include opinions or recommendations on what should happen to the offender. Anything in addition to the

facts of the ejection causes confusion and creates issues that have nothing to do with the reason for the ejection.

We can never over emphasize the need for officials to complete the paperwork after they have made a decision to issue an ejection. A paper trail must be established and it begins with the information provided by the official.

Winter Clinics and Tests Now Available

The tests and clinics for winter sports are available on the WOA Central Hub. Click on "Clinics/Testing" to access the Eligibility Center. This page will provide you with the requirements for certification and will indicate which requirements have been completed and which still need to be completed.

When taking the clinics, it is important to watch the clinic in it's entirety. The completion criteria tracks percent of the clinic viewed and only provides credit once the completion criteria has been met. You will know the completion criteria has been met when the red dot in the upper right hand corner

of the player turns to a green check mark.

It is a good idea to save the completion certificates for your records.

Officials must complete the certification process prior to working a high school contest.

Quiz Answers:

Football Quiz: 1 - b (9-4-4, 9.4.4 C); 2 - c (7-4-2); 3 - a (7-2-5)

Volleyball Quiz: 1 - b (5-9-3); 2 - a (10-3-6b, 10-3-7-c2); 3 - c (10-4-3b)

Soccer Quiz: 1 - c (5, 12); 2 - c, e (5, 12); 3 - c (Guide to Procedures - Injuries)