



The Coaching Box



For a number of years now, the Ontario Association of Basketball Officials (OABO) has, by Rule 10-5-1, adopted the use of the Coaching Box. The following clarification has been approved by the Interpreter of the Hamilton Basketball Officials Association and endorsed by the Executive. Effectively immediately, these guidelines will be enforced by all officials in all sanctioned games played using National Federation rules or its variations.

The Rule: (1-13-2 & 10-5-1)

What: An area bounded by the sideline, a line off the court 28 feet from endline, the team bench and a line off the court 14 feet from the endline.

(NB state associations may alter length and location)

Who: For the use of the **head** coach.

Why: To stand to give instructions to players and/or substitutes.

Application:

- Only the Hamilton Public Board has or should have the lines marked on the floor.
- Where the lines are not marked on the floor, the coaching box will be limited to the area directly in front of and/or behind the team bench.
- In the pre-game meeting with the coaches, the Referee will specify the boundaries of the Coaching Box for each coach.
- These boundaries should be approximately the same size for both teams.

Interpretations:

- No one other than the **head coach** is permitted to stand in the Coaching Box. Assistants must remain seated except during timeouts or intermissions or to spontaneously react to outstanding play.
- If the head coach receives a technical foul (direct or indirect) the Coaching Box entitlement has been lost and he/she must remain seated for the duration of the contest.
- The Coaching Box may be used only for giving



instructions to players, not for criticizing officials, gesturing about calls or no-calls, or attempting to influence officials' judgements.

Point of Emphasis:

The Coaching Box is a Point of Emphasis for 2005-2006. The following appears on pages 69&70 of the Rulebook and was reprinted in the Oct/Nov IAABO Sportorial.

D. Coaching box: The committee wants coaches to stay in the coaching box. There is a constant problem when coaches wander. It is a distinct advantage to the coach who is permitted to be *out* of the box because the coach has a better chance to communicate with his/her team. The coach can also influence play by being *out* on the court.

The rule is black-and-white, but it has not been dealt with properly. Most officials have not enforced the rule. The fact that the coach is not directing comments to the officials or is "coaching the team" has no bearing on rule enforcement. The coach who continually abuses the coaching box rule risks having his or her governing body remove it completely. The official who doesn't enforce it runs the risk of not following what the governing body wants enforced.

Once the coaching box has been removed because of a technical foul, all related rules restrictions must apply. There's no way to get the box back after the privilege has been lost.

Assistant coaches must be seated at all times except during timeouts, to attend to an injured player after being beckoned and to spontaneously react to a play. The rules that permit a head coach to rise in certain situations (timeouts, confer with table personnel for a correctable error, dealing with disqualifications) do not apply to assistant coaches under any circumstances. Again, the fact that an assistant coach is "only coaching" has no bearing on the rule or enforcement.

Head coaches have the responsibility to remain in the box. School administrators must support that by demanding their coaches do so. When violated, the official must enforce the rule with a technical foul.