

Good Communication Between Basketball Officials and Coaches Is Key

By Wallace Whitfield

There are many ways to describe the conflicted feelings between coaches and officials. Their passion for the game is rivaled only by their intense competitiveness towards each other. While they may not see eye to eye very often and have different goals (the coach in winning and officials in managing), they should be able to agree on at least one thing: those goals can best be achieved by creating and maintaining the flow of the game. Here in the state of Michigan Dan Young, Executive Director of BCAM, and the BOCCC committee are pushing to close the gap with increased communication during basketball games. Game flow or the physical movement of the game involves a degree of concentration and communication skills between coaches and officials. In my experience, there are a few rules of official and coach communication and expectations that both should show to achieve a positive game outcome. Examples include addressing each other in a respectful manner, officials explaining calls and not rules, and coaches not arguing with officials' calls. This will help close the gap of communication not only between the coaches and officials, but also between the parents and anyone who loves the game of basketball. Understanding game sportsmanship will help alleviate some of the friction coaches and officials experience and help increase the enjoyment for everyone involved.