

Two-Person Mechanics

Areas of Responsibility

General allocation of Areas of Responsibility



Diagram 42

This Picture makes the FIBA Areas of Responsibility very clear:

- a. Areas 1, 2 and 3 are Trail responsibility
- b. Area 6 outside the three-point line is Trail responsibility
- c. Area 6 inside the three-point line is Shared responsibility
- d. Area 4 is Lead responsibility
- e. Area Five is Shared responsibility.

The challenge for many officials is the sharing of Area 6 inside the three-point line. They must be prepared to cross the back-board to referee in this area.

There is no brick wall at the edge of the backboard.

1. Area 5/6

- a. Some parts of Australia/NZ teach the Lead referee to go to Area 5/6 (i.e. beyond the back-board) better than others. At Australian Championships we expect referees to work according to the FIBA two-person mechanics manual.
- b. The manual is very, very clear: when the ball handler is guarded in Area 6 and there is Low-Post activity, the Lead official must be at or beyond the Area 5/6 border, anticipating the play. This is a FIBA direction.



Diagram 51



Diagram 53

Position of Lead official



Diagram 64



Diagram 66

Positioning of both officials

- c. This is the only position from which the official can effectively sell calls on either illegal Offence or illegal Defence.
2. Area 3-4 (Grey Area)
- a. The most important thing is that one official is on the ball at all times, and one off. Too often we see either two on or two off, because we miss the subtle communication between officials.
 - b. Guidance for Australian Championships is the "one metre" principle:

- i. Once the ball has progressed about one metre from one area into the other, then the control changes
- ii. Once it progresses back over the free-throw-extended line by about one metre, it changes back
- iii. Officials should angle their hips to the play when on-ball, and angle their hips away from the play when off ball. This is the subtle signal to their partner.
- iv. Don't take the one-metre rule too literally: once the ball is clearly established in one area or the other, the relevant official must be the on-ball official.

3. Area 5

- a. Area 5 is a shared area, but that does not mean that every call is a double whistle.
- b. Good officials will make subtle divisions of Area 5:
 - i. Low (Lead) and High (Trail)
 - ii. Left (looking down from Trail) – Trail; and Right (Lead)
 - iii. Deep (Lead) and Near (Trail)
 - iv. Body contact (Lead) and high contact (Trail)
 - v. Travels (mostly Trail)
 - vi. Goal Tending and Basket Interference (Trail only – this is an absolute rule)

4. Transition from Trail to Lead

- a. On a turn-over in Areas 1, 2 or 3, the former Lead official can be unsighted
- b. The former Trail official **MUST** observe and adjudicate on any contact immediately after the turn-over. This particularly applies to help-out calls resulting from hacking at the arms of the new ball-handler, bumping, or break-away fouls.
- c. This means that the former Trail official must not transition too quickly, and must keep an eye on the play.

Positioning – Areas of Concern

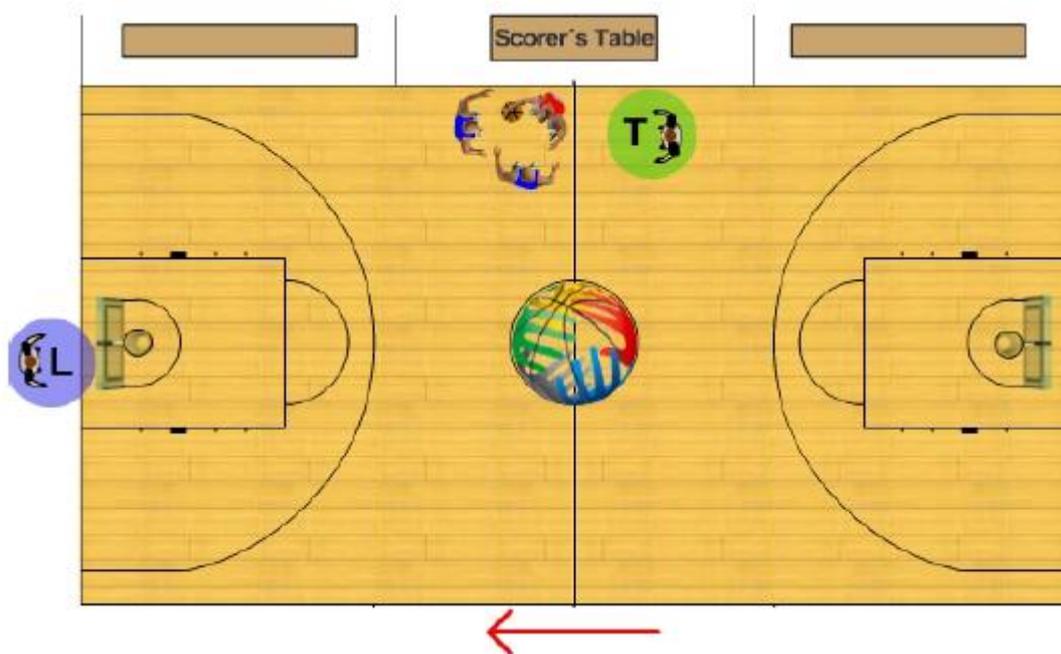
1. Area 3 coverage (Trail)

- a. Trail official must get across to, or even beyond, the split-line to cover Area 3 play
- b. There is no magic barrier at the split-line
- c. Go where you have to go to see the whole play



Diagram 72

- d. When the ball is trapped at the centre-line in Area 3, get across



- e. Note that the Lead official must continue to "box-in".

2. Back Court coverage

- a. When the ball is being brought down the court under no (i.e. zero or one defender) pressure:
- i. Trail official maintains a straight-line down the court (do not weave with the players, no need)

- b. When the ball is being brought down the court under pressure (press, trap):
 - i. Both officials are involved: New Lead checks play at Centre line and at free-throw line extended, to be ready to help-out
 - ii. New Lead is provides help on 8 second (back court count)

3. Position for Free-throw administration with rebounds:

- a. The Lead official takes a position with at the junction of the restricted Area and the end line (not in the court, and not in the vision of the shooter).
- b. Both officials take a single step to their right, to sandwich the players.

4. When no line-up (technical foul etc.)



Diagram 156

Note that the Active (administering) official is in the Trail position, to administer free-throw violations and adjudicate on any score.