

THE REBOUNDERS REPORT



The Ohio High School Athletic Association

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Making High School Basketball BETTER...Will it Help?

Since ALL high school coaches were required to complete this year's Rules Interpretation Meeting online, everyone is familiar with the survey questions that were asked surrounding the "Out of Season Coaching Proposal" submitted to the Board of Directors for consideration. The elected Board of Directors has been weighing this proposal carefully and may act upon it at its January 10 meeting. Here are some facts surrounding the proposal:

Committee Developed in 2011-12

A committee was developed at the request of Dr. Ross, OHSAA Commissioner, to develop a recommendation to the Board of Directors for consideration. The committee met several times over the course of the school year and was comprised of a *wide range of* individuals from across the state.

A 'change' was Required

Simply put, the challenge to the committee was to develop SOMETHING...in other words, doing 'nothing' and keeping out of season restrictions as they currently are was not an option.

Feedback was Required and Necessary

After 'the Committee' made its recommendation, it also recommended that feedback be obtained from a number of sources; including the coaches' associations that represent each sport. This feedback has been obtained in the form of surveys from individual coaches as well as a position statement requested from the actual coaches' association representing the various sports.

Why is a Change Proposed?

While basketball coaches (through the OHSBCA) has requested the ability to provide out of season instruction for some time, there has been increasing pressure to provide an opportunity for SCHOOL coaches to provide the same instruction that private instructors are currently providing. Everything from 'shot doctors' in basketball to 'keeper coaches' in soccer currently provide this instruction OUTSIDE the season of play while school coaches restricted from doing this.

Proposal is for INDIVIDUAL Instruction

The proposal presented to the Board of Directors includes an opportunity for coaches to provide INDIVIDUAL instruction as this was the challenge provide to this committee. It did not look at nor recommend any changes to the current 'team instruction' opportunities outside the season of play. Why might you ask? Because the challenge presented to the Committee was to propose a regulation to allow coaches to provide INDIVIDUAL instruction.

The Drawbacks and Concerns

Most were reflected by the Committee. Though anything would be 'non-mandatory', I think we can all settle in to what kids and parents believe that 'non-mandatory' really means. Will it just mean more work for a coach with no increase in pay? Will it benefit large schools (more athletes) than smaller schools? All of this is being carefully weighed.

Stay Tuned!

The 'heart of the season' is upon us. I observed quite a few 'Holiday Tournaments' over the past few weeks and gather that many teams that added the 2 games to the schedule did so in this way. I intend to have near weekly issues of this publication in the coming weeks.

Jerry Snodgrass

Assistant Commissioner

Warm-Up "Requirements"

We are creatures of habit. For as long as I can remember, warm-up has been 20:00. Except tournament (which screws everyone up). Did you know there is NO requirement addressed by the NFHS Rules? Several leagues have 'cut down' their warm-up time this year as a league rule.

Special Events

Remember if you are having any 'Coach vs Cancer' event, you are permitted a one-time waiver on some of the uniform requirements (home color as an example) but you need to have your AD request the waiver.

Hit by Injury?

Many do not realize in basketball that NOTHING that is hard or 'unyielding' is permitted to be worn on the finger, hand, arm or elbow...even if padded. So that means a player that has a broken finger and wants to wear ANYTHING on that finger CANNOT. Why? Danger of eye injury.

Unauthorized "People" on the Court?

I have had considerable feedback on the emphasis I put on this in Pre-Season meetings (thanks for listening!). "Unauthorized people" are meant to be fans that get close to the court (sometimes end seating) and get onto the court. Many schools have 'halftime shooting contests' as a fundraiser and this emphasis was NOT meant to eliminate those. They ARE authorized by the game administration.

Varsity Players Warming Up with JV Team?

I have to review this each year as a reminder. You might find this 'odd' but it centers on the integrity of the game. Often you will see Varsity players warming up with JV players or shooting around at halftime of the JV game. If that is what you want as a coach, no problem. But, keep in mind that the rules of the game are being enforced and that means any dunking has to be enforced (by rule) of a technical foul...regardless of who does the dunking. If you have your Varsity players out there...just remind them.

8th Graders on a 7th Grade Team?

This question occurs quite often this time of year. OHSAA regulations permit 7th and 8th graders to play together. JUST like they permit 9-12 graders to play together. So, with that regulation an 8th grader IS permitted to play on a 7th grade team. But, I always advise Athletic Directors to look at their game contract signed with an opponent. If you have a 7th grade team, it most likely indicates a '7th Grade game'. So, though our regulations do not prohibit it, the signed agreement between the schools might. But, as we know, most people will agree to doing it if it means having enough kids to play. Everyone except the watchful 'basketball mom' in the stands that is!

Another 'Caution' on Above

OHSAA regulations prohibit 8th graders from playing with or competing against anyone in grades 9-12. During this time of year, I often get inquiries about a freshmen team (especially a "B" team wanting to practicing against an 8th grade team. It is not permitted.

Why The Early Ticket Mailing?

Thinking that your ticket request was sent to you earlier this year than in the past? Not your imagination...it was. Most know that ticket sales of 'books' for the state tournament have fallen off in recent years. Pre-sale dates were changed this year to be about 1 month earlier than in past years. This was done in an attempt to provide more unsold tickets for sale to the public at an earlier date. In the past, 'books' did not go on sale until the week before the tournament and generally people did not have enough time or information to buy those that were unsold. This will provide OSU and the Schottenstein Center a chance to get more tickets sold in advance.

Be Careful with that Music!

"Hey Coach...can we play this CD before the game?" I know we're supposed to 'trust 'em'. But...that music may not seem offensive to THEM and may seem appropriate to them, but think twice unless you listen to it first. I know 'music' is the last thing on your mind before a game but it is those little things that cause the big problems. I urge you as a former administrator to tell your players not to put that CD in before you hear every bit of it and read every lyric. You might be thankful. If you get bored and want some help, download the "SoundHound" and "Shazam" apps. Their great for picking up and identifying a song and quickly linking you to the lyrics of a sound. I guess it highlights the generation gap. Put your George Jones CD in. Fool 'em with your tech knowledge of using those apps.