



THE REBOUNDERS REPORT



The Ohio High School Athletic Association

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This has been a 'big' 2 week period in High School basketball in Ohio. From the "Classic in the Country" for girls' basketball and "Flyin to the Hoop" in boys' basketball to some extremely competitive league races, much attention has focused on Ohio basketball. There is also the OTHER side of the coin – players not seeing the playing time they (or their parents) hoped for; teams out of league races and hanging on until that 'second season'. Always one of the toughest parts of the high school basketball season. Hopefully some helpful points below. Tournament draw meetings are rapidly approaching and I will address those next.

Uniform Issues – Part 2

There continue to be "uniform issues" around the state. Officials blame coaches for letting players wear illegal equipment (headbands, etc.). Coaches blame officials for not enforcing it until 14 games into the schedule. We all need to step back and realize that illegal equipment is illegal equipment and is not permitted. No one wants to measure the width of a headband...but if they do and it is larger than 2" – it is illegal and must be removed. OR, if the person cannot play without that headband, then they are making the choice NOT to play. I would recommend reviewing **Section 5 of Rule 3** on pages 25 and 26 of the NFHS Basketball Rules Book that defines everything about headbands, casts and splits, sleeves, knee braces and wristbands.

Additionally, often coaches are not aware of a rule that prohibits (also within Section 5 Article 2(a) to be specific) any 'guard, cast or brace' made of ANY hard substance is not permitted to be worn on the finger, thumb, wrist or forearm....EVEN if it is padded. Often physicians will write 'doctor notes' permitting a player to play provided they wear a splint on their finger (example). Players and coaches are surprised when an official denies them to participate. And...it is then too often perceived that we are not safety minded by forcing him to play without the splint. Actually, it is just the opposite – the rules are SO safety minded to say he can NOT play...not that he should play without it. And, if you are wondering 'why'....mainly due to the potential for eye injury for others on the floor.

Uniform Issues – Special Events

As covered in the pre-season rules meeting, I will approve a one-time exception for the uniform regulations when games are dedicated 'to a cause'. Games dedicated to Coaches vs Cancer and they Kay Yow Foundation are starting to occur and a waiver can be obtained online at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bk/Special%20Event%20Request.pdf> and most waivers are signed and approved.

Non-Interscholastic Warning #4

Despite every precaution, we have had several violations of the "non-interscholastic rule" that prohibits players on a school basketball team from participating in any NON-school basketball during the basketball season. There are 'many' different organizations; CYO, Rec Leagues, YMCA Leagues, and AAU practices. ALL (and others) are prohibited during the basketball season. Players often innocently get asked to 'step in' and take the place of a player that does not show up to a "rec league" game thinking they are doing nothing wrong. They actually become an INELIGIBLE player at that point and if they appear in any game after that, they are doing so as an ineligible player. That = forfeiture. So, don't take it for granted, I encourage you to remind players weekly. They can cost you league titles or even elimination from the OHSAA tournament if it occurs then.

Rating Officials

This is a good time to remind everyone to RATE your officials. Despite thinking it 'makes no difference', I can assure you it does. Mathematically, coaches have the single most influence on what officials are placed in the various pools – State, Regional, Sectional/District that is the basis for being assigned tournament contests. It DOES make a difference. Officials in varsity games only need to be rated. If you need help, check with your Athletic Director for the complete instructions. And....because of its importance, schools are fined for non-compliance.

Reminders:

- Junior High aged players may NOT practice or compete vs High School players during the season
- Girls' Tournament draws are Sunday, February 8 and Boys' Tournament draws are Sunday, February 15. Both draws are at 2:00 across Ohio
- Remind your assistant coaches they cannot use cell phones or ANY recording device to record opponents when they scout! NOT permitted!

The "Golden Megaphone"

We recently launched a program to highlight student groups that cheer FOR their teams. This has taken off extremely well and highlights the great environment students create at high school games. Everything from Theme Nights to "unique" cheers for their own team have been submitted and highlighted. Often times we think we cannot change the culture of some bad behaviors that sometimes exist in sport. We have found out we CAN make a difference. I thank all the schools that have gotten on board. And I know that many student groups echo the leadership capabilities of coaches....so a big shoutout to coaches for helping with this. If you want your school to get involved, it is very simple; just following these simple instructions: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bk/ReboundersReport/2015/1415GoldenMegaphone.pdf> We have staff members attending games at Carroll and Amelia High School the next 2 weeks taking video of their student sections who won our first round of submissions. And thanks to WOSN in NW Ohio for permitting us to use the #GoldenMegaphone name and hashtag.

Ejections and Appeals

I can openly say that I have dealt with this on the other side....a player given a technical foul that he (or she) did not deserve. Though I never had a player ejected from a contest, a second technical on the player requires an *automatic* ejection. But...what about when you have video evidence that the player didn't deserve one of the "T's"? What if it was NOT a flagrant foul (in your opinion) and your video (usually in slow motion) proves it? This is NOT meant to be un-caring or cold hearted...but there is NOTHING anyone can do about it. High School basketball (and all sports) still recognize the human element of an official's judgment. It is fundamental to the high school game. So whether it be the traveling call in the 2nd quarter or the flagrant foul called on the team captain – they are both judgment calls made by an official and stand as called. I am almost daily provided "video evidence" of a call and asked to comment on it. It makes no difference what I 'think' about the call one way or another – it is not going to change the call and in most cases, any comment would do nothing but stir unnecessary debate anyhow. That is not to support officials and ignore coaches – it is simply the facts. And, if you are wondering – yes...we have been to court MULTIPLE times over ejections or calls an official has made. And in all cases, decisions made by officials are upheld as a fundamental part of the high school game – even if the call IS wrong in your opinion. And we also strongly discourage asking partners of an official what their opinion is. You can imagine the outcry when 1 official says "I don't think that was a flagrant foul and I would not have called that". Unfortunately that happens from time to time and does no one any good. It isn't going to change a call. This week alone we used 3 video clips for educational reasons – with every intent to educate