

The OHSAA Rebounder's Report

The Ohio High School Athletic Association



Issue #2 December 5, 2011

Seasons are well underway and hope I am able to address a few things that have come up in the past week. You'll notice I address a few concerns about 'numbers lacking' on teams. The 'holiday season' brings about a few potential issues that I address also and it may be a good time to simply remind some of your players and younger coaches of a few things.

Jerry Snodgrass
Assistant Commissioner

Sports Regulation 6 "Non-Interscholastic Play"

Sports Regulation 6 addresses participation in non-interscholastic play— both 'in' and 'out' of season. Once an individual becomes a member of a school squad (defined by his/her participation in a scrimmage or game), he/she is prohibited from trying out, practicing OR competing in any non-interscholastic practice or contest. The temptation often exists the more the season progresses...players that aren't getting the time they think they should might find another avenue to play the game and YOU as the coach might be the last to find out. Remind your players continually. Though infractions are dealt with by suspensions, when this goes unchecked and a player THEN plays in a school contest, he/she is actually doing that as an ineligible player. And, as we all know: use of an ineligible player results in forfeiture of contests.

Sports Regulation 7 "Instructional Programs"

Sports Regulation 7 permits individual skill instruction by a squad member any time provided the school coaching staff, athletic department, etc., have no policies against them receiving this instruction.

"Filming/Taping" Reminder

In today's electronic world, many subvarsity coaches think they are doing the head coach a favor by videotaping an opponent's 'quick hitters' while scouting. Not only is it 'illegal' by OHSAA regulations, but it is also unethical. OHSAA Sports Regulations prohibit the taping of an opponent (of a game you are not playing) for scouting reasons. Might be something worth reminding younger coaches. Respect the game.....

Common Q and A's

Q: We have an ineligible player. Can he/she practice with us and ride to and from games with us?

Answer: Yes. As long as your school's regulations do not prevent it, no OHSAA regulation would prohibit this.

Q: Can that person sit on the bench with us?

Answer: Yes, BUT....they cannot be in uniform at any time.

8th Graders playing on a 7th Grade Team?

It is coming up more and more. As so many of you have experienced, numbers are lacking at the lower levels. It is alarming in many areas. A common question that comes forth from many is an inquiry as to whether 8th graders can play on a 7th grade team. The answer to that is "Yes" but it deserves a bit of an explanation. First, OHSAA regulations permit 'junior high' players to play with 'junior high players' and 9-12 to play with 9-12. The regulation is NOT designed to 'move kids up' and get playing time on the 8th grade team because they are Ohio's next LeBron. However, using that regulation, a 7th grader could play on an 8th grade team and vice versa. But...something I caution to athletic directors; in most cases a contract is written between two schools that actually reflects the grade level of the game. So though it might not be an issue relative to OHSAA Regulations, it would be a slight 'breach of contract' between the schools. Not that anyone would get caught up in the legalities of a 7th grade game but one can only imagine when 'mom' finds out in the stands that there is an 8th grader on the opposing 7th grade team....So, my recommendation always is to simply communicate with the opposing school's Athletic Director. In 99% of the cases, the other school would have no problem, as it would probably mean the difference between having a game or not having a game. Simple communication can eliminate any issues with it.

8th Grade teams practicing with Freshmen teams?

Unfortunately, another growing trend is for young, enthusiastic coaches to want their junior high team to practice with the freshmen team. The idea that the better competition will help them. Well...think twice. Junior High players are NOT permitted to practice or compete at any time during the season with high school players. This is not true for Open Gyms and conditioning programs, however, they are OUT of the season of play. Hopefully this is read by many as the temptation to do this over Christmas break is a strong one. Junior High teams often have a little time off and there always seems to be an issue when we come back from 'break'.

Playing against the local "CYO" team?

Ohio is one of the few states that does not restrict member schools from participating against non-members. Many schools play games against the local parochial school that may or may not be a member of the association. So, therein lies the answer; OHSAA member schools MAY play contests vs non-members; and that includes "club" teams. All NFHS playing rules and any state adoptions (number of quarters played, etc.) but be followed in those contests and the game itself must be counted as one of the number permitted on the schedule.

Can a Coach ALSO coach a local "CYO" Team in Addition to the High School Team?

This question is being asked MORE and more. There is no OHSAA regulation that prohibits a coach from coaching any non-interscholastic team ("CYO", "Travel") during the season of play. On the surface, this may seem like a non-issue. However, this does not exempt the coach doing this from any Recruiting Bylaws. I would strongly recommend ANYONE doing this to carefully read the "Recruiting Bylaws" from the OHSAA's website..

Can a Player Participate in an Indoor Soccer League While Being on a Basketball Team?

Hopefully, nearly everyone understands the regulation that prohibits players from participating in any non-interscholastic tryout, practice or contest **of the same sport** during the season of play. That Regulation is defined in Sports Regulation 6.3

Videotaping an Opponent for Scouting ?

52.6%

Percentage of GIRLS coaches that indicate a significant drop in girls trying out for basketball.

30.7%

Percentage of GIRLS coaches that indicate a significant drop in girls trying out for basketball.

93.0%

Percentage of coaches that indicate they WILL add 2 games to the schedule in 2012-13.

66.6%

Percentage of coaches that like the current 2 'no - contact periods' that exist for basketball.

Percentages taken from online rules meeting questionnaire