Individual Skill Instruction By Non-School Coaches - IMPORTANT

Nearly every regulation that has been created through the years prohibiting players on teams from participating in non-school “events” was developed at the request of coaches and school administrators to protect coaches in their efforts to be the authority on teaching the sport. Thus, players are prohibited from participating in non-school tryouts, workouts, games and practices during the season. Now comes “Individual Instruction” by non-school coaches during the season. A player on your team wants to get shooting instruction or individual skill instruction…

Let’s start with the regulation itself; General Sports Regulation 8.2.3 permits non-school coaches or instructors to provide individual skill/coaching instruction to a member of a school team at any time. This obviously then means it can occur during the season. SO, plain and simple, players CAN receive it.

BUT – the regulation also permits schools/teams/coaches to develop a policy that prohibits it. As the explosion of non-school/AAU basketball has occurred more and more, it is creeping more and more into the season. The regulation prohibiting non-school play was developed by coaches’ requests – wanting the focus by the player on the SCHOOL coach and not ‘other’ instructors. And while I will emphasize there certainly are many excellent instructors, the difficulty has surfaced with AAU coaches realizing that players ARE permitted to receive instruction. Many are using that to circumvent the non-interscholastic rule, are getting their AAU teams together during the school season and disguising it as “individual instruction.”

When asked if instruction is permitted during the season, I often indicate that it is “ok” provided the player is paying a fee. When asked if instruction is permitted during the season, I often indicate that it is “ok” provided the player is paying a fee. And, it is not that we advocate paying more out of pocket money for training, but since nearly every ‘private instructor’ DOES charge for ‘lessons,’ charging a fee seems to be the defining point between a true instructor and an AAU coach disguising AAU practice/workouts when they should not be doing so.

Quick Reminder on Two-Quarter Games

A reminder that two-quarter games MAY be played by mutual agreement. Quarter lengths may NOT exceed 7:00 minutes. If a game is tied after two quarters, a 3:00 minute overtime must be played – games cannot end in a tie. These games still DO count as one of the 22 permitted games on a schedule.

The “Daith Earring”

If you have never heard of it – it is a piercing in the ear that potentially cure/relieve migraine headaches. NFHS granted this as an approved medical device provided it is required by a physician. If you encounter this with a student-athlete, simply provide that request to me, along with the physician’s authorization. I will then provide you the approval required to show the officials prior to each game.

Ejections:
The numbers thus far:
21 total ejections
Of those 21 total ejections … 15 player ejections, 6 coach ejections
Of those 21 total ejections … 10 Varsity Level, 4 JV Level, 7 Middle School Level
Of the 6 coach ejections … 3 Varsity Coaches, 1 JV Coach, 2 Middle School Coaches

Although this does NOT impact the clear majority of our coaches and players, these numbers are UP from last year. I’ve played the game, I’ve coached the game and I’ve been an AD at these games. I have seen some horrible calls, and some nights it just isn’t the crew you were hoping would walk into the gym. However, in my role now, I also read EVERY ejection report, and these are quite intense. A player swinging at an official … a player telling an official he will “see him at his car”… a coach yelling so that everyone in the gym could hear, “you f*cking suck.” A few things to remember:

2. If you are unhappy with an official’s performance, PLEASE do something about it after the game (talk to your AD, contact the league assigner, contact me, rate online).
3. When yelling, or not letting go of a call, not only are you influencing your team, but you are also influencing the younger players and fans at the games, as well as setting the tone for how the parents and fans feel they can react from the stands.
4. Fact: Officials are people, and they will make mistakes. Fact: There is a decline in the number of people continuing to officiate, as well as smaller incoming numbers. Fact: The #1 reason people are not wanting to come back is how they are being treated from players, coaches, and fans.
5. I have NEVER seen someone berate an official and then the official goes and changes the call. IT DOESN’T HAPPEN. You aren’t proving anything by yelling or making a scene. LET IT GO, or there may be a time when we don’t have enough officials to take care of your game.