



THE REBOUNDERS REPORT



The Ohio High School Athletic Association

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2 Weeks of Girls' games and 1 week of boys' games and ONE player ejection. That compares to MANY more a year ago. Let's keep it up. Many situations develop as we get into the season and I will try to address each of them as we move into the season. As the season progresses, coaches often look for items to review and cover at team meetings – there are many suggestions here. Continued best of luck to coaches – I hope you focus on your teams playing to their potential...not just the wins and losses. As we all know, that is a challenge with fans usually wanting to focus on the other.

Non-Interscholastic Regulations

I can't say this enough...so you'll see this repeatedly. Basketball players cannot participate in any non-interscholastic basketball during the basketball season. It is the #1 cause of ineligibility during the basketball season. A player sees less and less playing time for you so he/she gets tempted to jump into that "Rec Game" on Sunday at the "Y". It happens all too often. A player gets tempted to workout with his/her "AAU" team during January – this also is not permitted. And, you are often the last to know. Unfortunately, it results in the player becoming immediately ineligible. And, anytime you play an ineligible player, it results in forfeiture. And, since you often don't know, forfeitures can pile up. You cannot warn your players enough. In your team meetings on the day after a game when practice is a little lighter – remind them!

Individual Instruction During the Season

Don't confuse "Individual Instruction" with Non-Interscholastic Play. Players MAY receive Individual Skill Instruction by non-coaching staff members during the season. In other words, they can get extra help from a 'shooting instructor'. But...YOU have the right to deny it. If you have a policy that prohibits it, then it is also enforced as part of the non-interscholastic rule. Keep in mind, this was adopted years ago to 'protect' the school coach. Many coaches don't want players getting conflicting advice on techniques, etc. so giving the school coach the right to deny it is there to help and protect you. IF the "AAU" coach is the one that is giving the individual instruction during the season I STRONGLY recommend you email me for advice on this.

Transfer Athletes

This is just another reminder...but also some clarification. Any student-athlete that transferred to your school as part of your basketball team and did not qualify for an exception to become immediately eligible must sit out 50% of the season. That "50%" is defined as the maximum number of games permitted to be scheduled at the varsity level. So, any player that is sitting out the required 50% becomes eligible to participate AFTER the varsity's 11th played contest.

Ohhhh oh ohhhh Listen to the Music.....

Yes, I am dating myself with this topic (Doobie Brothers from the 70's?). It seems all so innocent; your seniors bring you a CD or an MP3 player and ask you to play it for pre-game warm-up. It 'get's them ready to play'. You, an assistant coach, an announcer puts it in and blares it during warm-up. Then the shock when the lyrics have inappropriate language or references. It happens every year and it also causes coach discipline issues in many cases in schools. Just say 'no'.....at least until you take the time to know what the lyrics are (and in many cases their hidden meanings!). What is offensive or inappropriate to our generation and many of the fans might be commonly accepted by the next generation. Head coaches often have to deal with so many things other than 'coaching'...and this is a great example. But take the time to review it, or just say 'no'. Check out some of the many apps like Shazam or Soundhound and you'll get the lyrics you need to review.

Rating Officials

As most coaches know, officials are rated on a game by game basis by head coaches. Your Athletic Director provides you login credentials that in turn permit you to access the names of the officials that worked your contest. Other individuals get the opportunity to VOTE for officials at the end of the season (Athletic Directors, Officials Associations). The combination of these formulates "pools" of officials - Sectional/District Pools, Regional Pools and State Pools. Being in a specific pool qualifies officials to work that specific level of tournament for the NEXT year – rating/voting is always 1 year behind. All coach ratings on an official are averaged and used as a multiplier to the votes an official receives. This being the case, the coach's rating is the most important determination for where an official ends up. Therefore the importance. You can imagine that if a large majority of coaches simply did not take the time to rate, how the system would be flawed. For that reason, coaches are actually fined if they do not meet this important requirement. Please remember to do this after each game is complete. It is important. If you have questions, talk with your Athletic Director and if they have questions, they will contact us and we will help them. The instructions are located at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/myOHSAA/OfficialRatingInstructions.pdf>

Scouting & Videotaping Opponents

Powerful iPhone cameras, memories on phones that will video incredible amounts. The world has changed significantly but please take a moment to remind your younger coaches they cannot video record anything on an opponent while scouting. Many younger coaches see nothing wrong with it so they DO need a reminder. Don't take for granted what 'we' always knew. And speaking of scouting; I found it quite interesting during 'scrimmage season' that I was getting phone calls from time to time about 'a coach' that was scouting the scrimmage of another school that they were to play early in the season. "They Can't Do That!!!!" was what I often heard and I often heard that the coach made their AD throw them out of the gym. I think this is another one of those things that my generation of coaches simply *did not do*. Scouting scrimmages was just the 'gentlemen's agreement' that we did not do. But, our regulations do not prohibit it – football doesn't miss an opportunity to scout a scrimmage. But...football is different. Or is it? Something to think about for coaching ethics.

Sharing Video of Opponents at Regional Level

Yes, I know it is a long way off; the Regional Tournaments. However, this year, teams will be REQUIRED to exchange video of their previous 2 contests by the end of the day on Sunday – the week of the Regional Tournament. This will be covered in detail in the OHSAA Tournament Regulations and reviewed at Tournament Draws in February.

Playing Out of State Opponents

More and more teams compete with out-of-state opponents and some actually have out-of-state opponents in their conference. Incidentally, that is the main reason why NFHS Playing Rules are standard across the nation (yes...I will address the "Shot Clock" issue in a coming Rebounders' Report!). Keep in mind there are **PLAYING RULES** and there are **ADMINISTRATIVE RULES** that basketball teams must adhere to. For example, Ohio permits a player to participate in 5 quarters in any one day. A player could therefore participate in a freshman game (2 quarters), a JV game (2 quarters) and a Varsity game (1 quarter) all in the same day. In Michigan, players may play in only one CONTEST per day. This is an example of an **ADMINISTRATIVE RULE** – not an NFHS Playing Rule. And, states much adhere to their own administrative rules; meaning that a game between an Ohio school and a Michigan school permits the OHIO player to play in 5 quarters and the Michigan player to play in only one contest on the day – regardless of where the game is played. This is argued from time to time but 'is the way it is'. And, in case you are wondering; an ejection is an ejection. When a player or coach is ejected in an out-of-state contest, that state submits a report to us and we do the same for them. So, if an ejection takes place in Florida over Christmas break – Ohio players/coaches must follow Ohio ejection protocols.

Length of Season

A recent study by the NFHS focused on the "length of the basketball season". Read how the length of season varies from state to state here: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bk/2015lengthofseasons.pdf>