

# The OHSAA Rebounder's Report

The Ohio High School Athletic Association



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Great feedback from many last week relative to my comments regarding music played prior to games. I think many shared my view also that players should focus on mentally preparing themselves for a game as opposed to what music is being played. Probably highlights the dilemma we are with so many things in high school sports today; what is actually 'fun' for players today is a little different than years past. Enough editorializing, thanks for the comments.

*Jerry Snodgrass*  
Assistant Commissioner

## Help Save the Junior High!

We might have a hard time admitting it, but simply based upon the calls I receive, we are struggling more and more with numbers at the Junior High level. I will be working with the OHSBCA to look at potential items within the sport regulations that can help but a few items that seem to be recurring themes based on communications to this office:

### Poorly Trained/Qualified Coaches

I think major strides have been made to help in this area, especially by veteran coaches. We need to get those younger coaches to the state tournament, get them to have a stake in the 'game' itself.

### Overkill

Another thing that is hard to admit, but based upon the communication to this office, more and more are giving up the game at a younger age. Individuals cite the time factor, money factor, etc. at the elementary age (travel ball, etc.) as reasons why they give it up at an earlier age. Nothing statistically backs this up but it appears more on the girls' basketball side than the boys'.

### A few Reminders that MAY help:

-7<sup>th</sup> graders can play in 8<sup>th</sup> grade games and 8<sup>th</sup> graders can play in 7<sup>th</sup> grade games. BUT...contracts for a 7<sup>th</sup> grade game might specifically state it is between 7<sup>th</sup> grade teams. Talk to the AD's, talk to the coach. Often times it is better to let 'em play than cancel the game due to low numbers.

-5 Quarters per day. The save '5 quarters per day' rule applies to Jr. High as it does in high school. Don't hesitate to use it when needed.

-FREE NFHS Course. Yes...**FREE**. There are some great resources provided to HELP young coaches. The knowledge of the game is one thing...dealing with issues are another. Whether we want to admit it, those 'issues' are what drives most young coaches away. Check out:

**Coaching Sports in Middle School, & Engaging Effectively with Parents; both available at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com)**

### Varsity Players 'warming up' with JV Players at Pre-Game & Halftime? Consider this....

It happens everywhere more and more. Varsity players get out and warm-up with JV players. But consider this; when they do so, there is no distinguishing between a JV player and a varsity player. If the officials are on the floor, they have jurisdiction. So when that Varsity player wants to demonstrate his jumping ability and dunk...it is a "T" just like any other time. Might 'seem' farfetched at first, but nearly EVERY coach agrees the integrity of the game needs to be protected. It starts with simple enforcement of regular adopted game rules.

### Why are Quarters Played SO Important?

We 'think' no one watches. But if a player exceeds the quarters played on a season, he/she becomes an INELIGIBLE player. And, any ineligible player that plays in a game...the bad word of "Forfeiture" comes into play. Do that in a tournament game? And it is seldom the 'opponent' that cries foul; it is generally someone's parents from the same team. Count your players' quarters! There will be more addressed on this in a future Rebounder's Report relative to next season when 22 games are permitted.

### More on Music "Issues"

Great feedback on this as mentioned; it IS a problem many places. Jim Rudloff, longtime announcer at Zanesville gave a *great* suggestion. Check out "SoundHound"...a free app. There are others but I found this one very easy to use also. It allows you to type in a song, get the lyrics quickly. No royalties for me for "SoundHound" but you may want to pass this along to your person that does music.

### Parents Not Understanding Their Role?

This time of year, at ALL levels of play, the concept of 'just being on the team' is certainly not what it used to be. Players want to play more, parents want their kids to play more and coaches certainly WANT their bench players to play more. Check out the NFHS Learn's website at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com). There are some GREAT, free resources available for parents. Never hurts.

### Special Event...Game for the Cure?

We are entering the month where many are participating in various games for causes. Check your 'Pre-Season Manual' for information on what variations are permitted for uniforms. There are certain uniform regulations that cannot be waived but certain items (headbands, wristbands, "Pink" at home vs White are permissible.

### More Junior High

Especially at Jr. High, protecting officials after a game is extremely important. Of all coach ejections that take place, the greatest percentage by far occur at the Jr. High level; the place where we might 'assume' administrating a game might be easier. Coaches need to remember that in the absence of any administrative oversight, YOU as the coach are the 'one in charge' and must insure this. Might not be what you WANT to do...but administrative oversight of all athletic events is required.

### Note on 30 Second Timeouts

I hear often about cheerleaders being on the floor during 30 second timeouts. Simply to help the game along, you may want to remind game administrators (AD's, Faculty Mgrs., etc.) that cheerleaders cannot be on the floor for cheers/stunts, etc. during a 30 second timeout.

## Coach/Player Ejections ...to Date

Girls' Coaches  
14

Girls' Players  
0

Boys' Coaches  
5

Boys' Players  
9

By the Numbers