



THE REBOUNDERS REPORT



The Ohio High School Athletic Association

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Here we go...closing in on the start of another season. Periodically throughout the season – with the goal being weekly - you will find these “Rebounders Reports” on the boys’ and girls’ ‘basketball’ webpage on the OHSAA’s website. I encourage you to look periodically, to help reinforce and remind coaches at all levels on various administrative rules/regulations affecting you, your teams and your individual players.

New Staff Members to Assist You

Over the past year, the OHSAA has had a tremendous change in personnel. Renee Moore, a 40 year admin. Assistant passed away last spring, Sharon Shoemaker – one who assisted with basketball – retired in April to name just a few. While individuals have taken their place, their job titles and responsibilities have changed as well. Emily Gates was hired as a “Program Coordinator” to assist in all aspects of sport administration and helps specifically with basketball. She has been a tremendous asset and do not hesitate to reach out to her with questions just as you have contacted me in the past. Lauren Prochaska, a former All-American at BGSU, assists with many basketball related regulations while also serving as the Assistant Tournament Manager at the State Basketball Tournaments. They are a welcome addition to our staff, especially in the basketball area.

6th Graders w/ 7th & 8th Graders....and more

One very fundamental regulation prohibits 6th graders from practicing or competing with 7th/8th graders (or above). Additionally, 7th/8th graders are prohibited from practicing with or competing with 9-12th graders. This is defined in the OHSAA’s General Sports Regulation 36.3 and 36.4 (pg. 79 of the OHSAA Handbook). Please take a minute to remind your Junior High/Middle School coaches so they know.

Transfer Athletes

As many realize, basketball has been affected by the reduction in penalty of the Transfer Bylaw more than any other sport. And, as most know by now, provided a student-athlete does not meet one of the 7 exceptions that would provide immediate eligibility, they are required to sit out the first 11 basketball contests for the 2014-15 season. During this time, they are also not permitted to participate in scrimmages. The rule is written such that requires them to be ineligible for all CONTESTS until the 11th game is completed. “Contests” by our definition include scrimmages, Previews, Foundation Games and regular season games.

Basketball Rules for 2014-15

“Hand Checking” – Rule 10-6-12 “Contact”

Though there were few rule changes for 2014-15, there are 2 that deserve additional comment and reminders. First, Rule 10-6-12 of the NFHS Rules Book addresses “Contact” and most coaches will have encountered this during scrimmages. The 3 basic components of this rule change require a personal foul to be called when:

- The defender places two hands on the dribbler.
- The defender uses an extended arm bar on the dribbler
- The defender contacts the ball handler more than once with one hand or alternating hands

Since the NCAA adopted a similar rule change a year ago, much has been discussed about “whether it will be enforced”, “whether it will be enforced consistently from District to District or even league to league”. And, as with ANY rule or regulation, those are valid concerns. Yet, consistently from district to district, league to league, and officials’ association to officials’ association – ALL 5,200+ officials have been consistently instructed on applying this rule and enforcing the requirements of the rule. Many believe the rule was ‘relaxed’ at the collegiate level last year when conference play began, and though that can be debated, more strongly believed that COACHING techniques were better and as a result less and less fouls were called due to coaching to the rule – not officials letting up. Something to think about.

“Hand Checking” – Rule 10-6-12 “Contact”

The second rule change that deserves a bit of discussion lies with wearing ‘medical sleeves’. Now, ANY item worn on the arm or leg (other than a brace), is considered a **sleeve**. And...all sleeves must meet the same requirements of wristbands and headbands:

- They must be single, solid color and black, white, beige or the predominant color of the jersey
- They must all be the same color for all teammates wearing them.

Though there was a little discrepancy in the NFHS Rules Book as to whether an individual wearing a ‘sleeve’ must have the same color sleeve as wristbands or headbands. And...the answer is “YES”....any player that would happen to wear a sleeve AND a headband and/or wristbands...ALL must be the same color.

Striped Shirt for Scorer

This came in 2 years ago – the home team/official scorer is required to wear a striped official’s shirt.

Scrimmages

Remember you are able to schedule 5 scrimmages per team (Varsity -5, JV – 5, etc.). But, remember also that each player on your team may only participate in 5 total scrimmages. In other words, if a player is a ‘tweener’ between Varsity/JV, just make sure he/she does not participate in more than 5 total scrimmages, regardless of the number of quarters he/she participates in.

State Tournament Tickets

Really? Yes, actually the mailing on these was moved up a year ago to make unsold tickets available to the public sooner. So, with that, make sure you get your ticket applications in by the deadline. Since Ohio State handles all ticketing, it is nearly impossible to help if a ticket application comes in late. So...just a reminder to get them in by the deadline (Wednesday, November 26). And, the ‘rotation’ for seats is: NE, NW, Central, East/SE, SW.

“2 Quarter Games”

There is a general perceived trend of lower numbers in high school basketball, especially on the girls’ side. Many inquire about playing “2 Quarter JV Games”. But...rules require a game to be how long? 4 quarters of course. That means, a game **MUST** be 4 quarters in length. So, no 2 quarter games could be permitted by NFHS Playing Rules. But before I close this section....there is also an NFHS Rule that says “by mutual agreement of coaches and officials, a game may end at any time”. Hopefully you can see where I am going with this.

Important Reminders

- With team rosters made, dreaded ‘cuts’ out of the way, you do have time to focus on more “team” issues. But, I encourage you to take a moment and remind your players **NOT** to participate in ANY form of non-interscholastic basketball; CYO, Rec-ball,, AAU Training, College practices (yes...that happens in some sports). Remind them continually throughout the season.
- Put a reminder In your schedule to rate for officials.
- Line your Coaches’ Boxes. Just one of those things to get off your ‘to do list’. And...the visitors’ coaches’ box is the same size as the home coaches’ box.!