

The OHSAA Rebounder's Report

The Ohio High School Athletic Association

Issue #5, January 26, 2011



Tournament seed meetings are approaching quickly! Generally as the season progresses, different questions arise regarding various basketball rules. Ohio plays by rules adopted by the National Federation (NFHS). The most common question coming to me at deals with a "Shot Clock. Hopefully you will have many questions answered.

Jerry Snodgrass
Assistant Commissioner

Junior High/Middle School Comments

Praise the Junior High coach! We all know they are the backbone of our high school success'. As non-school challenges continue to mount, the role of the Junior High coach becomes more and more important.

The OHSAA's Board of Directors in response to a recommendation from an established Junior High Committee increased the number of games permitted at the Junior High level to 16 this season. The recommendation and ultimate approval was an attempt to provide a little longer season to junior high players keeping them in the basketball 'season' a little longer through the winter.

Based upon the calls received, numbers in Junior High programs are dwindling. Many questions have come inquiring about a player being able to play in both a 7th and 8th grade game in the same day. (Most schools schedule 7th and 8th grade games back to back). Many often read Sports Regulation 33.1

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqlts/GenSportsReg10-11.pdf> and believe a player cannot do this.

However, reading on, you'll find that basketball is an exception and DOES permit a player to play in more than one contest in the same day.

HOWEVER....a player is limited to 5 quarters in any one day, allowing him/her to play in 3 qtrs. Of a 7th grade game and 2 quarters of an 8th grade contest, for example. Remember, however, a TOTAL of 64 quarters is permitted for any one player for the season.

Tournament Draw Reminders!

A reminder to all coaches; Tournament Seed/Draw meetings are scheduled all across Ohio on the following schedule:

Girls: Sunday, February 6 @ 2:00 p.m.

Boys: Sunday, February 13 @ 2:00 p.m.

Complete tournament parings across the state will be available on Tuesday or Wednesday following Seed meetings.

Shot Clock??

It may be one of the single most asked questions each year about this time of the season...."when is the 'shot clock' going to come in? Let's take a look at some things affecting this answer. First, we have to take a look at WHO exactly makes these rules.

National Federation's (NFHS) Role In Basketball Rules:

The NFHS writes rules for basketball each year. These rules, codified in the NFHS Basketball Rules Book, is a result of the National Rules Committee reviewing proposals on an annual basis. The Rules Committee is made up of a representative from each of 8 different "Sections" of the United States. Each "Section" is comprised of approximately 6 states.

Who Actually VOTES on Rule Changes?

Each of the 8 representatives has a vote. In addition, a representative from the National Officials Association and the National Basketball Coaches Association.

Do We HAVE to follow NFHS Rules?

We do. It has been the OHSAA's stance to follow rules established by the NFHS. Certain rules are passed for "State Adoption", simply meaning that each state can adopt a rule specific to its own state.

What Happens if a State does NOT follow NFHS Rules?

What's the 'big deal', right? That state loses its right to become a member of the Rules Committee in its Section. This could be significant in many cases.

What is an Example of a "State Adoption"?

Ohio has several state adoptions. Example 1: Video Replay is permitted at State level tournaments by state adoption. Ohio DOES adopt this and utilizes video replay at the state tournament level. Another example is the use of a 'running clock' (i.e. 'mercy rule') when a specific point differential is reached. Again, we are given a CHOICE on 'State Adoptions'. (And no, Ohio chooses NOT to institute a "mercy rule".

So Why Wouldn't a "Shot Clock" be a "State Adoption"?

Interesting question. Generally speaking, "State Adoptions" are provided on rules that do not 'fundamentally change the game'. Use of a shot clock fundamentally AND significantly changes the game of basketball. Staying consistent from state to state is important in the Rules process.

So What's Holding it Back?

Cost. Though there are varying factors that will influence the cost, keep in mind it would have to be in all gyms and in all Jr. High gyms. Why? It would be a fundamental and significant change to the game and would be necessary at all levels of play. More people get paid at the scorer's table than most fans realize. There would be added costs at each level to pay operators.

Operators. Training could be done, volunteers possible. But looking at sub-varsity games, often the number 1 game management issue rests with clock operation. The most issues in college ball arise from shot clock management...not game clocks. There is significant opportunity for error, especially at sub-varsity games where students or parents are often the 'volunteer' that works the scorer's table.

Off-Season Basketball Questions

Fact is off-season teams are forming now. Especially at the junior high level. Those that have seasons 'split' especially have interest in the off-season rules. Take a moment and print off many off-season rules at:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bk/BasketballQuestions.pdf>

National Anthem Singers

Coaches...you hear them. The school singers that sing the National Anthem prior to tip-off. I'd love to hear from you....so we can hear THEM. Don't hesitate to let me know the best one you might have heard. I'll do the legwork, the background, etc., and they may end up singing at the State Tournament. Send the best you have heard to me via email at jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org.

Statistically Speaking

Total Game Time (boys)

'02-03	'03-04	'04-05	'05-06	'06-07	'07-08
1 hr. 23 min.	1 hr. 20 min	1 hr. 24 min	1 hr. 19 min	1 hr. 20 min	1 hr. 8 min

Total Game Time (girls)

'02-03	'03-04	'04-05	'05-06	'06-07	'07-08
1 hr. 15 min.	1 hr. 15 min	1 hr. 24 min	1 hr. 12 min	1 hr. 24 min	1 hr. 10 min