

2015/16 Basketball

Preseason Bulletin

Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations



PIAA Officials' Staff:

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OCTOBER 2015

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2015/16 NFHS BASKETBALL CHANGES

10-6-12: The following acts constitute a foul when committed against a ball handler/dribbler. A player becomes a ball handler when he/she receives the ball. This would include a player in a post position.

- Placing two hands on the player.
- Placing an extended arm bar on the player.
- Placing and keeping a hand on the player.
- Contacting the player more than once with the same hand or alternating hands.

Officials Signal Chart and Officials Manual: Added new signal to be used by officials to indicate the team inbounding the ball may move along the end line after a made basketball when a time-out or injury has occurred.

2015/16 NFHS BASKETBALL MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES

3-4-2c: By state association adoption, one commemorative/memorial patch may be worn on the jersey.

3-5-3c: All sleeves/tights shall be the same solid color and must be the same color as any headband or wristband worn.

3-5-4a: Headbands and wristbands shall be white, black, beige or the predominant color of the jersey, and shall be the same color for each item and all participants. They must be the same color as any sleeves/tights worn.

2015/16 PIAA ADOPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

- Adopt the 2015-2016 NFHS Basketball Rules Book.
- Adopt Rules 1-13-2 and 1-13-2 NOTE, Coaching box and alternate placement of same, at all levels (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition.
- Modify Rule 3-3-8 (Concussion Rule), to clarify that "an appropriate health-care professional" is a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine (MD or DO).
- Adopt Rule 5-5 NOTE, running clock, at all levels (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition, upon completion of the first half and one Team gains a 40-point differential over its opponent, the clock shall be stopped only when an official's time-out is taken, a charged time-out is granted, a period ends, or administering free throws.
- Adopt Rule 10-5-1, the head coach, at all levels (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition, may be off the bench in front of his/her seat within the confines of the designated 14-foot coaching box to give instructions to his/her players and/or substitutes.

2015/16 COMMENTS ON THE RULES

CONTACT (10-6-12, clarified): The change in 2014-15 identified specific acts that are to be ruled fouls when applied on a ball handler/dribbler. Changes have been made by the committee to clarify when a player becomes a ball handler. When a player becomes the ball handler, the provisions of Rule 10-6-12 will apply. The changes emphasize a person in a post position should be considered to be a ball handler when he/she receives the ball. Upon reception of the ball, all fouls outlined should be ruled.

NEW SIGNAL: A signal was added to indicate to a player throwing-in the ball after a made goal with an interruption immediately following, such as a time-out or injury. Officials traditionally used an informal signal for this situation. The signal added is performed by extending an arm, elbow bent at a 90-degree angle, and moving the hand and forearm from the elbow in a waving motion horizontally along the end line.

MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES (3-4-2c): “By state adoption” was added to the existing article that allowed for one commemorative/memorial patch to be worn on the jersey. The patch shall not exceed 4 square inches, shall not be a number and must be located above the neckline or in the side insert.

(3-5-3c): This rule emphasizes that all sleeves/tights must be the same color as any headband or wristband worn.

(3-5-4a): This rule emphasizes the headbands and wristbands must be the same color as any sleeve/tights worn.

Enforcement of Rules and Use of Signals/Mechanics

All officials must pay particular attention to the enforcement of playing rules as they are written and also the use of approved signals and mechanics, especially as they relate to ejections. Failure to enforce the rules as written and/or failing to use approved signals and mechanics makes it difficult for PIAA to support officials when an ejection occurs.

TECHNICAL-FOUL PENALTY SUMMARY			
TYPE FOUL	CHARGED TO:	COUNTS TOWARD	HEAD COACH ASSESSED
Administrative: Providing rosters; starters; numbers; changes, additions, etc.; team not ready to start half, TV monitor, electronic communication; not occupying assigned bench; more than five players; excess time-out; violation after team warning for delay; all players not returning at same time after time-out or intermission (10-1)	Team	Team-foul count	
Substitutes: Entering court; no report; not beckoned (10-2)	Substitute	1. 2 Technicals 2. 5 Personal 3. Team-foul count	
Players: *Changing number without reporting; face-guarding; delaying return; grasping basket, dunking a dead ball; slapping backboard; delaying game; unsporting act/ conduct; goaltending on free throw; reaching through plane to touch or dislodge ball; contact opponent during dead ball; use of tobacco; removing jersey/pants; *fight (10-3)	Player	1. 2 Technicals 2. 5 Personal 3. Team-foul count	
Bench personnel: Unsporting act/conduct; enter court without permission; use tobacco; removing jersey/pants; grasping basket or dunking; *fight; *leave bench during fight or possible fight (10-4)	Substitute/ Bench Personnel	1. 2 Technicals 2. 5 Personal 3. Team-foul count	Indirect
Disqualified player on bench: Unsporting act/conduct	Substitute/ Bench Personnel	Team-foul count	Indirect
Assistant Coach: Unsporting act/conduct (10-4)	Assistant Coach	2 techs toward ejection Team-foul count	Indirect
Head coach: Unsporting act/conduct; off bench/outside box; not replacing player as required in 20 seconds; playing a disqualified player; illegal jersey/pants/number; team members leaving court/bench for unauthorized reason (10-5).	Head Coach	2 directs toward ejection Team-foul count	Direct

* **Reminder - any single flagrant act results in disqualification**
A single flagrant foul, the second direct technical foul or the third technical foul (any combination of direct or indirect) charged to the head coach results in ejection to the team's locker room or outside the building.

Basketball Rules Fundamentals

1. While the ball remains live, a loose ball always remains in control of the team whose player last had control, unless it is a try or tap for goal.
2. Neither a team nor any player is ever in control during a dead ball, jump ball, or when the ball is in flight during a try or tap for a goal.
3. A goal is made when a live ball enters the basket from above and remains in or passes through unless canceled by a throw-in violation or a player-control foul.
4. The jump ball, the throw-in and the free throw are the only methods of getting a dead ball live.
5. Neither the dribble nor traveling rule applies during the jump ball, throw-in or free throw.
6. It is not possible for a player to travel during a dribble.
7. The only infractions for which points are awarded are goaltending by the defense or basket interference at the opponent's basket.
8. There are three types of violations and each has its own penalty.
9. A ball in flight has the same relationship to frontcourt or backcourt, or inbounds or out of bounds, as when it last touched a person or the floor.
10. Personal fouls always involve illegal contact and occur during a live ball, except for fouls committed by an airborne shooter or on an airborne shooter.
11. The penalty for a single flagrant personal or flagrant technical foul is two free throws and disqualification, plus awarding the ball to the opponents for a throw-in.
12. Penalties for fouls are administered in the order in which they occur.
13. A live-ball foul by the offense (team in control or last in control if the ball is loose), or the expiration of time for a quarter or extra period, causes the ball to become dead immediately, unless the ball is in flight during a try or tap for goal. The ball also becomes dead when a player-control foul occurs.
14. The first or only free-throw violation by the offense causes the ball to become dead immediately.
15. A double personal foul involves only personal fouls and only two opponents; no free throws awarded and the ball is put in play at the point of interruption. A double technical foul involves only technical fouls and only two opponents; no free throws are awarded, and the ball is put in play at the point of interruption.
16. The official's whistle seldom causes the ball to become dead (it is already dead).
17. "Continuous motion" applies both to tries and taps for field goals and free throws, but it has no significance unless there is a foul by the defense during the interval which begins when the habitual trying or tapping movement starts and ends when the ball is clearly in flight.
18. Whether the clock is running or is stopped has no influence on the counting of a goal.
19. A ball which touches the front face or edges of the backboard is treated the same as touching the floor inbounds, except that when the ball touches the thrower's backboard, it does not constitute a part of a dribble.
20. If the ball goes through the basket before or after a player-control foul, the goal shall not be counted.

2015/16 POINTS OF EMPHASIS**1. Post Play**

New information has been added to the rules book that addresses cleaning up post play. It is legal for offensive and defensive players to touch when both are maintaining the legally established position. Illegal contact on a post player is any tactic using hands or arms or just generally demonstrating rough physical movements that allow a player on offense or defense to control the movement of an opposing player.

- a. An opponent is displaced from a legally established or obtained position;
- b. An arm-bar is extended and displaces an opponent;
- c. A locked and/or extended elbow displaces an opponent;
- d. A leg or knee is used in the rear of an opponent to hold or displace;
- e. Holding, hooking, slapping, pinning or pushing the leg or body of an opponent;
- f. An offensive post player “backs-down” and displaces the defender once that defender has established a legal guarding position.

2. Rebounding

One of the leading causes of injury in high school basketball continues to be the result of illegal contact that takes place during rebounding. Any activity to illegally gain rebounding position on an opponent must be properly enforced and penalized. Some examples of illegal rebounding activity are:

- A. Displacing, charging or pushing an opponent;
- B. Extending the arms or elbows to impede the movement of an opponent;
- C. Using the hips or knees to hinder or impede an opponent;
- D. Violation of the principle of verticality;
- E. Contact between players in free-throw lane spaces prior to the ball being released by the free thrower.

Rebounders include each player involved in the act, whether an offensive or defensive player. It is a coach’s responsibility to teach players the proper rule-based techniques of legal rebounding.

3. Protecting the Free-Throw Shooter

Rule 9-1-3g was revised in 2014-15 to allow a player occupying a marked lane space to enter the lane on the release of the ball by the free thrower. As a result of this change, protection of the free thrower needs to be emphasized. On release of the ball by the free thrower, the defender boxing out shall not cross the free-throw line into the semicircle until the ball contacts the ring or backboard. A player, other than the free thrower, who does not occupy a marked lane space, may not have either foot beyond the vertical plane of the free-throw line extended and the three-point line which is farther from the basket until the ball touches the ring or backboard or until the free throw ends.

4. NFHS Mechanics and Signals

Communication is vital to the game of basketball, to the officials and officiating and all others involved in the game. It is essential for officials to master and use only the NFHS approved mechanics and signals. Just as rules study is a must, study time must be devoted to mechanics and signals. Prescribed mechanics have been adopted for the purposes of uniformity with the coverages and procedures of officials and officiating. Using the approved mechanics ensures that officials will be in position to provide coverage of the court and the action of players. Officials must develop a vivid mental impression of the primary coverage areas (PCA) and thoroughly understand their responsibilities when covering each specific PCA. Officials are expected to remain at the site of fouls, violations, time-outs, etc. and

2015/16 POINTS OF EMPHASIS (cont'd)

complete all rule and manual required procedures. Do not “hit and run.”

Prescribed signals (the language of the game) are in place to communicate what is happening or what has happened. The primary purpose of the NFHS signals is to convey needed information to timers, partners, players, scorers, coaches, spectators, media, etc. Approved signals/signaling are to be presented in a professional manner. Presentation of signals is to be timely, sharp, crisp and thorough. Signals should be given in a manner which is calm and unhurried. Do not be over-emphatic. The use of unapproved signals or signals given in an exaggerated manner do not help any situation; doing so often causes confusion. In summary, the NFHS reminds officials, when officiating high school basketball games, the approved NFHS mechanics and signals are to be used. Please join the team!

CONCUSSION SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Rule 3-3, Article 8...Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional. (See NFHS Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports in Appendix C on page 81.)

Common Signs and Symptoms of Concussion Include:

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows mood, behavior or personality changes
- Can't recall events prior to hit or fall
- Can't recall events after hit or fall
- Headaches or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Does not “feel right” or is “feeling down”



CANCELLATION OF AN OFFICIAL'S CONTRACT BY A PIAA MEMBER SCHOOL

If a PIAA member school violates or cancels a contract with an official, the District Committee or the Board of Directors, in their respective jurisdictions, may require a school so violating or so canceling to pay to the offended official the fee or fees for the Contest or Contests which have been provided in the official contract. Failure of a PIAA member school to live up to the terms of the contract shall be considered a violation of the Constitution and By-Laws of PIAA.

Comment: It has been brought to our attention on numerous occasions that officials have lost assignments or games because a school or assignor has "double booked" the contest. Officials are reminded that unless there is a written contract executed between the parties, they have no claim to any type of reimbursement from the offending school(s). Many schools have made a "good faith" effort to the officials to get them an additional assignment in the future or offer a scrimmage to pick up the lost fees. However, officially, without a written, signed, properly executed contract between the official(s) and the school(s), there is no recourse for the officials. In this day of technology it is not very hard for assignors, or schools, to execute these contracts. This is part of an assignor's responsibility. Officials should request contracts from their assignors or schools for both parties protection.



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PIAA OFFICIALS INSURANCE

For the 2015-2016 school year, American Specialty Insurance Services will provide the following benefits:

- One Million Dollars of Liability Coverage;
- \$25,000 Excess Accident Medical Coverage (with a \$250 deductible);
- \$5,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment (including a cardiac benefit).

This program is administered by American Specialty Insurance Services and underwritten by USF&G and Mutual of Omaha. Both carriers carry “A” ratings by A.M. Best. Again this year, as a new service for chapters, all regularly scheduled chapter meetings will be covered under PIAA’s basic liability coverage. This is a major change from the past when only the annual rules interpretation meetings have been covered. Chapters are requested to please submit their list of regularly scheduled chapter meetings to the PIAA Office to assist procedurally in the exchange of information to have all local associations’ meetings covered.

Contact information is as follows:

Drew Smith, Vice-President for Client Services
Sara Douglass, Administrative Assistant
American Specialty Insurances Services, Inc.
142 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 309
Roanoke, Indiana 46783-0309
Phone: 260-672-8800
Fax: 260-673-www.amerspec.com

OFFICIAL’S UNIFORM

1. The PIAA Official’s Emblem must be worn on the upper left sleeve of the official’s standard shirt when officiating in all PIAA sponsored games.
2. All PIAA-registered officials must wear identical uniforms during a contest.
3. Required uniform for basketball officials:
 - Shirt: Alternating black and white 1-inch vertically striped, short-sleeved shirt which may have a collar or may be V-neck as long as all contest officials are dressed alike. A PIAA patch must be worn on the left shoulder.
 - Slacks: Full length black trousers
 - Belt: Black, if worn
 - Socks: Black
 - Shoes: Solid black with black laces
 - Lanyard: Black
 - Whistle: Black

PIAA recommends the use of a black, plastic FOX-40 whistle with a black lanyard. If jackets are worn before the game, they must be black in color and identical in style.

College jackets or jackets from any organization other than PIAA or local basketball chapters may not be worn. The wearing of jewelry (except wedding bands and medical-alert bracelets) and wrist watches (except as a required timing device) is prohibited. Smoking and/or tobacco chewing is prohibited (Minutes, Board of Control, PIAA Summer Workshop, July 17th, 1989, p. 3)

PIAA sports’ officials may display an American flag (maximum size 2 by 3 inches) on the right sleeve of their uniform shirt approximately three inches down from the shoulder seam. This will be the same position the PIAA official patch is displayed on the left sleeve.

PIAA Basketball officials may use a pink whistle for games that are designated as “cancer benefit” games by PIAA member schools.

TIME-OUTS

Three 60-second time-outs and two 30-second time-outs may be charged to each team during a regulation game. Each team is entitled to one additional 60-second time-out during each extra period. Unused time-outs accumulate and may be used at any time.

Time-outs in excess of the allotted number may be requested and shall be granted during regulation playing time or any extra period at the expense of a technical foul for each. (team technical)

A successive time-out is one which is granted to either team before the clock has started following the previous time-out. Successive time-out shall not be granted after expiration of playing time for the fourth quarter or any extra period.

Situation #1: Players are lined up for the jump ball to begin the game. Coach of team A doesn't like what he sees and requests a time-out.

Ruling: Request is denied.

Comment: Time-outs cannot be used until the ball becomes live to start the game.

Situation #2: A1 is shooting a technical foul to begin the game because an opponent dunked the ball during warm-ups. After the second free-throw, team B's coach requests a time-out.

Ruling: The request is granted.

Comment: The ball became live to start the game when the ball was at the disposal of A1 for the first free throw.

Situation #3: Team A is out of time-outs during regulation play but late in the 4th quarter, a player from team A requests a time-out while the ball is dead.

Ruling: The time-out is granted.

Comment: Hopefully, the team was instructed that they had no more time-outs left in regulation play. They can still be granted an additional time-out at the expense of a technical foul.

Situation #4: The game was tied at the end of the fourth quarter and team A used all five of their time-outs. As the horn sounds to begin the overtime, team A coach requests a time-out.

Ruling: The request is denied.

Comment: A team cannot use the additional time-out they received for the overtime until the ball becomes live to start the overtime. However, if they accumulated time-outs from the regulation game, they could use one during the intermission.

Situation #5: Player A1 attempts a try which is unsuccessful and is fouled as time expires to end the 4th quarter. Since the ball left the shooter's hand before the horn sounded, A1 will receive two free throws. The score is A-49 and B-50. The coach of team B calls a time-out to freeze the shooter. After the time-out, A1 makes the first free throw to tie the game, 50-50. Coach of team B requests another time-out to freeze the shooter once again.

Ruling: The time-out is denied.

Comment: Successive time-outs are not permitted when time has expired to end the 4th quarter or any overtime period.

GRANTING TIME-OUTS

Time-out occurs and the clock, if running, shall be stopped when an official grants a player's/head coach's oral or visual request for a time-out. The request may be granted only when the ball is in control or at the disposal of a player of his/her team; the ball is dead, unless replacement of a disqualified, or injured player(s), or a player directed to leave the game is pending, and a substitute(s) is available and required.

Situation #1: A1 fouls B1. It is A1's 5th foul. The coach of team A requests a time-out.

Ruling: The request is denied.

Comment: A1's replacement must be beckoned in before the request for a time-out is granted.

Situation #2: The second horn is sounded to end a time-out. The administering official blows his/her whistle, gives the appropriate signal and places the ball at the disposal of team A for a throw-in. Team B's coach call a time-out.

Ruling: The request is denied.

Comment: Once the ball is at the disposal of team A, only team A may call a time-out.

Situation #3: A1 is dribbling the ball in his/her front court when the ball strikes his/her foot and is rolling toward the out-of-bounds line. He/she requests a time-out to prevent the ball from going out-of-bounds.

Ruling: The request is denied.

Comment: Even though there is team control during an interrupted dribble, you must have player control to be granted a time-out.

Situation #4: The ball is loose and two opponents are scrambling to gain control. Team B's coach requests a time-out.

Ruling: The request is denied.

Comment: The officials must be certain that the ball is in control of one individual before granting that individual's team a time-out.

Situation #5: Team A's coach requested and was granted a time-out during the second quarter. When the second horn sounds to end the time-out and before the ball is placed at the disposal of the team making the throw-in, team B's coach requests a time-out.

Ruling: The request is granted.

Comment: Successive time-outs may be granted at any time except when the time expires to end the 4th quarter or any overtime period.

BENCH PERSONNEL

Bench personnel are all individuals who are part of or affiliated with a team, including, but not limited to: substitutes, coaches, manager(s), statistician(s), and trainers. During an intermission, all team members are bench personnel for the purposes of penalizing unsporting behavior.

A substitute becomes a player when he/she legally enters the court. If entry is not legal, the substitute becomes a player when the ball becomes live. A player becomes bench personnel after his/her substitute becomes a player or after notification of the coach following his/her disqualification.

OFFICIALS' MANUAL

All officials should become aware of the contents of the Officials' Manual which can be found under the Officials heading at www.piaa.org.

This manual provides valuable information concerning many aspects of officiating as they relate to PIAA policies and procedures.

PIAA 2015/2016 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

First Practice Date.....	Monday, November 16
First Inter-School/Scrimmage Date	Saturday, November 21
First Regular Season Play Date	Friday, December 4
Last Regular Season Contest Date.....	Saturday, February 20
District Championship Deadline.....	Saturday, February 27
PIAA Basketball Championships:	
First Round	Friday & Saturday, March 4 & 5
Second Round	Tuesday & Wednesday, March 8 & 9
Quarterfinals	Friday & Saturday, March 11 & 12
Semi-Finals	Tuesday, March 15

PIAA Basketball Championship Finals

GIANT Center, Hershey, PA..... Friday, March 18

Championship Schedule:

AA Girls' Championship	12:00 pm
A Boys' Championship	2:00 pm
AAAA Girls' Championship.....	6:00 pm
AAA Boys' Championship	8:00 pm

GIANT Center, Hershey, PA..... Saturday, March 19

Championship Schedule:

A Girls' Championship	12:00 pm
AA Boys' Championship	2:00 pm
AAA Girls' Championship	6:00 pm
AAAA Boys' Championship	8:00 pm

2015/2016 PIAA DISTRICT RULES INTERPRETERS

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PIAA BY-LAWS: ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 8

Any coach and/or contestant who, while coaching or competing for a PIAA member school, is ejected from a Contest by a state high school association recognized and/or registered official in that sport for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant misconduct shall be disqualified from coaching and/or participating **for the remainder of the day and in all Contests on the next Contest day of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition.** For a coach, participation in the next Contest includes any contact by the coach with members of the Team, including other coaches, between the time that the Team arrives at the Contest site and the conclusion of the last Contest of the day. The Principal shall direct the coach not to attend all of the Contest(s).

Any coach and/or contestant ejected from the last Contest in that sport in a sport season shall be disqualified from coaching and/or participating in the first Contest(s) in that sport in the subsequent sport season, at the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition, at any PIAA member school or, if the student changes levels of competition, such as from junior varsity to varsity, the first Contest in that sport.

The official shall file a report with the PIAA Office on the form prescribed for the sport involved, within twenty-four (24) hours following the completion of the Contest in which the ejection occurred. Failure to file such report shall not affect the validity or consequences of the ejection.

In Basketball, the athletic director and principal must meet with the ejected coach/contestant and detail in a report what corrective action has been taken. This report then must be signed by all parties and sent to the district Basketball chairperson.

When a coach or contestant is disqualified/ejected from a Regular or Post-Regular Season Contest a report must be filed by the official who disqualified/ejected the coach or contestant. When the report is received in the PIAA Office it is faxed to the respective District Chairman, officials' representatives and sportsmanship chair. A copy is also given to the Assistant Executive Director and placed in the school's file.

OFFICIALS ARE TO FILE A REPORT WITH THE PIAA OFFICE ON-LINE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE EJECTION OR THEY MAY BE PLACED ON PROBATION. OFFICIALS SHOULD GO TO THE "FORMS SECTION" UNDER THE OFFICIALS TAB AT www.piaa.org.



**EXAMPLES OF DISQUALIFICATION PROVISION
OF ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 8**

The following examples are for players or coaches and are only examples and not a complete list. What this means is a player or coach ejected from a contest at any level must sit out the remainder of the day and the next day of the next contest at that level.

Example #1: Player/coach gets ejected from a junior varsity contest before a varsity contest. This player/coach gets disqualified for the **remainder of the day and the next day** of the next junior varsity contest. If this contest is followed by a varsity contest **on the same day**, the player/coach gets disqualified for the varsity contest also (**the whole day**).

Example #2: Player/coach gets ejected from a varsity contest on Friday, the team's next varsity contest is Friday. Before the varsity contest is a scheduled junior varsity contest, player/coach cannot participate in any of Friday contests.

Example #3: Player/coach gets ejected from a varsity basketball game Saturday. The next varsity contest is a game on next Friday but the game gets postponed to Saturday. On Saturday, the junior varsity team is to compete in another basketball game, a player and/or coach eligible to participate in the junior varsity game? Since the Friday contest was postponed the **next varsity game** is the same day as the junior varsity game and the player/coach are not eligible to participate the whole day.

****Note to officials: the enforcement of the rules as written and the use of the mechanics when ejecting personnel from a contest cannot be stressed enough. PIAA cannot defend the lack of enforcement of sportsmanship rules nor the failure to use approved mechanics with regard to these ejections.****

**SPORTS MEDICINE COMMITTEE
RECOMENDATIONS**

The PIAA Sports Medicine Committee recommends that each registered sports official have an annual physical examination and practice good health habits. Being physically fit and conveying an appropriate, positive image through proper health and nutrition habits will greatly assist all officials in keeping up with the game. After all, the game, the schools, players, coaches, spectators and fellow officials deserve no less. As importantly, officials owe good health habits to themselves and their families if for nothing more, than the health of it. If officials have any chronic health condition, officials are requested to share this information with on site medical personnel at their contest(s).

**PIAA BY-LAWS—ARTICLE XV; SECTION 3
REQUIREMENT OF WRITTEN CONTRACT**

All PIAA member schools shall enter into either paper or electronic contracts on the official contract form entitled "Contract for Officials Under PIAA Rules" with all registered sports officials retained by the schools or assigned by an assignor. Registered sports officials are independent contractors and therefore, are NOT employees of PIAA, the school, or the assignor. Disputes arising from oral agreements will not be considered by PIAA.

PIAA SPORTSMANSHIP MESSAGE

“PIAA requires all registered sports' officials to enforce the sportsmanship rules for coaches and contestants. Actions meant to demean opposing contestants, team, spectators, and officials are not in the highest ideals of interscholastic education and will not be tolerated. Let today's contest reflect mutual respect. Coaches please certify to the officials that your players are legally equipped and uniformed according to NFHS rules and PIAA adoptions. Good luck in today's contest.”



This message shall be read to the head coach and captains prior to each contest officiated by a registered PIAA official. This message shall be enforced by contest officials and its enforcement shall include a strict and swift enforcement when unsportsmanlike actions involve demeaning remarks or actions that may be related to the racial or ethnic background of any party.

Chapter interpreters are requested to remind all officials to read this message at each contest they officiate.

There have been some concerns addressed by the schools that some of our officials are not reading the PIAA Sportsmanship message prior to the contest. This is an improper procedure and this message **MUST** be read. Officials are not to paraphrase, modify, or develop their own Sportsmanship Message to the captains and head coaches. The proper procedure is head coaches and captains **MUST** attend the pre-game reading of the sportsmanship message. For distribution purposes, this message is printed on the back of all PIAA registered sports officials' 2015-2016 identification cards.

This message **MUST BE READ VERBATIM** by the contest officials. Coaches must certify to the contest officials their team is legally equipped and in compliance with NFHS Basketball Rules. The reading of this message will set the tone for the contest to be played in the spirit of good sportsmanship and have the coaches verbally confirm aloud their teams' adherence to compliance with equipment and safety rules. This confirmation is not only the adherence to contest rules, but also assists in alleviating the legal liability concerns for the officials if the teams subsequently violate the proper equipment provisions of the contest rules.

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Rule 10-1-3 states that a Team Technical Foul shall be charged if a team uses a megaphone or any electronic device, or electronic equipment for voice communication with players on the court or if electronic audio and/or electronic devices are used to review a decision of contest officials.

****With the advent of electronic devices the questioning of officials calls at courtside through the use of these devices cannot be tolerated.****

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