

Good morning. Hope all is well with you....stay healthy, drink lots of water.....the illness bug is rampant...

Speaking of rampant, poor sportsmanship is still terrible and getting worse. Yesterday was not even a full moon and in the course of watching the second half of a JV game and the entire varsity game, I had 9...NINE...incidents of a technical foul or an ejection reported to me. They ranged from slamming the ball down at the 8th grade level, an 8th grade coach not 'getting it' when told she had to stop, a punch thrown in a JV game, an intentional tripping in the same JV game then to top it off, I saw a varsity coach rush into the stands to the top row to confront a fan yelling at him and his team. Sportsmanship is not good. If we do not penalize poor sportsmanship, we are essentially condoning it. Some acts by coaches and players are not acceptable, period....take care of it. If a player or coach receives a warning from you, TELL YOUR PARTNERS immediately. NO WAY a player or coach should get a warning from each crew member. This is not magically going to improve. WE have to address it.

I have also been asked to review how we handle a player we suspect has a head injury or concussion. When we see signs of a concussion, we are to take the player to the head coach and tell him/her that the player is exhibiting signs of a concussion and must leave the game. At that point, it is the head coaches 100% responsibility to have the player cleared by a doctor. We have a job to do on the floor (officiating the game) and cannot be watching to make sure WHO is looking at/clearing the player. If/when the player comes back to the table, we allow them into the game since it is the head coach's responsibility to have the player checked and cleared. I would caution officials to not ask who checked the player, just beckon him/her onto the floor. If the coach just blurts out information like 'Our trainer checked him/her out and he/she is ok' or 'Her mom and dad gave permission to let her play again' then we cannot let him/her back in because we were TOLD it was not a doctor. OK.....let's say the player was brought back in appropriately and he/she shows symptoms of a head injury or concussion again. We again send him/her out of the game and he/she is not permitted back for the rest of the game.

No clip today, just a couple issues I have been asked to cover.

Thanks.....have a great game today, drink lots of water, stretch and stay healthy.

Tim