

BASKETBALL PRESEASON BULLETIN



2025-26 OCTOBER



Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc.

2025-26 Basketball Preseason Bulletin

Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations

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2025-26 BASKETBALL RULE CHANGES

4-22-1 & 2: This change removes the offensive team from goaltending violations, simplifying enforcement for officials and reducing ambiguity over whether a ball was a shot or a pass. It also encourages more scoring opportunities and minimizes confusion for players and coaches.

4-22-3 (NEW): This rule change establishes that once the ball contacts the backboard, it is automatically considered to be on its downward flight. Therefore, if a player touches the ball after it hits the backboard, and the ball has a possibility of entering the basket, it is ruled as goaltending. This clarification helps protect legitimate shot attempts, reduces rough rebounding situations, and addresses a common rules misconception among coaches and players. It provides officials with a clearer standard for enforcing goaltending in backboard-related plays

4-34-1: This rule change updates the definition of a player to clarify that a player is one of the five team members legally on the court at any given time, except during time-outs or intermissions. The change ensures consistency in rule enforcement by recognizing that it is difficult to distinguish between players, substitutes, and bench personnel during time-outs and intermissions. This clarification also supports the accountability of coaches for all team conduct during these periods and helps avoid misapplication of penalties such as technical fouls.

7-5-4: This rule change updates the procedure for determining the designated throw-in spot following a stoppage of play (not due to the ball going out of bounds) in the frontcourt. Instead of relying on an imaginary line, officials now use existing court markings, specifically the three-point line, to determine the location. This change improves accuracy, consistency, and clarity for officials by using visible floor markings rather than imaginary lines, which were often misjudged.

9-2-12 & 9-3-4 (NEW): This rule change addresses situations where a thrower purposely and/or deceitfully delays returning inbounds after legally stepping out of bounds and then becomes the first player to touch the ball upon re-entering the court. Previously penalized as a technical foul, this action is now treated as a violation, aligning it with similar out-of-bounds scenarios. The change reduces the severity of the penalty to encourage more consistent enforcement by officials and prevents players from gaining an unfair advantage through deceptive re-entry tactics

10-4-4b: This rule prohibits players from illegally contacting the backboard or ring in ways that create an unfair advantage or interfere with a scoring attempt. This rule is designed to maintain fair play and protect the integrity of scoring opportunities by penalizing actions affecting the outcome of a shot, with a technical foul.

4-6-1a & b (NEW): This rule change clarifies and expands the definition of basket interference to include additional actions that unfairly affect the ball while it is in a scoring position. Basket interference now occurs when a player slaps or strikes the backboard, causing the backboard or basket to vibrate, while the ball is on or within the basket, touching the backboard, or within the cylinder.

2025-26 COMMENTS ON THE RULE CHANGES

4-6-1a & b (NEW): The definition of basket interference has been expanded to include situations in which a player slaps or strikes the backboard, causing the backboard or ring to vibrate, while the ball is in a scoring position. Specifically, if the ball is touching the backboard, located on or within the basket, or within the imaginary cylinder above the basket, such contact is now considered basket interference. This revision ensures that actions which may unfairly influence the outcome of a scoring attempt — by affecting the ball's trajectory or stability of the basket — are penalized appropriately. Officials now have clearer guidance when adjudicating plays involving contact with the backboard during shot attempts.

4-22-1 & 2: The removal of offensive goaltending violations simplifies the enforcement of goaltending by eliminating the need for officials to determine whether a ball touched above the ring was a legitimate try or a pass. Previously, officials were required to interpret player intent — whether the ball was intentionally released as a try — which created inconsistencies in enforcement. By removing offensive goaltending, the rule now places responsibility solely on the defense, streamlining decision-making and supporting the flow of play near the basket. This change may also contribute to more scoring opportunities in contested situations around the rim.

4-22-3 (NEW): A new provision clarifies that once the ball makes contact with the backboard during a shot attempt, it is automatically considered to be on its downward flight. Therefore, if a defensive player touches the ball after it has hit the backboard—and the ball still has a chance to enter the basket—a goaltending violation is to be called. This addition resolves a common area of confusion for officials, coaches, and players regarding when a ball is considered to be descending. The rule aligns with the intent of protecting legitimate shot attempts and offers a more objective standard for determining goaltending after backboard contact.

4-34-1: The definition of a “player” has been clarified to specify that a player is one of the five team members who is legally on the playing court, except during time-outs or intermissions. This clarification provides consistency in rule enforcement, especially when dealing with bench conduct and technical fouls during non-live ball situations. Previously, the distinction between players and other team personnel during stoppages was unclear, leading to inconsistencies in the application of penalties. The updated definition ensures that officials can appropriately apply rules and maintain accountability for conduct, regardless of the game state.

7-5-4: This change provides a clearer, more consistent method for determining the throw-in location after a stoppage of play in the frontcourt when the ball has not gone out of bounds. Rather than relying on an imaginary line to divide the court, officials are now instructed to use the three-point arc as a visible demarcation line. The use of an established court marking reduces judgment errors and improves accuracy in administering throw-ins. This adjustment also enhances game flow and allows teams to better understand and anticipate throw-in positioning following violations, fouls, or other stoppages.

9-2-12 & 9-3-4 (NEW): A new rule addresses scenarios in which a thrower deliberately or deceptively delays returning to the court after stepping out of bounds and then becomes the first to touch the ball upon re-entry. Previously penalized with a technical foul, this action is now considered a violation, aligning the penalty with other similar out-of-bounds infractions. This revision lowers the severity of the penalty, encouraging more consistent and frequent enforcement by officials. It also deters deceptive tactics that could provide an unfair advantage, while preserving the fairness and integrity of the game.

10-4-4b: This revision prohibits a player from intentionally contacting the backboard or ring in a manner that interferes with a scoring attempt or provides an unfair advantage. Such contact, whether during a field goal attempt or apart of a deceptive play, is now explicitly penalized with a technical foul. This change reinforces the importance of maintaining the integrity of scoring opportunities and aligns enforcement with the overall principle of fair play. The clarification assists officials in penalizing unsporting behavior that impacts the outcome of a play near the basket.

2025-26 EDITORIAL CHANGES

4-19-3c, 4-47, 5.2.1 SITUATION C, 6-3-2a, 6-3-5b, 10-5-2

2025-26 POINTS OF EMPHASIS**Contact on the Ball Handler**

Continued emphasis is placed on the consistent enforcement of illegal contact involving the ball handler. While hand-checking remains a known concern, other forms of illegal contact must also be recognized and penalized. Defenders often use their hips, torsos, or other parts of the body to displace, redirect, or impede a ball handler's freedom of movement. These tactics must be identified and addressed in accordance with the rules.

Particular attention is required during late-game scenarios. Not all fouls committed in the closing moments of a contest are necessarily intentional. Determinations regarding intentional fouls must be based on the act itself, rather than on the intent or verbal instructions from coaching staff. The presence of directives such as "foul," "red," or "scramble" does not automatically classify the resulting contact as intentional.

If the contact constitutes a legitimate attempt to play the ball or to defend an opponent — either on the ball or away from it — it should be adjudicated as a common foul. Standards for evaluating contact must remain consistent throughout the game, including in its final moments. The strategic intent of one team to stop the clock must be weighed against the opposing team's interest in allowing the clock to run.

Conversely, contact that is excessive, clearly removes an opponent's apparent advantage, or does not constitute a legitimate basketball play should be classified as an intentional foul. Instructional emphasis must be placed on teaching players how to commit fouls within the parameters of the rules.

Bench Decorum, Communication, and Player Altercations

Ongoing concerns have been noted regarding bench decorum, improper communication with officials, and incidents involving player altercations. All team personnel, including coaching staff and bench players, are expected to uphold a standard of sportsmanship through disciplined behavior, clear expectations and structured preparation.

2025-26 POINTS OF EMPHASIS CONTINUED**Bench Decorum and Communication**

Bench decorum remains a significant point of emphasis. Officials are expected to take a proactive role in managing coach and bench behavior, particularly regarding the conduct of head and assistant coaches. Rule 4-48 (Warning for Coach/Team Conduct) should be applied early and consistently to prevent escalation and maintain game control.

Effective communication between coaches and officials should be established prior to the contest and maintained throughout. A professional and respectful tone is expected. When reasonable rules-based inquiries are made by coaches (e.g., “Can you watch the screening?”), a simple verbal acknowledgment or nonverbal gesture such as a nod is generally sufficient.

Rules-based questions—such as, “What did my player do wrong on that illegal screen?”—are appropriate and should receive a clear and informative response. These interactions support the educational purpose of the game. In contrast, rhetorical questions or comments not seeking clarification (e.g., “What’s it going to take to get a foul called?” or “It’s getting rough out there”) do not require a response.

Coach on the Floor

Rule 10-5 delineates the privileges and restrictions for head coaches and bench personnel. Only the head coach is permitted to stand and provide instructions to players during live ball play.

This communication must be carried out in a professional and sportsmanlike manner. All other personnel, including assistant coaches and team members not actively participating in play, must remain seated except during rule-allowed situations (e.g., during time-outs or spontaneous reactions to exceptional play).

This emphasis seeks not to restrict enthusiasm but to preserve order and promote respect for the game. Adherence to coaching box boundaries is essential to maintaining safety and fairness. An increasing number of incidents have been observed involving coaches stepping onto the court during live play. Such behavior introduces potential safety concerns and must be addressed through rule enforcement.

2025-26 POINTS OF EMPHASIS CONTINUED**Coach Responsibilities Before and During a Fight**

The head coach holds primary responsibility for the prevention and de-escalation of potential altercations. Proactive planning is expected, including the designation of specific duties for assistant coaches in the event of a fight. One assistant coach may be tasked with managing on-court players, while others may be assigned to control bench personnel. Such role assignments serve to prevent mass disqualifications and maintain order during disruptive incidents.

Faking Being Fouled

In the previous season, the NFHS Basketball Rules Committee adopted Rule 4-49, Warning for Faking Being Fouled, to address unsporting acts where players simulate illegal contact in an attempt to deceive officials and gain a competitive advantage. These actions include embellishing contact on block/charge plays, simulating impact during shooting attempts, or using movements such as a 'head bob' to draw a foul. Such conduct compromises the integrity of the game and places undue influence on officiating decisions. A corresponding signal (#15) was also introduced to assist with enforcement.

For the 2025–26 season, this point of emphasis is reaffirmed, with renewed focus on consistent adjudication across all levels of play. Faking being fouled may occur by offensive or defensive players, and must be addressed in accordance with approved procedures and NFHS guidelines.

Types of Faking Being Fouled

Three primary categories of Faking Being Fouled have been identified:

Head Bob

This infraction occurs when a player in control of the ball simulates contact by quickly snapping the head backward. In this case, the faking signal (#15) should be displayed immediately, and the whistle should be sounded concurrently. If this is the first offense for the team, a team warning is reported. Since the infraction occurs while in player control, the offending team retains possession and is awarded a throw-in at one of the four designated spots in either the frontcourt or backcourt, depending on the location of the warning.

2025-26 POINTS OF EMPHASIS CONTINUED**In the Act of Shooting**

If a shooter simulates being fouled—typically by falling to the floor without contact—after releasing the ball, the faking signal (#15) should be displayed immediately; however, the whistle should be withheld. Play should be stopped upon the occurrence of any of the following:

- The try is successful;
- The defensive team gains control of the ball;
- The offensive team secures a rebound but does not immediately attempt to score;
- A dead ball situation occurs for any other reason.

While on Defense

If a defensive player simulates being fouled (e.g., by falling to the floor without contact), the faking signal (#15) should be displayed immediately, with no whistle sounded. Play should be stopped under the same conditions listed above for shooters.

2025-26 PIAA ADOPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

- Adopt the 2025-26 NFHS Basketball Rules Book
- Adopt rule 1-13-2 NOTE and 10-6-1 authorizing use and size of 28-foot (maximum) coaching box.
- Adopt rule 3-5-1 NOTE authorizing rule exceptions to provide reasonable accommodations. (3-5-1 NOTE)
- Adopt rule 3-5-4 EXCEPTION Authorizing use of head coverings for medical or cosmetic reasons.
- Adopt Rule 5-5 NOTE: running clock, at all levels (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise (of competition, upon completion of the first half, if one team gains a 30-point differential over its opponent, the clock shall be stopped only when an official's timeout is taken, a charged time-out is granted, a period ends, or during administration of free throws.
- Adopt rule 5-11-1 NOTE Determining the number of electronic media timeouts.

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 (10-3)	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 (10-4)	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 (10-5)	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 (10-5)	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 15 seconds; playing a disqualified player; illegal jersey/pants/ number; team members leaving court/bench for unauthorized reason (10-6).	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.

CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS

Concussion Management continues to be a very important point of emphasis in every interscholastic sporting activity. Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as a loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by the appropriate health-care professional.

When sending an athlete out of a contest, the official should advise the head coach that the player is being removed from competition due to the athlete exhibiting concussion like symptoms.

Neither officials, nor coaches, are expected to “diagnose” a concussion, as that is the responsibility of an appropriate health-care professional. The game official is not responsible for the sideline evaluation or management of the athlete after he or she is removed from play.

The responsibility of further evaluating and managing the symptomatic athlete falls upon the head coach, appropriate health-care professional or other individual designated by the school administrators.

The official does not need written permission for an athlete to return nor does the official need to verify the credentials of the appropriate health-care professional.

If a player returns to the competition the official should just monitor them in the same manner prior to them being sent out originally.

Those wishing to learn more on this topic can register and attend a course sponsored by NFHS by using this link: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/concussion-in-sports-2>

COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION INCLUDE:

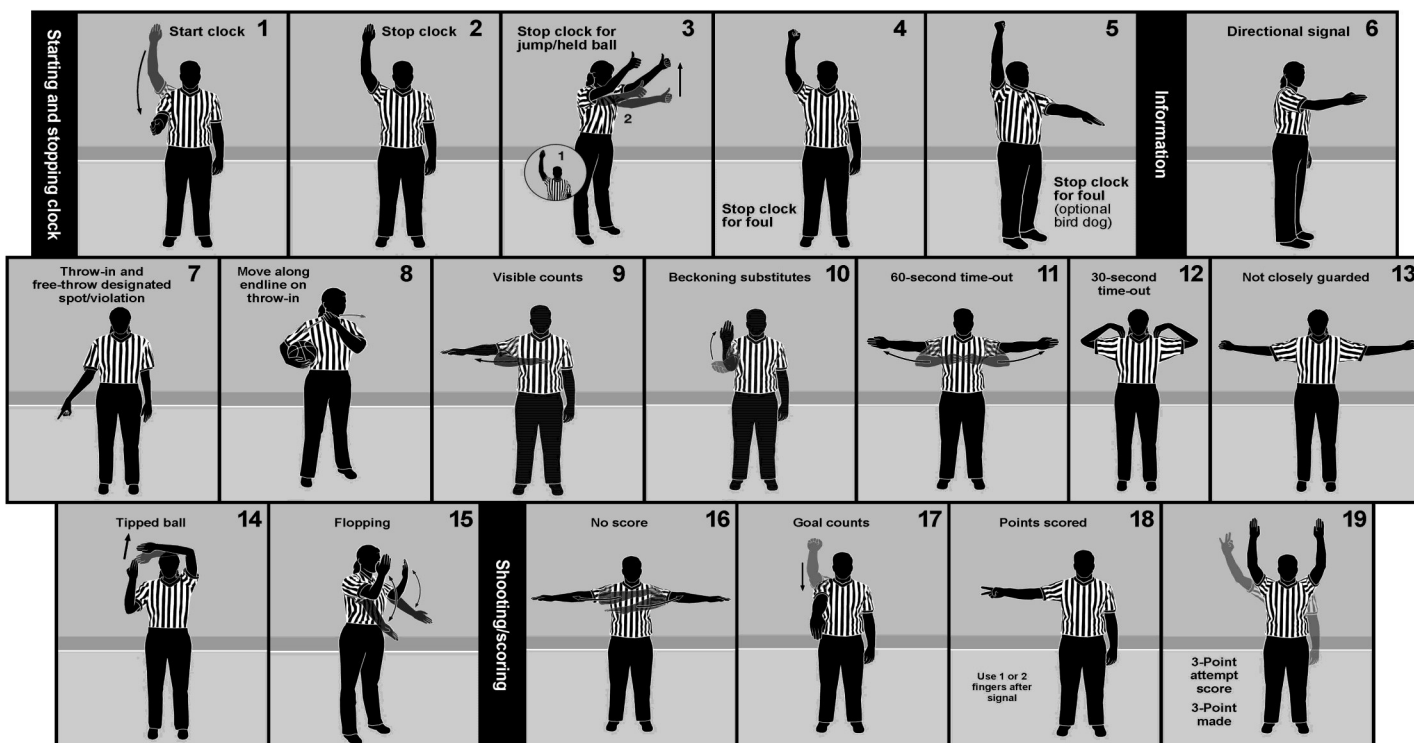
- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows mood, behavior or personality changes
- Can't recall events prior to hit or fall
- 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”

BASKETBALL RULES FUNDAMENTALS

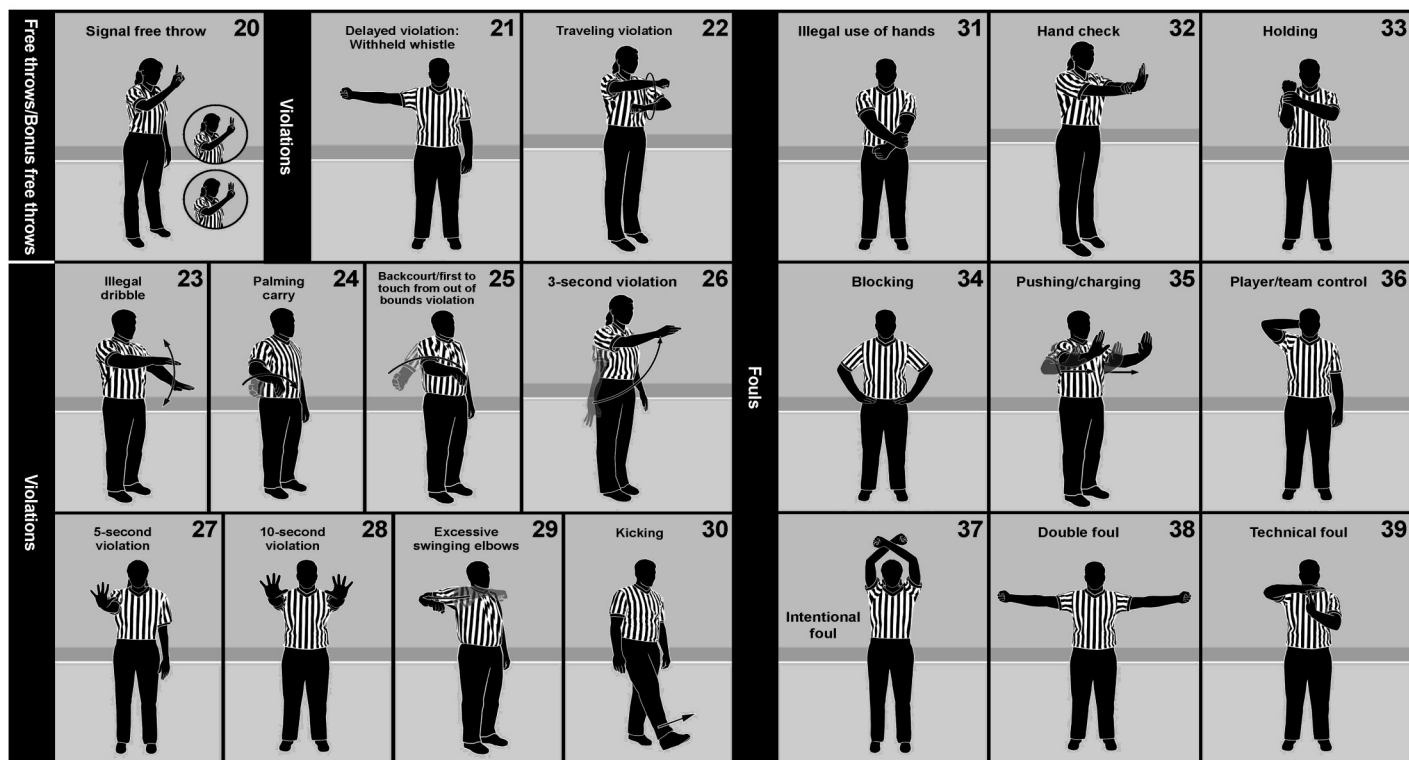
1. While the ball remains live, a loose ball always remains in control of the team whose player last had control, unless it is a try or tap for goal.
2. Neither a team nor any player is ever in control during a dead ball, jump ball, or when the ball is in flight during a try or tap for a goal.
3. A goal 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 field 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 are 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 field 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 must not be counted.



OFFICIAL NFHS BASKETBALL SIGNALS

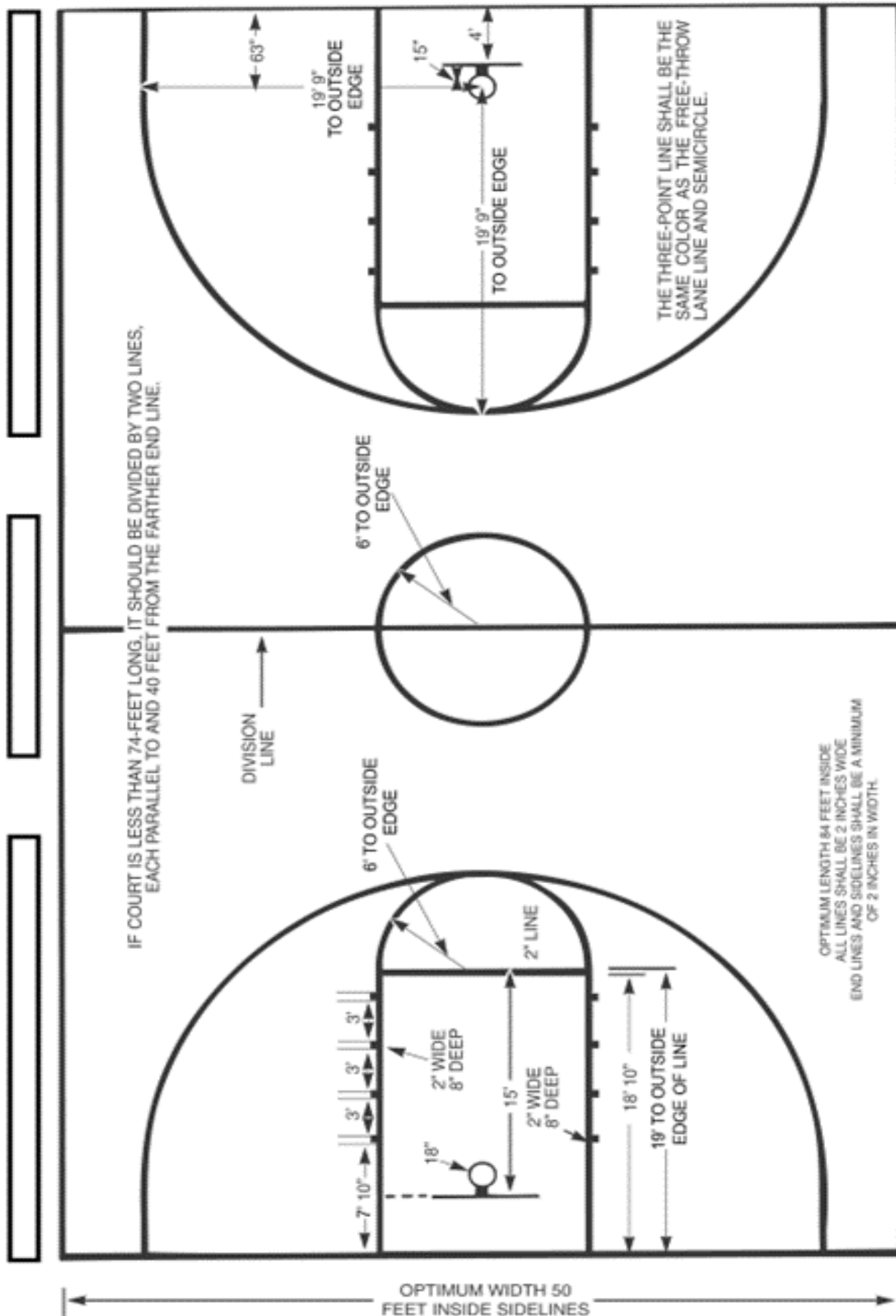


PlayPic® PlayPics® courtesy of Referee magazine



PlayPic® PlayPics® courtesy of Referee magazine

(See Rule 1-13 for location and size of optional coaching box)



Right End Shows
Fan Backboard
54-Inches Wide

Left End Shows
Rectangular Backboard
72-Inches Wide

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.

Have you been on the PIAA Officials Website?

www.piaa.org/officials



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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.****

OFFICIALS' 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 - Black full length trousers.
 - Belt - Black, if worn.
 - Socks - Black.
 - Shoes - Solid Black or Predominantly Black with some white, cleaned, and shined.
 - 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.

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 only for games that are designated as "cancer benefit" games by PIAA member schools. Officials are not permitted to wear the whistle for an entire month or week but only for designated games. This does not include a pink lanyard or any other items.

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 by [clicking here](#).

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



TIMEOUTS

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 TIMEOUTS

Timeout 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.

PIAA BY-LAWS - DISQUALIFICATIONS: ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 8**Section 8. Disqualification From Next Contest(s). General Rule. Preamble**

Sportsmanship is a core principle in interscholastic athletics. Actions which are unethical and/or intended to demean, embarrass, intimidate or injure opposing contestants, Teams, spectators and/or officials are considered unsportsmanlike and will not be tolerated since they are contrary to the purposes of PIAA and convey lessons incompatible with the reasons why high school sports exist.

A. Mandatory Disqualification. One Game Suspension.

Any Coach, team personnel and/or contestant who is disqualified from a Scrimmage, Interschool Practice, and/or Contest by a state high school association-recognized and/or registered official in that sport for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant misconduct is 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 from which the Coach and/or contestant was previously disqualified. 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 must direct the Coach not to attend all of the Contest(s).

B. Supplemental Disqualification. Two Game Suspension.

Any Coach, team personnel and/or contestant who, is ejected from a Scrimmage, Interschool Practice, and/or Contest by a state high school association recognized and/or registered official and a component of the ejection is any of the following actions: confronting an official, coach, or contestant; physically contacting an official, coach, or contestant; directing foul or vulgar language/gestures toward an official, coach, contestant or spectator(s); using ethnic or racially insensitive comments: will be disqualified from coaching and/or participating for the remainder of the day and for the next two (2) Contests including all Contests on the next two (2) Contest days of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition from which the Coach, team personnel and/or contestant was previously disqualified. For the purposes of this provision, the jurisdiction of the official(s) to apply and enforce this rule begins upon the official's arrival at the Contest site and ends when the official (or the last of the team of officials) leaves the Contest site. The Contest site is defined as premises on which the competition surface is located and includes the entirety of the premises and parking areas.

When the Supplemental Disqualification implicates a contestant, and in addition to the two (2) Contests disqualification, the contestant may not return to competition representing the contestant's school until the contestant completes the NFHS Sportsmanship program at NFHSLearn (online) and provides a certification of completion of this program to the student's Principal and the Principal submits the certification to the PIAA District Sport Chairman. A Coach and/or Team personnel disqualified under this provision may not return to competition representing the Coach's/Team personnel's school until the Coach/Team personnel complete the NFHS Sportsmanship program and Teaching and Modeling Behavior program at NFHSLearn (online) and provides a certification of completion of these two programs to the Coach's/Team personnel's Principal and the Principal submits the certification to the PIAA District Sport Chairman.

A disqualification under this provision supersedes a disqualification under A. above. A PIAA District Committee may, at its discretion, convene a hearing to address any and all disqualifications and may provide additional penalties as warranted by the circumstances.

NOTE: What this means for officials is that any disqualification that previously only applied to contests now apply to scrimmages as well. Officials ejecting persons from scrimmages must now submit the DQ form for these additional instances also.

EXAMPLES OF DISQUALIFICATION PROVISION OF ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 8

The Supplemental Ejection is not designed for violations of "Rules of the Game" The one game sit out penalty still remains for those actions that do not fit the Supplemental Ejection policy. PIAA Board of Directors has given officials an additional tool to use, if warranted, to curb bad behavior. This could aid in the recruitment and retention of officials. Officials should not concern themselves with the penalty. School administration will handle that.

A few examples:

- **Situation:** After the basketball game has concluded and the officials are in the locker room, varsity head coach Jones begins to bang on the door and use profanity toward the officials.
 - **Ruling:** The coach's actions would merit a Supplemental Disqualification. The crew chief must file the Supplemental Disqualification report within 24 hours on Coach Jones who must sit out the next two varsity contests. The crew chief must also make contact with Coach Jones' athletic director immediately or immediately after leaving the contest site to inform them that the Supplemental Disqualification was issued on Coach Jones.
- **Situation:** During a junior varsity soccer game a player from team ABC commits a handball violation in the box.
 - **Ruling:** The referee properly issues a red card and escorts the player to the sideline. The referee also informs the coach of the reason for ejection. The referee must file the Disqualification Report within 24 hours and the player must sit out the next junior varsity contest.. This is a standard one game sit out disqualification penalty.
- **Situation:** In the third inning of a baseball game the head coach disagrees with a safe/out call and charges onto the field while yelling profanities at the umpire.
 - **Ruling:** The umpire must eject the head coach and inform them that they are being assessed a Supplemental Disqualification. The crew chief must file the Supplemental Disqualification report within 24 hours on Coach Smith who must sit out the next two junior varsity contests.
- **Situation:** During the boys varsity soccer match, Player A1 is taken down with a legal tackle by Player B1. Player A1 feels that a foul should have been called and jumps from the ground and yells at the nearest official saying, "Hey Ref, you suck."
 - **Ruling:** The official must show the red card and eject Player A1. The official must then inform Player A1's head coach of the ejection and the fact that it is a Supplemental Disqualification due to the foul language directed at the official. The ejecting official must file the Supplemental Disqualification report within 24 hours on the player who must sit out the next two varsity contests.
- **Situation:** After the volleyball match has concluded and the officials are walking through the school lobby to get to their cars a parent confronts the officials and uses profanity toward them.
 - **Ruling:** The officials must not engage the parent in discussion and should continue to their vehicle, if possible. Upon reaching their vehicles the crew chief must immediately contact the host school's athletic director and inform them of what occurred. The officials do not retain jurisdiction under the Supplemental Disqualification in this instance. It does not apply to fans, only coaches and contestants. School athletic administrators must take action to prevent this type of occurrence in the future.
- **Situation:** After the varsity football game has ended and the officials are gathering at the 40 yard line to proceed to the locker room, the head coach rushes on to the field and confronts the crew about calls made that evening. The coach while using foul and abusive language contacts one of the officials.
 - **Ruling:** The crew chief must inform the head coach that he is being assessed a Supplemental Disqualification for his actions. The crew chief must file the Supplemental Disqualification report within 24 hours on the head coach who must sit out the next two varsity contests.

Final Point:

- **Question:** On the new 2 game DQ is it going to be the officials' decision if it's a 2 game DQ or the PIAA's after reviewing the report?
 - **Answer:** As with the previous 1 game DQ, it is always the decision of the official to eject but the actions of the player or coach will be the deciding factor whether the Supplemental DQ is used.
- The official really has no decision to make. If the actions are what is listed in the Supplemental Disqualification then the penalty is 2 games, the decision will be made for them by the actions of the offender.
- The official will not have the ability to choose between the two different disqualifications. The choice will be made for them.

2025-26 PIAA BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

First Practice Date	November 17
First Inter-School/Scrimmage Date	November 22
First Regular Season Play Date	November 28
Last Regular Season Contest Date	February 21
District Championship Deadline	February 28
PIAA Basketball Championships:	
First Round	March 6 & 7
Second Round	March 10 & 11
Quarterfinals	March 13 & 14
Semi-Finals	March 16 & 17

PIAA Basketball Championship Finals

GIANT Center, Hershey, PA Thursday, March 19

Championship Schedule:

2A Girls' Championship	12:00 pm
1A Boys' Championship	2:00 pm
3A Girls' Championship	6:00 pm
4A Boys' Championship	8:00 pm

GIANT Center, Hershey, PA Friday, March 20

Championship Schedule:

1A Girls' Championship	12:00 pm
2A Boys' Championship	2:00 pm
6A Girls' Championship	6:00 pm
5A Boys' Championship	8:00 pm

GIANT Center, Hershey, PA Saturday, March 21

Championship Schedule:

4A Girls' Championship	12:00 pm
3A Boys' Championship	2:00 pm
5A Girls' Championship	6:00 pm
6A Boys' Championship	8:00 pm

DISTRICT RULES INTERPRETERS

DISTRICT 1	William R. Hopton	billhopton@aol.com
DISTRICT 2	Jack Gaffney	jgaffsfd@gmail.com
DISTRICT 3	Craig S. Bradley	cbgolf62@aol.com
DISTRICT 4	Martin G. Maurer, Jr.	k3lpx@comcast.net
DISTRICT 5	Sam Zambanini, Jr.	Samuel.zambanini@ctasd.org
DISTRICT 6	Sean Albright	seanalbright73@gmail.com
DISTRICT 7	Paul E. Skirtich	paul.skirtich@usdoj.gov
DISTRICT 8	Daniel L. Robinson	dan.robinson@alleghenycounty.us
DISTRICT 9	Roddy Hartle	rhartle@redbankvalley.net
DISTRICT 10	Timothy F. LaVan	timlavan1@gmail.com
DISTRICT 11	Rodney Strobl, II	rhstrobl@rcn.com
DISTRICT 12	James P. Moore Sr.	jimmoore122@comcast.net

PIAA SPORTSMANSHIP MESSAGE

****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.****

PIAA requires all registered sports' officials to enforce the sportsmanship rules for coaches and contestants. Actions meant to demean opposing contestants, teams, 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 contest official(s) that your contestants are legally equipped and uniformed according to NFHS rules and PIAA adoptions, or will be at the kick off. Good luck in today's contest.

The proper procedure is head coaches and captains MUST attend the pre-game reading of the sportsmanship message. 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 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.

NEW PIAA POLICY

PIAA registered officials who observe contestants simulating the firing of a weapon at another person are strongly recommended to consider these actions as unsportsmanlike and enforce associated penalties.

Actions directed toward a person should be treated more severely than those that are not. Officials are to use discretion in addressing actions which are intended to embarrass, ridicule or demean others.

With that said please review the following rules as they could relate to these acts. Many of these acts could be handled during the pre-game meetings with the head coaches and captains or during the contest with the issuance of a technical foul. PIAA recommends that this be a pre-game topic of conversation with the crew so enforcement is consistent during that contest.

FORFEITURE OF A CONTEST

Any Coach and/or adult Team Personnel removed, ejected or disqualified from a Contest who refuses to leave the competition area (out of sight and sound) as directed by the Contest Official will result in a forfeiture of the Contest.

This policy has been adopted by the PIAA Board of Directors in an effort to address poor acting adults who refuse to abide by the applicable rules book and to show support of PIAA officials.

Officials who encounter situations that involve this policy must report the occurrence to the PIAA Officials Department the next business day.

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 5 RECOMMENDATION OF WRITTEN CONTRACT

PIAA member schools should enter into written (paper or electronic) contracts with the officials retained by the schools or assigned by an assignor to officiate regular season contests. The terms of such contracts must not violate the PIAA Constitution and By-Laws, Policies and Procedures and Rules and Regulations. Registered sports officials are independent contractors and therefore, are NOT employees of PIAA, the school, or the assignor.

