

Good morning!

Hope you had a great weekend and got to see some good games!

Take a look at a play from Friday night [here](#).

The background is that the white team was beating the black team solidly in the third quarter. The white team is good and the black team is struggling. There was a loose ball for which the T (me) did not think warranted a foul until the players were on the floor. Black grabbed white, kicked at him and punched him in the gut all in a split second.

Actions like this can catch *anyone* off guard. Fortunately I wasn't caught and reacted by ejecting black #5 immediately. I was saying 'You're gone, you're ejected.' I really think this told all the players that it was semi-under control and fortunately nothing more happened. In fact, the players cleared each other quickly. My partners moved towards the play, making sure that they were able to see all of the players, including the ones behind me. They reacted appropriately considering the actions/reactions of the players.

We are approaching that time in the season where good teams know they are good, bad teams know they are bad and sometimes frustration gets the better of them. We just need to react appropriately when something happens. Did I *want* to eject a player? NO.....but player actions require us to apply rules we sometimes do not want to. That is part of what we signed up to do.

Remember that any ejection requires us to report it to the PIAA within 24 hours....but PLEASE do it immediately after you get home from the game. It is online at the PIAA site under Officials – Forms. The DQ form is the second one down. It is easy to do. Make sure to ask the scorekeeper to write the name of the player on a piece of paper for you and you will pick it up before you leave. All you need is the ejected person's name and the final score. You must describe the incident. Do not add opinions or extra commentary, just the facts. This one was simple 'after a loose ball, (name of player) kicked, then punched the opponent in the torso.' Remember that a kicking or punching *attempt that misses* is the same as actually connecting and requires ejection.

Just process quickly what happens and penalize appropriately.

Monday Extra: The coaching box is from the baseline to a mark 28 feet up the sideline from the baseline. We have all let a coach go further, but do you realize that 28 feet is significant? Any further and it generally obstructs the view of both the scorekeeper and timer. We also know that table issues are not fun.....keep the coach in his/her box!

Have a great game tonight!

Tim