

The 2015-16 basketball season is well underway, and I want to commend all involved with the game, as we are off to a great start! Coaches are adjusting to the new freedoms afforded by the coaching box and are using the box to “coach” as it was intended. Officials are enforcing the new post play guidelines and teams are adjusting play accordingly to be within the rules. A few administrative clarifications and expectations are included below. Additional guidance on appropriate communication by coaches, officials, athletic directors, and others associated with the game will be released shortly.

Individual Player Daily Quarter Limitation

Clarification of the quarter limitation is included below. Please be aware that due to low numbers, some schools are playing 2-quarter sub-varsity games to remain within the daily quarter limitation. This is permissible as long as it agreed to by both schools.

High School Regulations

0-2 quarters per day = no game
3-6 quarters per day = one game
7-8 quarters per day = two games

It makes no differences how many actual “games” per day in which an individual player plays to accumulate those quarters. It’s simply the total number of quarters that needs to be tracked. For example, if on Jan. 4, player Amy Smith plays one quarter of the freshman game, two quarters of the JV game, and three quarters of the varsity game – all in one day – she has participated in six total quarters for the day and is charged with one game toward the regular season 21-game limit.

Junior High Regulations

0-6 quarters per day (school day or non-school day) = one game
7-8 quarters per day (non-school day) = two games

Junior high students have a 12-game season limitation. Junior high students may play in no more than six quarters per day on a school day. A junior high team may play in two games on a non-school day. The player limit will be eight quarters for that day, but a player who participates in seven or eight quarters in a day will be charged with two games toward the 12-game season limitation.

Interaction Between Players and Officials/Opposing Coaches Prior During Introductions

In an effort to be consistent with the new IHSAA policy prohibiting fist bumps and hand shakes between players and officials and the opposing head coach, the IGHSAU is also adopting this procedure. This is not to detract from good sportsmanship, general pleasantries, or to somehow dehumanize the the introduction process – it is being adopted to be consistent from night to night. There is no “penalty” should a player mistakenly come over to fist bump the officials or shake the opposing coach’s hand. The official or coach should simply and quickly remind the player and her head coach that we don’t do this anymore. Give the reminder with a smile, move past the awkward moment, and let’s play basketball.

Coaching Box Reminders

Please remember that a head coach may not sit outside of the coaching box and then rise and walk to the coaching box in order to use the coaching box privileges. If a head coach starts the game sitting outside the coaching box, he/she will not have coaching box privileges for that game. To use the box, the coach must remain within the box for the entire game.

One other reminder for some of our smaller facilities that even if a gym does not have three feet of unobstructed space from the sideline to the team bench, the coaching box may not be extended onto the playing court – even if there is a restraining line on the court. The coaching box is located off the playing court to help ensure the safety of players, coaches, and officials.

Additionally, the coaching box rule is in effect for all levels of basketball grades 7-12.

Striped Garment on Official Scorer

Please remember Rule 2-11-12 *requires* the official scorer to wear a black and white striped garment. A black and white striped shirt or pinnie is acceptable. The IGHSAU and IHSAA expect all varsity official scorers to be in compliance with this rule. We *recommend* that scorers at the sub-varsity also be in compliance but this is not required.

Keep up the great work, and I will be in touch again in the morning with communication guidelines.

Best,

Joel Oswald, IGHSAU Assistant Director – Basketball Administrator