



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

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## Basketball Coaches' Memo #5: Tournament Reminders January 29, 2020

### Reminder of Tournament Contests – Not “Home Games”

Since several districts have adopted “home site Sectionals”, the number of “host sites” has grown tremendously. From one central site hosting 6-14+ teams, having higher seeded teams host games puts every home team as a TOURNAMENT ‘host site’. With this goes the importance of following and enforcing all OHSAA Tournament Regulations. See link: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Basketball-Boys/2019-20/BKTourneyRegs.pdf>

### Tournament Managers’ Manual

Each host site must have a manager in charge of the tournament contest, whether that site is a neutral site or a ‘home site’ for one of the competing teams. All instructions for a manager (several of which I will review below) are detailed in a “Sectional/District Managers’ Manual”. I would strongly recommend and encourage each of you to download this at:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Basketball-Boys/2019-20/2020SectionalandDistrictManagerManual.pdf>

### Score Differential/The “Mercy Rule”

The ‘Mercy Rule’ exists for TOURNAMENT play. PLEASE make certain you review this before the game with the timer and the officials to INSURE that everyone is aware. The regulation reads:

**Score Differential** – *Any time a score differential reaches 35 points during the second half, a running clock shall be utilized. After the 35 point score differential has been met but the score drops below 30 points, the clock reverts to regular NFHS timing. (This eliminates timing issues in a faster paced contest). The clock shall be stopped only for time outs, an injured player on the court or when there is any unusual delay deemed necessary by the officials.*

### Announcing Teams

Both teams competing in a tournament contest, regardless of where that tournament is held, must be announced in the same manner using the OHSAA’s Tournament Introduction script. This is located within the manual posted at the link given above. There is no regulation AGAINST turning off lights for introductions, however if it is done for the home team, it must also be done for the visiting team.

### Official Scorer, Coaches’ Box, & The “X”

All courts used in tournament play MUST meet all NFHS Playing Rule requirements which includes the 28 ft. coaches’ box (measured toward the scorer’s table from the endline) and the clearly marked “X” on the floor in front of the scorer’s table. The Official Scorer in ALL contests (regular season AND tournament) to wear the officials’ black and white striped shirt.

### Home Uniforms – Home Team

NFHS rules require the home team to wear WHITE jerseys—not gray, not yellow.... WHITE. **The penalty outlined in the NFHS Playing Rules is a technical foul on the coach.** Since we have had several issues this year with home teams deciding to wear colors other than white – I mention it here, simply as a reminder to everyone. This has especially become an issue with ‘home site’ Sectionals. Normal procedures call for the ‘top line’ of a bracket to be the Home Team; however, some districts are indicating the higher seed is the home team. MAKE SURE you check prior to your game.

### Length of Warm-Up

Tournament Regulations require all warm-ups at tournament contests to be a **minimum** of 20:00.

### Number of Participants

Though Pass Lists vary from district to district, regardless of where a game is played there are 18 people permitted on the bench – any combination of players, coaches, managers, trainers, etc. Since 5 are permitted on the floor, the 18 seats provides a total of 23 individuals in the bench/team area. This MUST be followed and only becomes a bigger issue if not enforced at early rounds of games. The following is relative to numbers of participants:

**Number of seats on bench: 18 (with 5 on the floor, this permits a total of 23 in the ‘bench area’)**

**Number permitted in Uniform: 15 (this may change from game to game)**

**Number of Cheerleaders Permitted: 8 PLUS 1 Mascot**