



California Interscholastic Federation

Marie M. Ishida, Executive Director
STATE OFFICE
333 Hegenberger Road, Suite 511
Oakland, CA 94621
Phone 510-639-4445 Fax 510-639-4449

www.cifstate.org

To: State CIF Basketball Advisory Committee
CIF Sections

From: Bob Wallace, Chairperson, State Basketball Advisory Committee
Roger Blake, Asst. Executive Director, State CIF

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We just wanted to take a moment out of your busy day to welcome you to another exciting CIF basketball season.

We want to share with you a few important issues and we ask your assistance in “spreading the word” for this coming season. We also plan on posting this information on the State CIF web pages in the very near future. Most of these issues come from our State CIF Basketball Rules Interpreter, John Lozano, who attended the NFHS Rules interpretations Meeting in Indianapolis for the CIF. These points have been covered in detail at the CIF Officials’ Rules meeting that took place around the state the past two weeks.

Point of Emphasis for Officials

EJECTION RULE – Nationwide, any individual who leaves the bench area when there is an altercation is now ejected from the contest. The old rule stated if there was a “fight”, now it merely says an “altercation”. Bottom line, players must stay on the bench or risk being ejected from the contest.

FLOPPING – Another Point of Emphasis for officials nationwide this year is to eliminate the “flop” by the defensive player faking a charge. The penalty is a “T”, technical foul for unsportsmanlike behavior.

INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE – Nationwide officials have been directed to give a “T” to coaches for inappropriate language, **regardless of who it is directed toward**. Volleyball officials were directed two years ago by the NFHS Rule Committee to give coaches red cards for inappropriate language even during timeouts with their own team. Basketball officials have now been also directed on this issue and we must all remember, it maybe a gymnasium, but it is still a classroom and the coach is a teacher. **This rule ALSO applies to players**. Often players may yell out or say something after committing a bad play and officials have been told, same as with the coach, to give a technical foul.

40 POINT DIFFERENCE RULE – Better known as the Mercy Rule, the State CIF has adopted at all levels of play that at anytime after the third quarter, there is a 40 point difference in the scores it WILL become a running clock except for time-outs.

COACHES BOX – A major area of discussion at the CIF meetings was the 6 foot coaching box for California high school basketball. Officials have been asked to enforce the rule and to direct schools/coaches to put down tape on the floor whenever the box is not visible (which is the case in most of our schools).

Our next State CIF Basketball Advisory Committee meeting will be in early April as a follow-up and review from this years State Basketball Championship. Please feel free to contact the state office for more information. Have a great year and we look forward to seeing you at the games!