

TOA Basketball

January

Sorry to be a little late with the January TOA “Basketball Newsletter.” Time and events sometimes creates issues – or, perhaps I have just been lazy. At any rate, here we go:

Substitution Procedures: One byproduct of the summer league basketball programs is that players are very rarely required to adhere to substitution procedures. Further, most bench personnel either do not know those procedures or do not care. Players seem to think it is their God-given right to do whatever they wish to do.

Earlier this week I had one of the best games of my career – a girl's game between 4A Concordia and 6A Lawrence High – LHS, as you may remember won the 6A State Championship last season. The game ended up in a 76 – 68 victory for the visitors from Concordia. However, something happened that troubled me – as the game came close to the end, the substitutes for both teams started to react like it was Summer ball – run up to the table and immediately start to run in. Obviously, when I took exception to this, I was looked at as though I were a Martian.

Correct substitution procedures are the responsibility of all all four of the parties involved: 1) the Coaches; 2) the Players; 3) the Bench Personnel; and 4) the game officials.

Coaches: Coaches must instruct and educate their players concerning the correct substitution procedures – just because they come running up to the table does not mean that the process can accommodate their entry into the game on an immediate basis. Secondly, players need to realize who the scorer is and report to the correct person – good coaching can dictate a that this portion of the procedure is run smoothly and good coaching will be exceptionally helpful to the bench personnel and the officials;

Bench Personnel: Administrators, it is extremely important that **all** bench personnel know the rules and are willing to support the officials. If it is not an appropriate time for substitutions, the bench personnel are the “first line of defense.” Bench personnel must be able to let the subs know that they must be beckoned on to the playing floor by an official – and, not before. Administrators must find those who are willing to step up and do the right thing;

Players: Substitutes must know that they may not enter the court until they are beckoned by an official. Why is that so hard? Because that is not the procedure used in Summer ball, etc. Kids often run up to the table – if not run by the table – and think nothing of actually checking in and/or running onto the court. Coaches must educate their players – if not, officials have to do so.

Officials: Check out Rule 3 – section 3. Article 2 states that the substitute must stay outside the boundary until an official beckons them on the floor... Article 3 goes on to say that the substitute becomes a player when he/she legally enters the court.

One of the best attributes of good officials is to be able to keep their heads when all around them are losing theirs. The substitution process can be a major problem if we let it. Attend to this issue early and with all the parties involved – the coaches – the captains – the bench personnel (ask for their help – make them feel a part of our “team”) and during the pre-game with your fellow officials!