



## Oregon School Activities Association

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TO: Basketball Officials, Basketball Commissioners and Athletic Directors,  
FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director  
SUBJECT: Procedures to Address Discriminatory Behaviors During a Basketball Contest

Thank you for all of your work with students to make this a successful high school basketball season. The OSAA has received multiple reports of unsporting conduct and discriminatory harassing behaviors as basketball contests have started. We believe that if we all have common steps to follow, including interrupting the behaviors occurring on the court, we can more effectively stop acts of discrimination occurring during high school basketball games.

We want to remind you of behavior expectations of participants during a game, as well as expected steps to take if an incident of discriminatory harassment occurs.

### **When discriminatory harassing behavior is heard or seen by an official:**

- Apply NFHS rule as it should be enforced resulting in the appropriate penalty, which may include ejection from the contest. (below)
- Speak with both coaches immediately regarding the incident that occurred and ensure that coaches address their teams on expected behaviors for the remainder of the competition.
- Officials immediately alert event management of what has occurred so event management can follow through with the school(s) involved.

There are also applicable NFHS rules that should be enforced at all times. Here are a reminder of the applicable NFHS rules regarding unsporting conduct:

### **Applicable NFHS Basketball Rules:**

- **10.4.6. Player Technical:** Commit an unsporting foul. This includes, but is not limited to, acts or conduct such as:
  - a. Disrespectfully addressing or contacting an official or gesturing in such a manner as to indicate resentment.
  - b. Using profane or inappropriate language or obscene gestures.
  - c. Baiting or taunting an opponent.  
Note: The NFHS disapproves of any form of taunting which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances including on the basis of race, religion, gender or national origin.
- **10.5.1 Bench Technical:** Commit an unsporting foul. This includes, but is not limited to, acts of conduct such as:
  - a. Disrespectfully addressing officials.
  - b. Attempting to influence an official's decision.
  - c. Using profane or inappropriate language or obscene gestures.
  - d. Disrespectfully addressing, baiting or taunting an opponent.  
Note: The NFHS disapproves of any form of taunting which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances including on the basis of race, religion, gender or national origin.

The OSAA encourages participants to report discriminatory behaviors to officials and event management when they occur during a game. Below are the steps expected for officials and event management to take when such behaviors are reported.

**When discriminatory harassing behavior is reported to an official by a student or coach:**

- Stop the game, immediately bring both coaches together to discuss what was reported. Explain to both coaches what behaviors were reported and that any such behavior will not be allowed to continue, and consequences will occur if reported again, including potential postponement of the game.
- Return coaches to their students to explain what was reported and the consequences that will be applied if the behaviors continue.
- Officials immediately alert event management of what has been reported so event management can follow through with the school(s) involved.

**Discriminatory harassing behavior reported to event management by an official, student, or coach:**

- Alert officials to stop the game, to bring both coaches together to discuss what was reported. Explain to both coaches that those behaviors will not be allowed to continue, and consequences will occur if reported again, including potential postponement of the game.
- Return coaches to their athletes to explain what was reported and the consequences that will be applied if the behaviors continue.
- Officials and event management should be in communication throughout the remainder of the game regarding alleged behaviors.
- Event management needs to contact administrator(s) present at the game and follow through with the school(s) involved.

The NFHS has included in their *Points of Emphasis for 2022*, expectations for follow through when unsporting conduct occurs.

### **3. UNSPORTING CONDUCT**

The committee is concerned about inappropriate conduct by players, bench personnel, coaches, officials, and spectators. Each group needs to view the activity in light of it being educationally based and not accept conduct that would not be tolerated in other educational settings. Therefore, each group has the responsibility to demonstrate civility and citizenship.

- Game management needs to pay particular attention to spectators. Game Management should intervene when spectator behavior becomes unacceptable. This should be done prior to an official having to make such a request.
- When game management fails to address spectator behavior on their own, officials should remind game management to hold spectators accountable for their actions. A game ticket is not a license to abuse.
- Officials should not tolerate inappropriate conduct from coaches and/or players. The rules allow for a “warning” to be given to coaches and it should be utilized when appropriate.
- The team huddle is not a safe haven for coaches’ bad language. Just as a classroom teacher should not verbally abuse students, neither should coaches use bad language when addressing their players.
- Players are not permitted to “let off steam” by using profanity, even if it is not directed at an opponent or official. Being angry at oneself is no excuse.
- Officials are not exempt from unsporting conduct. Inappropriate references to players, coaches or other officials is not acceptable. Inappropriate behavior before, during or after the game should be reported to the official’s association /assignor.