

2/3 Basketball Case Situations 2-3-21

Basketball Case Situations 2-3-21

With school-based sport starting around the state, a number of questions have come in concerning the application of some of the mitigations for basketball. This week's Case Situation provides some added guidance on how those situations should be handled. In no way could any document attempt to address every possible situation that might arise, so school officials, coaches, and officials are reminded and encouraged to work together in this highly-unusual and truncated season to help it be a success.

1. Timeouts

Q. How long are the "mask" timeouts each quarter:

A. 90 seconds. 1st horn at 75 seconds. The timeout to be taken each quarter at the first dead ball after the 3-minute mark.

Q. How should a timeout look? Are coaches/players allowed to huddle like usual or should they sit in assigned seats/bleachers 6 feet apart?

A. During full time outs, players and coaches should maintain social distance as is practical.

During 30 second time outs, only those players in the game and coaches may stand and be involved in the huddle, maintaining appropriate social distance. (NOTE: a manager distributing water bottles may also stand to fulfill his/her role. He/she must maintain social distance during this time.)

2. Halftime

Q. Are teams allowed to use locker rooms at halftime if there is enough space to social distance?

A. Possibly. There is flexibility within IDPH guidance, so any kind of usable space is permitted as long as 6 feet of social distancing is available.

3. Bench area

Q. Should each player have an assigned spot on the bench? Can they share a spot on the bench if that spot gets sanitized between players using it?

A. It's a local school decision whether players should have assigned seats or can share those, and local health department protocols regarding the sanitization process should be followed.

4. Masks

Q. Are officials required to wear masks?

A. Yes. Officials are required to wear a solid black mask.

Q. What kind of whistles may officials use during a contest?

A. Traditional or electronic whistles may be used. If a traditional whistle is used, officials should attach a plain black cover to the whistle to limit the spread of respiratory droplets. If an electronic whistle is used, officials should use one whose tone will carry inside.

Q. Do officials submit a special report if an individual, team, coach or spectator do not wear masks?

A. If an official believes there is an issue with adherence to IDPH guidelines, then a special report should be submitted.

Q. What steps should an official take if a team/player refused to wear a mask.

A. Communication is the best solution by calling time (or waiting for stoppage in the game) and working with administration to get help everyone do what is expected

Q. Is a mask considered part of the uniform?

A. As it relates to players who consistently need to be reminded to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth, officials may need to send a player to the bench and get a substitute. Before reaching that point, however, officials should work with players and coaches as necessary to encourage the player to comply with the guidance, but if he/she is unwilling or unable to do so, officials can remove a player from the contest in a similar fashion to players who are wearing illegal under-garments or untucked shirts.

Q. If a mask is not worn properly by the athlete and he/she refuses to wear it properly, can officials send a player to the bench and ask for a sub?

A. For repeated offenses, the answer is 'yes'. See above

Q. Are there any restrictions on color, school logo, etc., on the mask worn by players?

A. Other than masks cannot have anything derogatory printed on them, there are no restrictions regarding masks.

Q. Should play be stopped if a player's mask comes off during live ball play?

A. No. Officials should let the play finish and have the player fix the mask at the next stoppage.

Q. What if a player does not wear a mask due to a medical condition?

A. Prior to the game, the head coach will provide a note from the athlete's doctor. The player's physician assumes liability when signing the letter of medical need.

Q. What steps should an official take if a coach takes down his/her mask to speak with them during a game?

A. Officials should remain a proper distance away from the coach (at least 6 feet) and remind him/her to wear their mask properly. If the problem persists, the official should speak with game administration. If the problem persists and becomes an unnecessary distraction, officials will need to view the coach's actions as unsporting and address it as such.

5. 7th/8th Players

Q. Are my 7th grade team members considered spectators during the 8th grade game and vice-versa?

A. No. 7th grade players may sit in the stands, 6 feet apart during the 8th grade contests.