

The new year is here and I hope that coaches, officials, administrators all had a chance to rest and reset a bit over the winter moratorium!

- All officials are encouraged to attend one of the [area II meetings](#). [Local Officials Association](#) makeup meetings are an option for officials who can't make the area II meeting.
- Shout out to schools being hospitable to officials. I was at a game before Christmas where officials were brought water out on to the court during timeouts. This was a nice touch I haven't yet seen in our state.
- Shout out to coaches. The games I've been to, the coaches have engaged with their teams and exhibited good behavior. Continue to set a positive tone for your players, program and community. We've seen in recent weeks in sports at the college and pro level, officials make decisions in real time that are often difficult to make. Sometimes those split-second judgments are wrong and it can be detrimental to a team's chances to win the game. Officials at the high school level are similar in regard to wanting to make the right call. If missed calls happen at the college and pro level, they will happen at the high school level too.
- Forfeits need to be reported to our office and are addressed on page 11 of the *2023-2024 KSHSAA Basketball Manual*.
- Players may not dunk the ball at any time during warm-ups, regardless of whether or not the officials are present. It is the responsibility of coaches and game administration to ensure this does not occur. This includes halftime warm-ups of the preceding game. Players shall not grasp the baskets at any time during the game except to prevent injury; dunk or stuff, or attempt to dunk or stuff a dead ball. (*NFHS BB Rule 10-4-3*)
  - KSHSAA Executive Board policy states: Officials observing dunking during a warm-up period (including halftime of the preceding game) should report the team violating and the number of the player violating to the score table. This may be the officials waiting for the next game, or the officials from the game in progress. The officials who have jurisdiction over the game will administer a bench technical to the violating team prior to the game starting. The bench technical is an indirect technical to the head coach. It results in the loss of coaching box privilege (*10-1-5a*). If a glass or backboard is broken due to dunking or grasping a ring during warm-up, the responsible school shall be liable for the cost of replacing the board.
- A guard, cast or brace made of a hard and unyielding substance, such as, but not limited to, leather, plaster, plastic, or metal shall not be worn on the elbow, hand, finger/thumb, wrist or forearm; even though covered with soft padding. *NFHS Rule 3-5-2a*. Basically, tape is what can be used on the hand, finger, thumb, forearm or elbow.
- Situation of the week:
  - Team A, while in possession of the ball in its front court: (a) positions four players parallel with the sideline and they pass the ball from one to another with their arms reaching beyond the sideline plane; or (b) has four teammates surround dribbler A1. In both (a) and (b), the opponents are unable to get close to the ball.
- Situation ruling: This is considered to be a closely guarded situation and a violation in five seconds in both (a) and (b), if any B player is within six feet of the ball or within six feet of the screening teammates and is attempting to gain control of the ball. Preventing opponents from getting to the ball by using screening teammates becomes a violation in five seconds if the opponents are attempting to gain control.