

To: NJSIAA Basketball Officials
From: Billy Martin, NJSIAA Basketball Rules Interpreter
Subject: Basketball Official's Update

Officials,

As mentioned in previous communications, the COVID-19 modifications and protocols are very fluid at this time with changes being received from governing bodies and the NJSIAA on almost a daily basis. We will attempt to keep you updated as they flow down to our officiating organizations.

Here are some items that have changed / updated and are worthy of clarification for this week.

1) Face Coverings for Players / Bench Personnel:

Due to sensitivity around student-athlete safety, the NJSIAA has relaxed the color restrictions for face coverings. It's now **RECOMMENDED** masks be of a single-solid color but **NOT** required. Officials are instructed **NOT** to ask an athlete to remove any face coverings for color reasons. Any apparel that poses a safety risk to the player(s) by rule would not be permitted. Officials are asked to report any items of question to their Chapter Secretary.

2) Face Coverings for Officials:

Conference and school administrators have requested officials notify the Athletic Director on the day of a game if there is a medical / safety reason your are unable to wear a mask not consistent with the NJSIAA protocol. Let the A.D. know this during your checkin with the school if this would be applicable to you.

As communicated prior: Wearing a mask during LIVE BALL play is optional for the official. (see below)

The official policy of the NJSIAA is --

Officials are required to wear face coverings at all times*, except when doing so would inhibit the official's health, for example:

- The official is engaged in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity.
- If an official's medical condition precludes the use of a face covering.
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to execute a task.
- If an official is experiencing trouble breathing.

**This includes entering the facility, transit on/off the court from dressing areas / restroom facilities, during warm-ups, when addressing coaches or table personnel.*

3) Substitutions and Timeouts:

As previously communicated, bench locations MAY require substitutes to enter from either side of the playing court. We are asking officials to take extra diligence and flexibility when dealing with substitutions such as:

- Only ONE substitute from EITHER TEAM is required to report to the table (or "X") that alerts the officiating crew, a substitute or substitutes are requesting entry.
- Once one substitute is at the "X" and this athlete is beckoned onto the court --- ANY NUMBER of substitutes may come off the bench, report to the table, and also be beckoned onto the court. This eliminates congregating around the scorer's table or "X".
- All substitutes must report to the table prior to the 15-second warning horn during a timeout. Nothing has changed here.
- Coaches should not use this opportunity to delay a game. Once one substitute is beckoned into the game, any additional substitutes must be ready to report and enter.

4) Intra-squad Scrimmages:

If so desired, schools MAY request officials to attend (and referee) their practices for an intra-squad scrimmage. This is an opportunity for coaches, athletes, and officials to get ready with new modifications, wearing masks during the game, substitutions, etc. Take advantage of these situations to educate the teams on how the "modified" game flow will work. The coaches and AD's have requested this and it provides a wonderful teaching moment for all.

Finally, here is the updated link to the NJSIAA COVID Rule Modifications. This is a "live" document and updated regularly. When in doubt reach out to your local Chapter Interpreter for additional clarifications on these items.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1J1QjgQ9txB7NxdlnazImRp6DA4I7AyAsmrunrr2vr aY/edit>

Stay safe and I wish you all the best during the coming launch of the 2020-21 season.

Warmest regards,

Billy Martin
NJSIAA State Basketball Rules Interpreter