



UIL SIDELINE/BENCH PROTOCOL GUIDANCE

The head coach is responsible for the personal conduct and behavior of all team members and bench/sideline personnel. Coaches should communicate to athletes that it is how we respond or deal with success, failure, and adversity that will define us as a person or student-athlete. During times of crisis, we all sink to the level of our training, so how are we training our student-athletes to act daily and in times of crisis? We need to have a plan, and it's important to practice that plan. Without practice, the plan will not be implemented, similar to an offense, defense, etc.

- It is a great idea to include responding to crisis situations in practice plans randomly on a regular basis. Gameday walkthrough may be the perfect time.
- It must be clearly understood that failure to respond appropriately and immediately to a crisis such as a fight could result in consequences.
- Consequences should be clearly outlined for athletes so they fully understand the expectations.

IN THE EVENT THAT A FIGHT BREAKS OUT

Instructions For Players

1. IF YOU ARE ON THE FIELD/COURT WHEN A FIGHT BREAKS OUT:

- If the fight is nowhere near you, head to our sideline as quickly as you can.
- If you happen to be right next to where one of our teammates is fighting, within a few feet of him/her, whether he/she is the one throwing punches or getting punched, get him/her **OUT OF THE FIGHT**. A good way to do this is to simply **grab them and pull them away in the opposite direction**. There will probably be a few teammates near you; the ones not fighting need to get the one fighting to stop fighting by **removing him/her from the situation**.
 - Get to our sideline as soon as you can.
 - **DO NOT TOUCH ANY OPPONENT** to get your teammate out of there.
 - **ONLY TOUCH YOUR TEAMMATE!**
 - **DO NOT TALK TO ANY OPPONENT.**
 - **DO NOT LOOK AT ANY OPPONENT.**
 - **IGNORE YOUR OPPONENT!**

2. IF YOU ARE ON THE SIDELINES WHEN A FIGHT BREAKS OUT: (players, managers, others)

- **DO NOT LEAVE THE SIDELINES!**
- **Stay seated on the bench or for field sports, go to designated area by your coaches.**

Instructions For Coaching Staff and Game Management

1. **THE ONLY COACHES TO LEAVE THE SIDELINES AND ENTER THE COURT/FIELD SHOULD BE THE HEAD COACH AND SPECIFIC ASSISTANTS ASSIGNED FOR FLOOR/FIELD CONTROL.** The Head Coach and designated assistants will get to the site of the fight as soon as possible to remove our players from the situation.
 - **DO NOT TOUCH ANY OPPONENT** to get your players out of there.
 - **ONLY TOUCH YOUR PLAYERS!**
 - **DO NOT TALK TO ANY OPPONENT.**
 - **DO NOT LOOK AT ANY OPPONENT.**
 - **IGNORE YOUR OPPONENT!**

2. **ALL OTHER COACHES AND ALL GAME MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL MANAGE THE SIDELINE/BENCH**
 - All coaches, managers, trainer, etc. need to get themselves between the bench/sideline and the court/field as soon as possible to keep players from leaving the bench/sidelines. Position your EYES on OUR sidelines, not the fight.
 - Direct our players to sit on the bench or move to a designated area on the sideline as soon as possible.
 - Have all the players to sit on the bench or take a knee.
 - Instruct all players to stay right where they are, on the bench or knee. Ensure that nobody leaves.
 - Only the Head Coach or a designated assistant can dismiss the kids from the bench or designated location. Remain with the players until that happens.

3. **IF A TEAM ONLY HAS ONE COACH, FOR EXAMPLE IN A SUBVARSITY GAME, IT IS EVEN MORE CRITICAL TO PRACTICE THE RESPONSE**
 - The coach should initially enter the coaching box and turn to face the bench/sideline and ensure that no bench personnel leave the bench area.
 - Once the bench/sideline is secure, the coach may enter the field/court to assist by removing his/her players from the playing area.
 - A player on the bench/sideline should be designated to be responsible for keeping teammates on the bench or sideline.

NFHS BASKETBALL RULES REMINDER

It is important to have an understanding of NFHS Rules in regards to altercations:

NFHS Rule 10-5-5 Exception (1) The head coach may enter the court to defuse a situation where a fight may break out or has broken out to prevent it from escalating. (2) Assistant coaches are allowed to come onto the playing floor to help break up a fight.

Bench personnel, ***except the head coach and any number of assistant coaches***, leaving bench area during a fight or when a fight may break out, that **Do NOT** participate in the fight, will

be assessed flagrant fouls, and disqualified. The head coach is assessed a maximum of one indirect technical foul (regardless of the number leaving the bench).

Bench personnel, leaving the bench area during a fight or when a fight may break out, that participate in the fight, will be assessed flagrant fouls, and disqualified. **The head coach is assessed one indirect technical foul for each bench personnel participating in the fight.**