

Bench Jockeying

Received the below correspondence over the weekend.

I wanted to reach out regarding the bench jockeying point of emphasis that was discussed at the beginning of the season. We've started to run into some challenges with consistency across different groups. In particular, there appears to be a variation in how strictly this is being enforced, which has led to some confusion among schools and coaches. As a result, when our umpires address situations involving excessive yelling or attempts to distract players, it is sometimes perceived as though we are being overly restrictive or interpreting the rules differently, despite our efforts to reference the applicable rule and the guidance provided during the preseason discussion. If you feel it would be appropriate, it may be helpful to reiterate your original guidance to the various groups, particularly regarding yelling from the bench and how it fits under unsportsmanlike conduct. We believe a unified message could go a long way in improving consistency and reducing misunderstandings moving forward.

As we approach state tournament games, teams will be seeing officials from all areas of the state. The need for consistency in enforcement is imperative. Please be reminded by the below slides, the NFHS Points of emphasis on Bench Jockeying.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

SPORTSMANSHIP (BENCH JOCKEYING AND PROPS)



- By rule, bench jockeying is prohibited and will result in warnings, restrictions or ejections as deemed appropriate by the umpire.

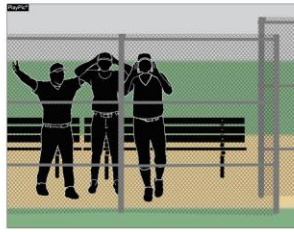


POINTS OF EMPHASIS

SPORTSMANSHIP (BENCH JOCKEYING AND PROPS)



- Bench jockeying can be considered as negative verbal comments, taunting or attempts to distract, intimidate or embarrass opponents or officials from the dugout – violates the standards of conduct expected in interscholastic competition.



POINTS OF EMPHASIS

SPORTSMANSHIP (BENCH JOCKEYING AND PROPS)



- Enforcement of this rule is not about silencing enthusiasm – it is about upholding the spirit of fair play and modeling appropriate conduct for students, schools and communities.