**Rule Book**

**RULE 4 SECTION 18 FIGHTING**

Fighting is a flagrant act and can occur when the ball is dead or live. Fighting includes, but is not limited to combative acts such as:

**ART. 1 . . .** An attempt to strike, punch or kick by using a fist, hands, arms, legs or feet **regardless of whether contact is made.** (This is a critical assessment in determining if a fight occurred. As officials, we do not have the luxury to say, “It wasn’t that bad.”)

**ART. 2 . . .** An attempt to instigate a fight by committing an unsporting act that causes a person to retaliate by fighting***. (Example: A1 yells in B1’s face taunting him/her. B1 retaliates by punching/striking A1. A1’s taunting caused B1 to react. Penalty: Both players get flagrant technical for fighting and are ejected.)***

**Rule 10** **SECTION 7** **CONTACT**

**Penalty Summary No. 8. Fighting:**

**a. Players on the court**:

(1) Corresponding number from each team – double flagrant fouls, all participants are disqualified, no free throws are awarded, ball is put in play at the point of interruption.

(2) Numbers of participants are not corresponding – Flagrant fouls and disqualification for all participants, two free throws are awarded for the offended team for each additional player, offended team awarded a division line throw in.

**b. Bench personnel leaving the team bench during a fight or when a fight may break out:**

(1) Do NOT participate in the fight – nonparticipants are assessed flagrant fouls and disqualified. The head coach is assessed a maximum of one indirect technical foul **(regardless of the number leaving the bench)**. If the number leaving the bench for each team is corresponding, no free throws are awarded, and the ball is put in play at the point of interruption. If the number leaving the bench for each team is unequal, a maximum of two free throws are awarded the offended team, followed by a division line throw-in opposite the table.

(2) Participate in the fight – all participants are assessed flagrant fouls and disqualified. **The head coach is assessed one indirect technical foul for EACH person leaving the bench and participating in the fight.** If the number leaving the bench for each team is corresponding, no free throws are awarded, and the ball is put in play at the point of interruption. If the number leaving the bench for each team is unequal, **two free throws** are awarded the offended team for each additional person leaving the bench, followed by a division line throw-in opposite the table.

**NOTE:** **All** fouls (except an indirect technical foul charged to the head coach) count toward the team's foul count in the half.

**NOTE:** A single flagrant foul or the second technical foul charged to any bench personnel, other than the head coach, results in disqualification of the offender. A single flagrant foul, the second direct technical foul or the third technical (any combination of direct or indirect) charged to the head coach results in disqualification and ejection. Ejected adult bench personnel shall leave the vicinity (out of sight and sound) of the playing area immediately and are prohibited from any further contact (direct or indirect) with the team during the remainder of the game. Failure to comply with the rules of ejection may result in the game being forfeited. **(Rule 10-6 NOTE**)

**EXCEPTION:** The head coach and any number of assistant coaches may enter the court in the situation where a fight may break out – or has broken out – to prevent the situation from escalating. **(Rule 10-5 EXCEPTION)**

**\*\*\* Note:** Once a fight begins, it is THE COACHES RESPONSIBILITY to get their players under control. The officials are to observe both benches for proper assignment of penalties for bench personnel who leave the bench during a fight as well as monitor the activity on the court. **Under no circumstances should an official ever touch/grab a player to attempt to deescalate a fight!**

**Administration to determine the order of incidents for proper adjudication.**

1. Layer the play from start to finish.

2. Determine first the actions on the court with the players in the game during the live ball and or dead ball period in which the initial incident occurred.

3. Determine players leaving the bench and not participating in a fight.

4. Determine players leaving the bench and participating in a fight.

5. Apply all penalties to include: assignment of technical fouls, ejections, add proper number of team fouls, shoot proper number of technical fouls shots if applicable. ***(Be sure to have the official scorekeeper provide you the names of all offenders for your report.)***

6. **Submit Unsportsmanlike Conduct Report Form - AT6 to FHSAA immediately after the contest as well as contacting SABO commissioner!!!**