

MEMORANDUM



TO: BCAM Coaches

FROM: Dan Young & Brent Rice, Assistant Director, MHSAA

RE: What is your plan when a fight breaks out during your game?

DATE: February 2019

What is your plan when a fight breaks out during your game? We suggest you take time in practice to discuss.

HEAD COACHES

Only engage your players. While head coaches are encouraged to break up physical altercations as quickly as possible, your focus should be on removing your players from the conflict – not engaging players or coaches from the other team. The most important thing is to ensure that order is restored.

Head coaches may want to express their displeasure with an opposing coach, players from the other team or the officials, however this is not the time!

ASSISTANT COACHES

Assistant coaches are best utilized by remaining at the bench area and **KEEPING THEIR OWN PLAYERS OFF THE COURT**. Assistant coaches entering onto the floor, even to break up an altercation, may be subject to disqualification.

As an assistant, allow the head coach to have discussions with the opposing coach or officials. If assistant coaches engage or argue with officials or members of the opposing team, they will almost certainly be ejected.

PLAYERS

Players on the bench when a fight occurs **MUST REMAIN ON THE BENCH**. There are no exceptions. Players that leave the bench and enter onto the floor for any reason are subject to disqualification.

Players on the floor during a fight must not engage opposing players (even if to break up an altercation). They should return to their bench area and encourage their teammates to do the same.