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### **MERCY RULE**

The mercy rule is in place for Class A and Class B boys and girls basketball for all regular season, region and SoDak 16 contests. The rule states that when the point differential reaches 30 or more points in the second half, the clock will continue to run. The clock will only be stopped while shooting free throws and during time outs. Regular timing will be used if the score differential drops back to less than 20 points.

**Class AA DOES NOT use the mercy rule, UNLESS they are playing a Class A or Class B school.** Then by mutual agreement prior to the start of the contest by both teams, the mercy rule may be used.

### **COVID PROTOCOLS**

We are still STRONGLY ENCOURAGING each school to encourage their fans/spectators to wear masks in the facility where social distancing cannot be maintained. We also, STONGLY recommend that all individuals that are not actively on the floor participating (10 players and 3 officials) wear a mask on the bench or while coaching. Coaches may take their masks down away from the face to give instruction, but then should put the mask back up.

Likewise, OFFICIALS, during the post-season contests, officials will be asked to wear a mask upon entering the facility and in the locker room. They will also be asked to wear a mask out onto the court while observing the warm-up and during all time-out/quarter break situations. When the contest begins, they may put their masks in their pockets until such breaks in the action occur and then put mask back on during timeouts and quarter breaks.

### **CHECKING THE GAME BOOK**

The Referee is still to go to the table and check the scorebook prior to the 10-minute mark. The officials will not however, take the book to each coach and have them initial the book for verification of proper roster in the scorebook. Officials are to remind the coaches to double check the book for accuracy of their roster and starting lineup, knowing that if there are any mistakes at the start of the contest, it is the coach's responsibility to ensure that it is correct.

### **SEVEN-QUARTER RULE**

Coaches and officials are reminded that individual athletes shall not participate in more than seven quarters of basketball in a given day against any common opponent, regardless of site in which the contest are played. Overtime periods are considered an extension of the fourth quarter. A violation of the "Seven Quarter" rule will result in a direct technical charged to the head coach and removal of the player from the game. If a violation of this rule were discovered after the player has exited the court, there would be no penalty applied, as this is not a correctable error. The scorekeeper shall fill out the seven-quarter participation form and officials be sure each coach has signed the form. It is best if the scorekeeper writes the number of quarters the individual has played in the scorebook beside their name so that information is readily available and

scorekeepers can notify officials of any infractions. If a violation of the rule occurs, the officials shall be notified and assess the direct technical foul to the head coach and remove the player from the contest.

### **VARSITY STARTING FIVE RESTRICTIONS**

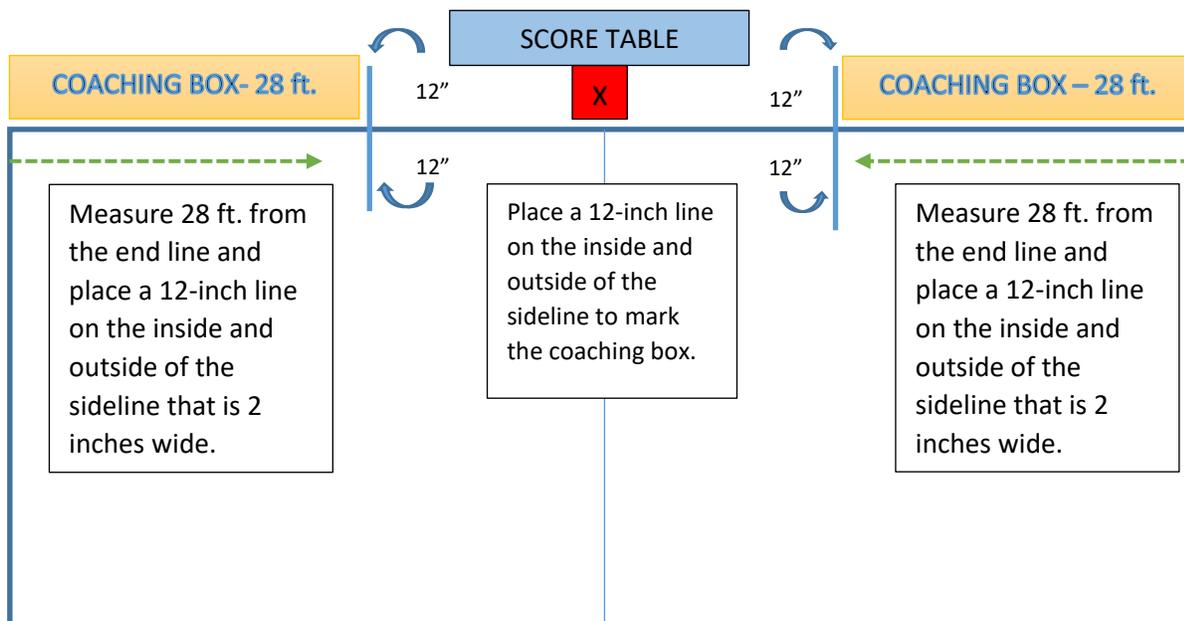
The SDHSAA recommends that players who make up the starting five for the varsity contest NOT suit up for the preliminary/lower level game held during the same session. Granted, there may be some exceptions due to illness or lack of numbers, but generally, if you have enough athletes to play, it is our recommendation not to use varsity starters in the lower level competitions.

### **COACHING BOX and "X" IN FRONT OF SCORE TABLE**

A 28-foot coaching box shall be outlined **12 inches inside and 12 inches outside of the court** on the side in which the scorers/timers table and team benches are located. The coaching box shall be bounded by a line drawn 28 feet from the end line with a 12 inch line placed on the inside and the outside of the sideline. The 28-foot coaches box will be marked with two (2) inch wide lines perpendicular to the outside edge of the sideline. Tape may be used to mark this area. **No specific color for the line is needed; it just needs to be clearly visible.** (See Diagram below)

You will go from each END LINE and mark a line at 28 feet. You will place a 12-inch line that is 2 inches wide both on the inside and outside of the sideline. (The other line 14 feet from the end line goes away).

We also need to have an "X" 12 inches long and 2 inches wide placed on the floor out of bounds directly in front of the official scorer to help substitutes with proper location. We have gymnasiums that do not have these markings on the court. Please be sure you have these markings on the court for officials and your contests.



### **BUCK TIMMINS MEMORIAL PATCH**

Anyone interested in purchasing a memorial patch, here is the link to place your order: <https://forms.gle/LJYXJoxVAVGetoVE7>



The cost of the patch is \$2 per patch. I know many of you have more than one shirt, so if you would like to order a patch for each shirt, just be sure to specify the number of patches you would like to order.

Make check payable to SDHSAA Memorial Patch and send payment to:

SDHSAA  
% Jo Auch  
PO Box 1217, Suite 102  
Pierre, SD 57501

The patches should arrive around Christmas time or there shortly after and will be mailed out to those who ordered.

We will sew the patches on the right sleeve, 2 inches up from the bottom of the sleeve for basketball.

Should you have any questions or unique situations that you would like discussed in this newsletter please feel free to contact me at: [jo.auch@sdhsaa.com](mailto:jo.auch@sdhsaa.com)