



TO: Final Four Game Officials
FROM: Joyce Sisson, Assistant Director
SUBJ: Sportsmanship
DATE: March 2009

Each of the athletic directors, principals and head coaches of participating teams has been provided with information regarding the League's expectations relative to behavior at this year's tournament. We have put some procedures in place that we hope will lessen the likelihood that unacceptable behavior will occur. One of those procedures has to do with player introductions prior to the game and the huddling that often occurs immediately following those introductions. Please be advised of the following sequence of events prior to the start of each semifinal game:

- Teams will not be allowed to take the floor until the officials are ready to take the floor. This applies to all games except the first game of the day, and should eliminate pregame dunking that often occurs prior to the officials' arrival on the court.
- Teams will be permitted a 20-minute warm-up.
- At 0:00 on the clock, players will be introduced in the following sequence:
 - Introduction of non-starting players from the visiting team (semifinals only)
 - Introduction of non-starting players from the home team (semifinals only)
 - Introduction of starters, alternating players from first visiting team, then home team. Each player will shake hands with opposing coach and/or officials. They will shake hands with one another in or near the center circle, and then will go immediately to their own free throw circle.
- After all five starters for each team have been introduced, teams may huddle in their own free throw circles.

TEAMS MAY NOT HUDDLE IN OR AROUND THE CENTER CIRCLE.

OFFICIALS ARE EXPECTED TO ASSESS A TECHNICAL FOUL TO ANY TEAM THAT HUDDLES IN THE CENTER OF THE FLOOR. As always, preventive officiating is encouraged. Do not "look the other way" if this occurs. Teams have been forewarned.

Please do not ignore bad behavior if it happens during your game. Taunting, trash talking, inappropriate gestures and other forms of poor sportsmanship, whether directed toward opposing players or the opposing student body, are not appropriate and **MUST** be addressed by game officials. Likewise, emotional negative reactions to calls by players and coaches must be addressed. Players or coaches who behave in ways that are disrespectful of opponents or officials **MUST** be penalized. Good sportsmanship is a top priority of the VHSL. Please consider it a point of emphasis in these state tournament games.

THANK YOU.