



To: CIAC Member School Athletic Directors, Coaches and  
CT IAABO Basketball Officials

From: CIAC Boys and Girls Basketball Committees and  
CT IAABO Rules Interpreters

Date: December 1, 2018

Re: Reminder - Marking the Coaching Box and Substitution Entry Spot

This memorandum is a reminder for CIAC member schools to mark the ***coaching box and substitution entry spot (X)*** prior to the 2018-19 basketball season.

In 2017-18, the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) provided the CIAC the option to modify the coaching box rule, previously adopted at 14 feet, to 28 feet. The CIAC, in conjunction with the CIAC Boys/Girls Basketball Committees and IAABO Rules Interpreters, adopted the 28-foot coaching box. The IAABO officials continue to report that several schools have not painted or marked with gym floor tape, the coaching box lines and the X that represents the substitution entry spot.

In lieu of not observing a marked coaching box or a substitution entry spot (X), the IAABO Rules Interpreters have been instructed by the CIAC to request the home school to apply gym floor tape to indicate the coaching box and/or substitution entry spot. If the home school administrator refuses, IAABO basketball officials, as instructed by the CIAC, will not allow the home team coach to stand but will allow the visiting team head coach to stand. The CIAC has also asked IAABO officials to alert the CIAC when schools are not in compliance.

Here are the guidelines:

The **coaching box area** shall be outlined outside the side of the court on which the scorer and timer's table and team benches are located. The "Coaching Box Area" is 28 feet wide. To correctly locate the starting point of the coaching box on the side line, put a line 28 feet from the end line towards the division line. Then put another line at the end of the coaching box, which is marked at the end line. These lines shall be located off the court and be 2 inches wide. We recommend that the length of the lines be 3 feet long, if space is available.

The **substitution entry spot** is denoted by an X. It should be 12" long and 2" wide and placed on the floor out of bounds directly in front of the official scorer, to help substitutes with the proper location to check into the game.

The NFHS rules committee and the CIAC want coaches to remain in the coaching box and have players properly report to the scorer when they wish to enter as a substitute. There is a distinct advantage to the coach who is permitted to be out of the coaching box, because the coach has a better chance to communicate with his or her team. Officials have been instructed to address and penalize coaches who are in violation of the coaching box rule. It is important to realize, that once the coaching box privilege is removed because of a technical foul (indirect or direct technical foul), all related restrictions must apply. There is no way to retain the coaching box privilege back after it has been lost for that game. Specifically, the head coach has lost the privilege to remain standing in the box for the remainder of the game and he/she must remain seated. As a reminder, the assistant coaches **must** remain seated during the game.

The CIAC is confident that the coaches in Connecticut will support and abide by the coaching box and substitution entry rules and ***promote sportsmanship*** in every possible way. The basketball officials serve our member schools and we are fortunate that the relationship that exists between coaches and officials in Connecticut has always been characterized by mutual respect.

Finally, the NFHS rules and CIAC basketball committees continue to make "**Sporting Behavior**" a high priority. Thus, we remind athletic directors and coaches of the key role they play, since it is our belief that their players and team followers usually take their lead from the head coach. We encourage everyone connected to high school basketball in the state of Connecticut to do their part to promote the highest ideals of good sportsmanship.