

FIGHTING

The bench technical foul rule received an added element in 2004-2005: Bench personnel will be charged with a flagrant foul if they leave the confines of the bench when a fight *may* break out (10-4-4). Below are definitions and penalties that will help in understanding, officiating, and administering a fight.

Rule 4, Section 18

Fighting is a flagrant act and can occur when the ball is dead or alive. 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.
- Art. 2...**An attempt to instigate a fight by committing an unsporting act that causes a person to retaliate by fighting.

Rule 10, Section 3

Player Technical: A player shall not:

- Art. 8...**Be charged with fighting.

Rule 10, Section 4

Bench Technical: The head coach is responsible for his/her own conduct and behavior, as well as substitutes, disqualified team members and all other bench personnel. Bench personnel, including the head coach, shall not:

- Art. 1...**Commit an unsporting foul. This includes, but is not limited to, acts or conduct such as:
 - g.** Being charged with fighting.

Rule 10 Penalty 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 to 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 to 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.

Rule 10, Section 5

Head Coaches' Rule:

- Art. 5...**The head coach shall not permit team members to leave the bench area and/or playing court for an unauthorized reason.

NOTE: 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.

PLAY 1: A4 and B5, in front of Team A's bench, begin cursing one another and walk toward each other. A4 and B5 get in each others face and "chest up," but there is no pushing or punching. A6 and A7 leave the bench when it appears a fight may occur.

RULING:

- The situation is NOT deemed a fight
- A4 and B5 are each whistled for a technical foul for unsporting conduct
 - No free throws are awarded
 - Each foul counts toward each player's disqualification total
 - Each foul counts toward the team foul total
- A6 and A7 are assessed flagrant technical fouls and are disqualified for leaving the bench when a fight may break out (even though a fight didn't occur)
 - Both A6's and A7's fouls count toward the team total
- The head coach is assessed a maximum of one indirect technical foul, regardless of the number of players leaving the bench
- Team B is awarded two free throws
- Team B is awarded the ball for a throw-in at the division line opposite the scorer's table

PLAY 2: Same as PLAY 1, except A6 and B7 leave their respective benches when it appears a fight may occur.

RULING:

- The situation is NOT deemed a fight
- A4 and B5 are each whistled for a technical foul for unsporting conduct
 - No free throws are awarded
 - Each foul counts toward each player's disqualification total
 - Each foul counts toward the team foul total
- A6 and B7 are each assessed a flagrant technical foul and are disqualified for leaving the bench when a fight may break out (even though a fight didn't occur)
- Each head coach is assessed an indirect technical foul, regardless of the number of players leaving the bench
- Each foul counts toward the respective team total
- No free throws are awarded
- The ball is put in play via the alternating-possession procedure, with the throw-in opposite the scorer's table

PLAY 3: A1 and B1 begin punching each other. Two substitutes from each team leave the bench area and come onto the court. The four substitutes:

- A) do not become involved in the fight;
- B) all become involved in the fight; or
- C) substitutes A6, A7, and B6 do not participate in the fight, but B7 becomes involved in the fight.

RULING:

- A1 and B1 are charged with flagrant fouls and are disqualified
 - No free throws are awarded
 - Each foul counts toward the team foul total
- The four substitutes are charged with flagrant technical fouls and are disqualified
 - No free throws are awarded for the simultaneous technical fouls as the number of bench personnel leaving the bench and the penalties are the same for both teams
 - A) one technical foul is also charged indirectly to the head coach of each team
 - B) each head coach is charged indirectly with two technical fouls (one for each bench player leaving the bench and becoming involved in the fight)
 - C) the Team A head coach is charged indirectly with one technical foul and the Team B head coach is indirectly charged with two technical fouls (one for substitutes B6 and B7 leaving the bench, and one for B7 becoming involved in the fight)
- In all situations, the ball is put in play at the point of interruption (4-46; 7-5-3b; 10.4.5 Situation A)