

Each week during the winter season all SYC Basketball officials will receive a "best practices email" focusing on various areas of basketball officiating . All of the articles are posted on the SYC Website for reference @ <https://www.sycva.com/refbestpractices>

Since this has come up a few times, let's discuss jewelry.

Safety first!

In the Rules Book, Rule 3-5, ART. 7 states, "Jewelry is prohibited. Religious and medical-alert medals are not considered jewelry. A religious medal must be taped to the body and worn under the uniform. A medical-alert medal must be taped and may be visible."

The Case Book has two situations that talk about jewelry:

Case Book Play 2.4.5 SITUATION A: In the third quarter a player is discovered wearing a ring.

RULING: The player must leave the game and remove the jewelry and may re-enter the game at the next substitution opportunity, but no penalty is assessed against the player or the coach.

Case Book Play 3.5.7 SITUATION: A substitute is beckoned and enters the court to replace another player. The substitute is wearing: (a) a bracelet, (b) an earring covered with tape or (c) earhole spacer.

RULING: The items in (a), (b) and (c) are illegal and considered jewelry and the substitute will not be allowed to participate while wearing the items. No penalty is involved. The substitute simply cannot participate until the illegal items are removed. (3-5-7)

Jewelry is prohibited! That's it. No earrings, no necklaces, no pins, no berets, watches, etc. Do NOT allow it in your game. It's a safety hazard!!! What if an earring gets caught on a uniform? What if a hair pin pokes someone in the eye? If you see something, say something.

Players or coaches like to say, "But, the last official let me wear it." I don't care! Don't allow it in your game!

Safety first!

So, how should you handle it?

Prior to the game, if you see someone wearing jewelry, call them over and tell them, "I will not let you in the game wearing your jewelry." You didn't tell them to remove it, you just told them you won't let them play with it on. It's their call to remove it or not.

When I see a player in the game with jewelry, I blow the whistle and stop the game. Verbally tell the coach, "Coach #32 is not ready to play." Ask #32 to leave the game and explain the situation. "Coach, #32 is wearing a necklace. I need a replacement"

DO NOT LET THE PLAYER STAND THERE AND TRY TAKE OFF THE NECKLACE OR EARRING. REPLACE THEM IN THE GAME. The reason you do this is to keep the game moving. What if you allow them to unclasp the necklace/earring and they're nervous or can't do it and it take 30 seconds, 60 seconds, 90 seconds, etc. Just replace them, and at the next dead ball, they can come back in the game. This should NOT affect the SYC player participation rules.

NO, tape over earrings is NOT OK and NOT permissible. I don't care what the Dr. says and I don't care if they just got it yesterday, they are not allowed to play with jewelry.

Most people understand and are ok with this guidance. I have had a few be stubborn and have even talked to parents. But, it's always been ok.

Safety first!

Finally, and I'm serious about this, if I had a player, coach, or parent refuse to remove jewelry and keep their player in the game, I'd go sit down and NOT referee the game. That's just me. I would not be responsible for an unsafe act or someone getting hurt if I could prevent it. I'm not telling YOU to do this, but, that's how I would handle it.

Always report back to the basketball league commissioner and your assignor any issues like this. That's very important too

Safety first!

See you on the court!!

- Rob Grunewald, National Federation High School, Certified Basketball Official

Questions or comments? Email Rob @ grunewar@yahoo.com