



## **UIL SIDELINE/BENCH PROTOCOL GUIDANCE**

The head coach is responsible for the personal conduct and behavior of all team members and bench/sideline personnel. Coaches should communicate to athletes that it is how we respond or deal with success, failure, and adversity that will define us as a person or student-athlete. During times of crisis, we all sink to the level of our training, so how are we training our student-athletes to act daily and in times of crisis? We need to have a plan, and it's important to practice that plan. Without practice, the plan will not be implemented, similar to an offense, defense, etc.

- It is a great idea to include responding to crisis situations in practice plans randomly on a regular basis. Gameday walkthrough may be the perfect time.
- It must be clearly understood that failure to respond appropriately and immediately to a crisis such as a fight could result in consequences.
- Consequences should be clearly outlined for athletes, so they fully understand the expectations.

### **IN THE EVENT THAT A FIGHT BREAKS OUT**

#### **Instructions For Players**

##### **1. IF YOU ARE ON THE FIELD/COURT WHEN A FIGHT BREAKS OUT:**

- If the fight is nowhere near you, head to our sideline as quickly as you can.
- If you happen to be right next to where one of our teammates is fighting, within a few feet of him/her, whether he/she is the one throwing punches or getting punched, get him/her **OUT OF THE FIGHT**. A good way to do this is to simply **grab them and pull them away in the opposite direction**. There will probably be a few teammates near you; the ones not fighting need to get the one fighting to stop fighting by **removing him/her from the situation**.
  - Get to our sideline as soon as you can.
  - **DO NOT TOUCH ANY OPPONENT** to get your teammate out of there.
  - **ONLY TOUCH YOUR TEAMMATE!**
  - **DO NOT TALK TO ANY OPPONENT.**
  - **DO NOT LOOK AT ANY OPPONENT.**
  - **IGNORE YOUR OPPONENT!**

##### **2. IF YOU ARE ON THE SIDELINES WHEN A FIGHT BREAKS OUT: (players, managers, others)**

- **DO NOT LEAVE THE SIDELINES!**
- **Stay seated on the bench or for field sports, go to designated area by your coaches.**

## **Instructions For Coaching Staff and Game Management**

1. **THE ONLY COACHES TO LEAVE THE SIDELINES AND ENTER THE COURT/FIELD SHOULD BE THE HEAD COACH AND SPECIFIC ASSISTANTS ASSIGNED FOR FLOOR/FIELD CONTROL.** The Head Coach and designated assistants will get to the site of the fight as soon as possible to remove our players from the situation.
  - **DO NOT TOUCH ANY OPPONENT** to get your players out of there.
  - **ONLY TOUCH YOUR PLAYERS!**
  - **DO NOT TALK TO ANY OPPONENT.**
  - **DO NOT LOOK AT ANY OPPONENT.**
  - **IGNORE YOUR OPPONENT!**
  
2. **ALL OTHER COACHES AND ALL GAME MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL MANAGE THE SIDELINE/BENCH**
  - All coaches, managers, trainer, etc. need to get themselves between the bench/sideline and the court/field as soon as possible to keep players from leaving the bench/sidelines. Position your EYES on OUR sidelines, not the fight.
  - Direct our players to sit on the bench or move to a designated area on the sideline as soon as possible.
  - Have all the players to sit on the bench or take a knee.
  - Instruct all players to stay right where they are, on the bench or knee. Ensure that nobody leaves.
  - Only the Head Coach or a designated assistant can dismiss the kids from the bench or designated location. Remain with the players until that happens.
  
3. **IF A TEAM ONLY HAS ONE COACH, FOR EXAMPLE IN A SUBVARSITY GAME, IT IS EVEN MORE CRITICAL TO PRACTICE THE RESPONSE**
  - The coach should initially enter the coaching box and turn to face the bench/sideline and ensure that no bench personnel leave the bench area.
  - Once the bench/sideline is secure, the coach may enter the field/court to assist by removing his/her players from the playing area.
  - A player on the bench/sideline should be designated to be responsible for keeping teammates on the bench or sideline.