

Journeyman Basketball

Game Coaches Guide

PAGE 1

Selecting POG/HM and Post-Game Review

Player of the Game honors are reserved for those that have exceeded their typical or past performances. They provide maximum effort and demonstrate the qualities of a hard working athlete. Accepting feedback from the stat bench is encouraged before making your final decision. Often there are personnel who have watched these athletes for years. We are not necessarily looking for the top scorers or players that have filled the stat sheet. Only head coaches choose POG and should be aware of the past history of all players' nominations for POG and HM as to try to involve all deserving players at some point during the session. They still must be deserving. Also, when addressing the players at the end of the game, be loud enough so players and spectators can clearly hear what you're trying to convey. POG recognition is not mandatory nor awarded in "turns". You must consider the following:

- Hustle
- Defense / Aggressiveness
- Following direction and the game plan
- Leadership / Attitude
- Unselfishness

It is also recommended that you take notes during the game to have talking points during closing statements. Please refrain from comments such as "He or She did what I told them to" or more specifically, in a win, commenting to the other team to imply they are better than you. Also refrain from mentioning what your team does not have in the huddle. DO NOT RECITE THE STAT SHEET! This gives people the impression that POG recognition is about stats. There is nothing wrong with saying "McKenzie rebounded well" but do not reference exact numbers from the sheet or even reference "the stat sheet". Stating a point of needed improvement is also encouraged. Your comments of strong dissatisfaction are better left for a team huddle and not while in front of both teams and spectators. Keep your comments factual and to the point. If you don't mean it, don't say it! Be aware of time restraints. Games often run over the allotted time. Keep concerns of homework, dinner, travel or other games to follow in mind.

Playing Time – 1530 Rule (rev. 07082024)

The Responsibility of the Game Coach

The game coaches are responsible for the distribution of playing time for their team. Players will follow the teams' plan or be held accountable. All players are encouraged to see lead staff if they feel playing time is not distributed in accordance with posted guidelines. Players are reminded to try to communicate with the coach first. If this does not work, they should approach a staff member to resolve the issue.

The **1530 RULE**. The main goal is to ensure all players are on the floor for a minimum of 15 minutes and 30 seconds. Although Journeyman does their best to ensure that all players participate, we also understand a team's goal is to win the game. This often means putting more qualified players on the floor in close games. We also understand the need for players to get better by experience. The 1530 RULE protects both aspects in this regard. **EXPLANATION:** *If the game clock provides four, 9 minute quarters then the game is 36 minutes in length. If you then allow a game coach to have anyone on the floor he chooses for the last 5 minutes (game situation dependent), then half of a game is technically **15 minutes and 30 seconds**.*

1530 RULE addition. *Stat bench staff have the authority to inquire about playing status players with a coach. If staff has monitored and annotated actual playing time and has determined that a player is not receiving their share of court time, this same staff can demand a substitution.* The coaches of the program are expected to follow the 1530 rule to the best of their ability. Coaches should only address concerns they have with their opponents playing time with staff.

(*Even distribution is a tough task. Set substitution times are **not recommended**. It is preferred that participants learn how to put the right combination of players on the floor in order to give the team the best opportunity to win while using the entire team. This can be done. Parents and fans tracking minutes and reporting to staff members can neither be substantiated nor accepted. Teaching our youth to speak up for themselves and work within the team and organization is our only approach. The staff must observe substitution patterns and often audit (on paper) an entire game for a chosen team. Some players will receive a bit more court time than others when game situations are evaluated. Please approach staff professionally and calmly when you have concerns.

Pre-Game (6.14.2016)

Officials may ask coaches to assign a team representative. This representative is a liaison, or point of communication that represents the team in the event that the official needs to communicate with the team. The program wishes to encourage coaches to select a rational and responsible young adult or team leader to assume this duty.

Conduct

- Coaches should stay calm and positive throughout the game and when publicly addressing their players, officials and stat bench.
- Using profanities or strong language is UNACCEPTABLE and in direct violation of the Coaches Code of Ethics.
- Carefully consider your choice of words when addressing a player. Try to speak of the positive actions as well as the negative. (Example below)
 - "Sam, I like the fact that you are ready to be aggressive, next time consider passing out of the double team."

Journeyman Basketball

Game Coaches Guide

PAGE 2

- If a parent has a concern, you must direct them to a board member or have a witness (particularly a board or JAC member) present to help address the situation. This standing rule is in accordance with our policies and procedures and is designed to protect the interest of the program and its volunteers. Furthermore this is a non-negotiable point of emphasis.
- Remember, you and your team **must thank all officials and volunteers** after the game. This includes shaking hands with officials and the opposing team.
 - Carefully watch your team for those that you expect to be dissatisfied or disgusted. You have an opportunity to address it right away.
- At the end of the game please ensure that your bench area is as clean or cleaner than it was when you arrived.

Tournament Points

At the end of a Journeyman game, the stat bench volunteers award Tournament points to two players from each team. These points are awarded to the two players that made the biggest positive and productive impact on the game. THIS IS NOT THE SAME CRITERIA AS POG! 3 points should be awarded to the most impactful player and 1 point to the second most impactful. If the stat bench requires assistance in determining the recipients of tournament points, they can ask for the assistance from an opposing coach.

NOTE: The change in the assigner of tournament points was made effective 9/1/24 by unanimous decision of the board of directors. The assignment of tournament points was formerly a decision made by the head coach.

Uniforms

- Encourage your team to keep their uniforms clean. **Jerseys belong to the organization**. Teach them to care about the way they represent their team. Yes, the **shorts do belong to the players**, however this does not mean a severely stained uniform isn't worthy of a pre-game technical foul.
- When you know that your team is **playing in their last game**, have them prepared to **turn the jerseys in immediately** following this game! We do have means to clean them ourselves. This helps us avoid a multitude of phone calls trying to track the jerseys down after the session is over. If there is a theme and t-shirts have been given to the players for the session, there is no need to return them.

Understanding Journeyman Basketball Volunteerism (Extremely Important!)

- As a registered 501C(3) our board of directors encourage and appreciate their volunteers. To be completely clear, we are a thriving and successful program due in great part to this volunteerism. Our own founder worked for Journeyman for 7 years without drawing a stipend. However, Journeyman needs to remind their volunteers that providing volunteer service does not give them permission to speak on Journeyman Basketball's behalf. Volunteers do not dictate policy unless approached by the board for assistance. Furthermore, communicating with their athletes on social media platforms without their parents knowledge is a direct violation of our rules for coaches.

NOTE: Journeyman Basketball appreciates their dedicated volunteers. Keeping this in mind they also reserve the right to discontinue the use of volunteers for any reason. Journeyman Basketball's top priority is the safety of their student athletes.



rev. 1/2026