



850 Ridge Avenue  
Suite 301  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
Office: (412) 321-8440  
Fax: (412) 321-4088

---

December 12, 2018

The following are the results of the Coppin State protest of their 3 conference games against Delaware on December 2nd, 2018.

All 3 games were protested by Coppin State for an Officials Qualifications violation.

**Requested action** – Forfeiture of Games.

PROTEST: (Trey Anderson – Head Coach - Coppin State Club Basketball)

“PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION IT WAS REQUESTED TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF WHETHER THE OFFICIALS WERE HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGIATE LEVEL OFFICIALS AND WE NEVER RECEIVED CONFIRMATION. DURING THE COMPETITION THE OFFICIALS DISPLAYED A COMPLETE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE RULES AND MECHANICS RELATIVE TO BASKETBALL. THE OFFICIALS PROPERLY UNIFORMED TO OFFICIATE; DUE TO THE FACT THEY HAD TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT UNIFORMS. POST GAME IT WAS REQUESTED TO KNOW WHAT BOARD THEY BELONGED TO AND THEIR ASSIGNER; THE OFFICIALS WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE THAT INFORMATION. THE OFFICIALS IN QUESTION ARE BELIEVED TO BE UNCERTIFIED HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGIATE OFFICIALS PER THE RULES; FURTHERMORE, THEY ARE BELIEVED TO BE STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE..”

DEFENSE: (Lucas Mayell – President - Delaware Club Basketball)

“I was the President here at Delaware last year and we always had student referees. Last year we hosted three home series and no school we played gave me prior knowledge that the referees had to be certified. Every school last year was fine with it, and our girls team also uses student referees. No one has given them knowledge that referees needed to be certified as well.

The referees did not influence at all the outcome of our games. We won each game 52-38, 62-44, and 48-34. I understand if Coppin State lost by two or four and the refs made questionable calls down the stretch to influence the game, but that simply did not happen. Coppin State lead in two out of the three games at halftime and they blew their lead. We refuse to forfeit these games because we simply out beat them, and the referees made questionable calls on both sides. It is not like our student refs were favoring Delaware.

Also, the coach never told me they were going to protest this. We shook everybody's hand at the end of the games in sportsmanship and that was the end of it. He also did not directly ask the refs specifically about what "board" they belonged to and who their "assignee" was. He asked the girl who did their book to ask the referees their name. That was the end of the conversation. There was no contact between the head coach and the officials. He did contact me about the referees on Friday prior to the games, but I did not see his message. He responded while I was in class and I was extremely busy on Friday, so I will take ownership for not seeing the message/contacting him about the refs. But to say that because the referees were not "certified" does not mean



**NATIONAL CLUB  
BASKETBALL  
ASSOCIATION**

850 Ridge Avenue  
Suite 301  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
Office: (412) 321-8440  
Fax: (412) 321-4088

we should forfeit these games when we are simply the better team. One of the refs has also reffed for six years locally and here at UD.

If they want to reschedule these games I have no problem with that. I have no problem about this because I have no doubt what the outcome of the games will be. I believe this because of the way we play and how this weekend turned out, especially when we were missing two key starters. But we absolutely 100% refuse to give up three conference wins to a team that is not better than us, due to the fact that our referees were not certified.”

**NCBBA RULES RELEVANT TO THIS INVESTIGATION:**

**11.00.00 (Officials)**

11.01.0 During **NCBBA Sanctioned Basketball Games**, the home team is responsible for providing officials for each competition.

11.03.0 The officials **MUST** be High School, NCAA, NJCAA, or NAIA certified.

11.03.1 The visiting team reserves the right to request proof of the official’s credentials prior to the start of any **NCBBA Sanctioned Basketball Game**.

**21.00.00 (Protests)**

21.01.0 No protest ever shall be permitted on judgment decisions by the Officials.

**21.02.0 On Court Protests**

21.02.1 On Court Protests consists of protests regarding Uniform Violations, Equipment Violations, Official decisions believed to be in violation of NCBBA rules, Official Qualifications, and **ALL** Roster Violations.

21.02.2 Any On Court protest by the coach of a competing team must be made at the time of the action or incident that caused the protest and before play is resumed.

21.02.2.1 If the game ends (legal contest) in a protest able situation, the offended team has until all players have left the court to voice its protest intentions.

21.02.2.2 All On Court protests must be made to the Referee.

21.02.2.3 All On Court protests must be reported to the NCBBA (via the NCBBA GAME PROTEST FORM) no later than midnight E.S.T. of the Tuesday following the “NCBBA Week” in which the protested game occurred.

**INVESTIGATION:**

NCBBA Assistant Director of Basketball Operations Zac Ramirez, spoke to both officials (J. Ford and T. Boyer) who confirmed that they are NOT high school certified. However, they both stated that at no point were they asked to provide any certification credentials nor did they know the game was supposed to be officiated by officials with a minimum high school level of certification. They also stated that at no time did anyone mention to them that the game was being played under protest. T. Boyer stated that at the conclusion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> game, the score keeper did ask what their names were.

Trey from Coppin State was then asked to submit further detail as to when he specifically notified the officials that they intended to play under protest. His response was “Prior to the game I asked the team referee if either



**NATIONAL CLUB  
BASKETBALL  
ASSOCIATION**

850 Ridge Avenue  
Suite 301  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
Office: (412) 321-8440  
Fax: (412) 321-4088

---

official was High School or collegiate certified via text and received no response on 11/30/18 @ 1309hrs. Post game one of my team managers approached both officials to obtain their information and let them know they were being protested; and that was explained while she obtained their names as UD reps could not provide us with the officials names.”

NCBBA rules declare that protests regarding Officials Qualifications are deemed as an “On Court Protest” (Rule 21.02.1), that any “On Court Protests” must be made by the coach and must be made at the moment the rules infraction takes place (Rule 21.02.2), and that all On Court protests must be made directly to the Referee (Rule 21.02.2.2)

**RULING:**

Protest denied. It is of the NCBBA’s opinion that Coppin State did not ask the officials directly for their certifications and more importantly that the coach did not announce their intent to play under protest to the Referee prior to the start of any of the games. Thus, they failed to adhere to NCBBA Rules 21.02.2 and 21.02.2.2. Thus the NCBBA has no choice but to deny their protests of the Games.

However, the NCBBA is appalled to hear that the Delaware team has previously operated under the assumption that IM refs are adequate and that they rely on the advice of their women’s club basketball team to guide them through their operations within the NCBBA. Delaware will now be placed on probation for the remainder of the 2018-19 season for conducting the basketball operations of their team in a manner not considered acceptable by NCBBA standards as per NCBBA Rule 22.01.0.

**NOTE:**

The NCBBA rules on protests are very specific and are designed to give an offending team an opportunity to correct a rules infraction at the moment it is identified so that the game can be played as a legal contest. Additionally the protest rules are designed to prevent offended teams from waiting to determine the outcome of the game before voicing their complaints regarding a possible rules infraction that may have been correctable at the time of its identification. NCBBA Rules clearly require that officials be High School Certified or better as the NCBBA Membership has been adamant in previous rules discussions that they do not want IM caliber referees officiating NCBBA basketball contests.

Sandy Sanderson

President  
National Club Basketball Association