

January 23, 1939.

Mr. C. Clinton Ruby,  
North York Junior-Senior High School,  
York, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Ruby:

Your inquiry of January 17th has been received, and I feel that I should write you, as well as fill it out.

When there is an argument in a game over a score the referee shall decide in favor of the smaller score. When there is an argument over playing time the referee shall decide in favor of the longer playing time. Of course, none of this would be necessary if the referee had designated the official scorer. The referee shall designate the official scorer and the official timekeeper before the game. If he did not do this and then this situation arose, the referee shall decide always in favor of the smaller score.

The running score would not be official. The actual score, in which field goals and free throws were made, is the score that should be considered. The referee's decision in this case should remain as final, and he acted correctly in deciding in favor of the smaller score.

Sometimes referees do not announce the score at the end of the game, and if he did not that would not make any appreciable difference in this case. I take it that he did not appoint an official scorer at the beginning of the game. If he did, then that scorer's record is official. In case the referee did not designate the official scorer, then he shall decide in favor of the smaller score, because the record of both scorers at the end of the game showed the individual scores to be 23 - 24 in favor of Team B. Therefore, according to the rules and all the situations concerned in this game, I would say that the referee acted properly.

However, in case of an official board meeting, if they wanted to take it into their own hands, then I would say that the referee certainly should be called into the meeting; but, in my opinion, the referee is the superior officer of the game