

Infractions encouraged?

One underlying current here, which Perri did not address, is a feeling that some coaches might actually teach players how to get away with illegal techniques (the pros have tutored their offensive linemen in the subtle art of holding for years).

Then there is the problem of time keeping. With only four officials, the time must be kept on the field, which further cuts down on the number of calls the timekeeper can make.

It also leads to needless controversy. There was no clock operator at last week's Pennsbury-Neshaminy Langhorne game (one was assigned, but did not show up). Pennsbury scored with 2 seconds left to win a 15-14 game, and with it, the Lower Bucks championship.

"Because there was no official clock, there was some question about how much time was left," Perri said. "It was a nasty situation getting off the field."

Perri and Nelson are hoping to avoid any hassles by convincing the leagues to stay with five officials.

What bothers the officials is the schools' contention that finances are at stake here.

"The Lower Bucks League pays a back judge \$30," Perri said. "Suburban One pays \$27.50."

It also bothers him that there is no mandated number of officials in the rule book of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association.

"I think they *should* say something," Perri said. "I think they should legislate five officials, just for safety."

The players' — and the officials'.