

2024-25

NFHS / NJSIAA

Basketball Rule Changes & Modifications



BASKETBALL COACHES EDITION

Prepared by Billy Martin
NJSIAA State Basketball Rules Interpreter

If you have any questions please reach out directly to your local chapter Rules Interpreter for help.

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Pregame Sportsmanship Procedures (NJSIAA All Levels)



Who: All bench personnel (warming-up) plus the head coach.

When / Where: At the conclusion of the designated warm-up period each team will be addressed by one of the officiating crew members near the free-throw restricted circle.

In a crew of 2: The Referee will address the Visiting team and the Umpire will address the Home team. In a crew of 3: The U1 will address the Home Team and the U2 will address the Visiting team.

The following shall be administered in order:

- 1) Verify with the head coach that their team members' uniforms and equipment are legal, and will be worn properly. (NFHS 2-4-5)
- 2) Verify with the head coach that all participants will exhibit proper sporting behavior throughout the contest. (NFHS 2-4-5)
- 3) Identify who will be acting as the on-site administrator for today's contest should any issues arise (i.e. spectator sportsmanship, student-athlete safety, etc)
- 4) Ask if there is an appropriate healthcare professional (athletic trainer / nurse / etc) on site.
- 5) Identify the ONE CAPTAIN who is the representative of their team and may address an official on matters of interpretation or to obtain essential information if it's done in a courteous manner.
Note: That player may (or may not) be a designated starter.
- 6) Read the current NJSIAA Sportsmanship Statement to all team members and head coach.
- 7) Ask (and answer) if there are any questions.
- 8) Ask teams to move to their respective bench areas and prepare for the start of the game (or pre-game announcements + national anthem, etc)

Uniform Violations (NJSIAA Modification for NFHS 2-4-5, 10-2)



Situation: After proper verification by the Head Coach (in pre-game) a substitute is beckoned into the game or a player is observed in the game wearing illegal equipment, improperly worn uniforms, or illegal jewelry, and the player is directed to leave the game, the following penalties will be enforced:

Penalty (First Offense): A team "uniform warning" is charged and recorded in the official scorebook.

Penalty: (Second / Subsequent Offenses): A Team Technical Foul (NFHS 10-2) shall be charged to the offending team when it occurs. Since head coaches have previously verified their team members' uniforms and equipment are legal, and will be worn properly, it is their responsibility to maintain this compliance. There is no loss of coaching box for Team Technical Fouls. This does count toward the total team foul count. Previously there was no penalty for repeated violations of the illegal equipment, improperly worn uniforms, or illegal jewelry.

Uniform Color Modifications (NJSIAA Modification for NFHS 3-4-1c)

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Modification: The torso color shall be **WHITE** for the **VISITING** team and a contrasting **DARK COLOR** for the **HOME** team. NFHS 3-4-1c

Rationale: To be consistent with some NFHS states and other NJSIAA sports (football, soccer, etc) to allow member schools in utilizing multiple variations of dark colors for their home events.

Head Coaches Rule / Coaching Box Violation (NJSIAA Modification)



Modification: Removal of the coaching box privileges will be enforced under the following situations. (NFHS 10-6 Penalty)

Current NFHS Rules (no change):

- Direct Technical Foul charged to the head coach = Loss of Coaching Box
- Indirect Technical Foul charged to the head coach = Loss of Coaching Box

Current Penalty: Two free-throws awarded to the offended team followed by a throw-in at the division line. The charged head coach **loses the coaching box privileges**. (no change)

NJSIAA Modification (2023-current)

- Officials may rule a "**Coaching Box Violation**" if the head coach is observed to be positioned and/or coaching with **both feet outside the coaching box, regardless of conduct**.

Penalty: The official shall ask the scorer to record a **Coaching Box Violation** in the official score book. The charged **head coach loses the coaching box privileges**.

As in previous years, an optional warning may be reported for head coach/bench personnel misconduct (or coaching box violation) to the official scorer and then to the head coach of the offended team. (NFHS 2-7-11) As in all situations where removal of the coaching box privileges are enforced the administering official shall instruct the head coach to remain seated except as allowed in 10-5-4.

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Warning for Faking Being Fouled



4-49 NEW, 6-4-4g, 10-2-1h NEW, 10-4-6f: A new definition has been created for faking being fouled (flopping) that includes a warning for a first team offense and a team technical foul for all subsequent infractions. This replaces previous rules book language that required a player technical foul for a first violation. Officials are provided with a new NFHS signal (#15) and procedures to indicate a flopping ruling when it occurs.

Rationale: This is an attempt to clean up the actions of players trying to fool officials into ruling fouls on plays where no illegal contact has occurred.

Team Technical (Dunking)



10-2-7 NEW: The penalty for dunking or attempting to dunk or stuff a dead ball during pregame and/or intermission has been changed from a bench technical foul to a team technical foul.

Rationale: Offending player will NOT have a personal foul charged that counts toward DQ and the offending team's head coach will NOT lose the privilege of using the coaching box.

Administrative / Bench / Team Technicals (Pregame)



10-1-1 Pen., 10-1-2 Pen., 10-2-7 Pen. NEW, 10-5-1 Pen. NEW: All pregame administrative, team and bench technical fouls that occur during the pregame will now be offset if they occur in equal numbers between the two teams and no free throws are awarded, allowing the game to begin with a jump ball.

Rationale: Changes the penalty so the head coach does NOT lose the privilege of the coaching box.

Substitution (Injury Situation)



3-3-6: A player who has been injured must be removed from the game if the coach is beckoned by an official, whether or not the coach (or athletic trainer) enters the playing court without being beckoned. The coach may still use a time-out to continue assessment of the injury and allow the injured player to remain in the game.

Rationale: Either beckoning or the entrance to the playing court necessitates the substitution, and both actions are not necessary for a required substitution to result.

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Substitution (Blood Situation)



2-12-6, 3-3-7: A team is allowed 20 seconds to address any minor blood on the body or uniform of a player without that player having to leave the game. If the blood cannot be appropriately covered / cleaned within 20 seconds, the head coach may use a time-out to address the issue or substitute for the player.

Rationale: Permits rectifying a blood situation in a timely fashion without needing a substitution.

Uniforms (Numbers and Logos)



3-4-3, 3-4-4a NEW: A rule passed prior to the 2019-20 season takes effect this year as the option to have jersey numbers that are the same color as the predominant color of the jersey has been eliminated. Also this year -- teams may now place a school logo / mascot image on the front of the jersey, centered directly above the uniform number, in place of an identifying name.

Rationale: Provides clearer visibility into uniform numbers and removes the restriction of allowing only lettering on the front of the jersey.

Basket Interference (Exception)



4-6-1 Exception NEW: An exception has been added to the definition of basket interference. A player is allowed to touch only the net while the ball is on or within the basket provided the contact does not affect the ball, allowing play to continue.

Rationale: Eliminated basket interference when it did not impact the outcome of the play.

Closely Guarded and Shot Clock



4-10, 9-10-1a Note NEW: In states using the 35-second shot clock, state associations may now adopt a modification to the closely guarded rule that allows players to dribble the ball for more than five seconds while closely guarded.

Rationale: A closely guarded violation would only occur if a player holds the ball while closely guarded for five seconds when this shot clock modification is utilized.

Note: NJSIAA member schools are NOT authorized to utilize a shot clock at this time.

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Warning for Delay



4-47-5 NEW, 10-2-1g NEW, 10-4-5b: A new fifth delay warning has been added to rule 4-47 to address when a player fails to immediately pass the ball to the nearest official when a whistle sounds. A warning for delay shall be issued on a first occurrence and a team technical foul for any subsequent rule 4-47 violation.

Rationale: Previously such actions were subject to being ruled a technical foul which would count against a player's five fouls toward disqualification. Now this situation is handled the same as the four other delay warnings in 4-47.

Out of Bounds (Player / Ball)



7-1-1: A rewrite of this rule establishes a player is out of bounds if contact by a teammate or other bench personnel outside the boundary line of the playing court provides an advantage that allows the player to remain inbounds.

Rationale: Provides clarity to the rule and penalized only if an advantage occurs.

Scorer's Duties



2-11-11: Non-official scorers are required to compare records with the official scorer when multiple scorers are present. If there is a discrepancy, the official scorer must notify the referee immediately.

Rationale: Provides clarity and puts the onus on the non-official scorer to compare records.

Major NFHS Editorial Changes



2-4-4 Note: Clarification that scoring, timing and bookkeeping errors are not reviewable after the game officials' jurisdiction has ended. State associations may intercede on a case-by-case basis for unusual incidents.

3-4-2-a: One visible manufacturer's logo may be placed anywhere on the team jersey provided it does not interfere with the visibility of the uniform number and meets all size specifications.

4-12-2 Note NEW, 9-7-1 Note NEW, 9-9-3 Note NEW: Clarification that team control during a throw-in only applies to fouls committed by the offense; therefore three-second and backcourt violations are not in effect. Additionally, clarifies team control, as the result of a throw-in, remains in that team's control until player control is established by either team.

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NFHS Points of Emphasis (2024-25)



- Warning for Delay
- Faking Being Fouled
- Proper Procedure for Handling Blood



NJSIAA Points of Emphasis

Hair Adornment

The NFHS has adopted several rule changes concerning hair adornments, religious items, and jewelry across multiple sports. Below is a summary of these changes. It is extremely important that all administrators, coaches, officials, and student-athletes are aware of these rules to ensure everyone's safety and a consistent understanding by all stakeholders. All involved are encouraged to review the full rulebook prior to the season.

The NFHS has updated its rules to allow the use of hair adornments that are made of hard materials if they are securely fastened close to the head and do not present an increased risk to the player, teammates, or opponents.

Hair adornments are defined as anything decorative that could be worn on one's head, regardless if they are used to hold a hairstyle in place. Hair adornments include, but are not limited to, barrettes, beads, and bobby pins. Hair charms are considered jewelry and must follow the jewelry rules below.

Hair adornments are allowed in all sports. If the hair adornment becomes non-compliant during play, then the officials shall allow time to fix the hair adornment. If the hair adornment cannot be fixed immediately, then the student-athlete must leave the game to fix the hair adornment.

Procedures: Prior to the start of the competition, it is the head coach's responsibility to ensure that his or her student-athletes are properly equipped by adhering to all NFHS uniform rules. If an official notices a violation of any NFHS uniform rule, the official should address the violation with the head coach only – the official is not to address the violation with the student-athlete or anyone else associated with the team. The head coach is responsible for working with the student-athlete to remedy the violation to the satisfaction of the official.

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Religious Items

The NFHS has updated its rules to allow uniform flexibility to accommodate religious norms, such as the wearing of undergarments, head coverings and religious jewelry. Head covering worn for religious reasons must be made on non-abrasive, soft materials and must fit securely. Religious medals must be taped and worn under the uniform. Other religious jewelry, such as nose rings, are allowed in all sports but must not pose a safety risk to the player, teammates, or opponents. Accommodations should be made to allow religious jewelry to be worn.

The state association shall be notified, after the event, if there is a concern about a head covering, or any other covering, worn for religious reasons.

These changes are consistent with the “Religious Accommodations” section in NJSIAA’s Policies & Procedures.

Transgender Clarification

Pursuant to NJ law and NJSIAA policy, the NJSIAA will approve all reasonable accommodations regarding uniforms as it relates to transgender student-athletes. If there are any questions regarding this on the day of the contest, officials are instructed to continue with the contest and notify the NJSIAA the following day.

All Accommodations:

- Must not violate the NFHS sports specific uniform rules
- Must match the existing uniform in terms of color and logos.
- Must not create an unsafe environment for all participants.

School Uniform Modifications

Schools may permit modifications of uniforms for hair adornments, cultural/religious reasons, jewelry, and transgender modifications without an approval letter from the NJSIAA.

Any concerns regarding the accommodations must be addressed through the coach, not the athlete. Officials are instructed to continue with the contest and notify the NJSIAA if there are concerns the following day. No accommodation may create an unsafe environment for any participant.

Sportsmanship Statement

The following is read by officials:

The NJSIAA requires officials to enforce all rules regarding unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches and players. There will be no tolerance for any negative behavior, such as taunting, trash-talking and verbal, written, or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion.

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Such behavior will result in being ejected from this event. All participants must respect the game, respect the officials, and respect their opponents.

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Disqualification Rule

Any student-athlete or coach disqualified before, during or after an interscholastic event for unsportsmanlike, flagrant verbal or physical misconduct will be disqualified from the next two regularly scheduled contests, except for football which will carry a one game disqualification.

Basketball Disqualification (5 Personal Fouls)

Definition of a game ejection (disqualification) is any player removed from a game for behavior that is not considered unsportsmanlike, and does not require a DQ report to be filed. In basketball this is the disqualification for committing a 5th personal foul in a game.

DQ Reporting by the Official

- The official must contact the AD by noon of the next day. Acceptable forms of communication are email, talking to the AD at the game, or on the phone. Leaving a message is not acceptable.
- The online report must be sent within 48 hours from the completion of the game
- The official must notify the coach before they leave the facility that it was a DQ or in the case where multiple DQ's (fight) is possible, inform the coach and AD DQ's are coming.
- A DQ is a DQ. Officials are not permitted to change their mind after it is called
- DQ appeals will NOT be accepted by the NJSIAA

Use of Video (for DQ purposes)

Video cannot be used to change the DQ ruling itself. The NJSIAA reserves the right to review videos of egregious violations of our sportsmanship policy.

Lookback

2023-24

Changes

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Bonus Free Throws (NFHS Rule Change)



4-8-1: Eliminates the one-and-one for common fouls beginning with the seventh team foul in the half and establishes the bonus as two free throws awarded for a common foul beginning with the team's fifth foul in each quarter and resets the fouls at the end of each quarter.

Rationale: Improves flow by providing an opportunity for teams to adjust their play by not carrying over fouls from quarters 1 and 3 to quarters 2 and 4 while significantly reducing the opportunity for correctable errors to occur. Minimizes risk of injury by eliminating the one-and-one and reducing opportunities for rough play during rebounding opportunities.

Note: Overtime is an extension of the 4th quarter, thus the team fouls are not reset and handled the same as in previous years.

Uniform Bottoms / Color (NFHS Rule Change)



3-4-5: Requires uniform bottoms on teammates to be like-colored while allowing different styles of uniform bottoms among teammates.

Rationale: Clarifies that teammates must all wear like-colored uniform bottoms but may wear multiple styles while aligning language with other NFHS rules codes.

Shot Clock Operator (Approved Non-NJSIAA Conferences Only)



Rule Change: 2-1-3 NOTE (NEW): Requires the shot clock operator to sit at the scorer's and timer's table, if using a shot clock.

Rationale: Establishes the placement of the shot clock operator for those states utilizing the shot clock and the growing use of video boards that allow tablet control from anywhere in the gym.

Note: Shot Clock is **NOT APPROVED** for NJSIAA schools. Some preparatory school leagues utilize the shot clock which this change refers to.

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Black Under-Shirts Permitted (NFHS Rule Change / NJSIAA Modification)



3-5-6: Allows undershirts worn under (NJSIAA HOME / DARK) team jerseys to be black or a single solid color similar to the torso of the jersey. All teammates wearing undershirts must wear the same solid color.

Rationale: Allows schools with hard-to-find colors to wear black under dark team jerseys while continuing to require all team members to match. Allowing all shirts worn by teammates under the dark jersey to be black or a single solid color similar to the torso of the jersey while still requiring all teammates to match. This modification makes it easier for student-athlete compliance in lieu of trying to match dark color jerseys with under-shirts. Also mitigates the necessity of judging whether or not the undershirt is of “similar color” by the officiating crew.

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Mistake / Wrong Team Throw-In (NFHS Rule Change)



7-6-6: Allows the official administering a throw-in to the wrong team to correct the mistake before the first dead ball after the ball becomes live unless there is a change of possession.

Rationale: Allows for a correction of an official's mistake in a more reasonable timeframe.

Stepping Out of Bounds (NFHS Rule Change)



9-3-3: Establishes that a player may step out of bounds without penalty unless they are the first player to touch the ball after returning to the court or if they left the court to avoid a violation.

Rationale: Allows a player to step out of bounds if they gain no advantage and penalizes a team only if they gain an advantage by leaving the court and returning to avoid a violation or to be the first to touch the ball.

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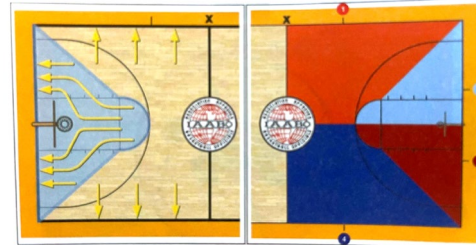
Frontcourt Throw-In Spots (NFHS Change)



7-5-2 thru 5: Establishes four throw-in spots (the nearest 28-foot mark along each sideline or the nearest spot 3-feet outside the lane line on the end line) when the ball is in team control in the offensive team's frontcourt and the team commits a violation, a common foul bonus, or the ball becomes dead. See pg

IAABO Manual.

Rationale: Simplifies throw-in procedure when there is control in the frontcourt and the defensive team commits a violation. Also provides clarity for inbounding (for coaches and officials) which is inline with NCAA mechanics. Permits coaches to run pre-programmed plays easier.



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