

2003-04 NFHS Basketball Rules Changes

- 1-12-1c** Changes the description of a legal basketball to “a deeply-pebbled cover with horizontally shaped panels bonded tightly to the rubber carcass.” **Rationale:** Provides other options for schools. New products have been developed which may permit players to control the ball better.
- 2-12-5** Establishes a warning signal at 20 seconds before the expiration of the 30-second interval permitted for replacing a disqualified or injured player. **Rationale:** The warning horn will be consistent with other timing situations and will communicate to the coach that the substitution interval is about to end.
- 4-6-4 New**
9-11-4 New Further defines basket interference to include when a player pulls down a movable ring so that it contacts the ball before the ring returns to its original position. **Rationale:** Not presently covered by the rules.
- 5-5-4 New** A state association by adoption may institute a running clock when a specified point differential is reached at a specified time in the game. **Rationale:** More contests are experiencing extremely large point differentials between the two competing teams. Deteriorating sportsmanship is becoming more and more prevalent in these games. In addition, in many cases the number and intensity of fouls increase thereby putting players at risk. The committee believes it is appropriate for the sport of basketball to permit states to adopt a “mercy rule” of some kind. Precedent has been set in other NFHS rule codes to allow states to adopt a mercy rule and to determine the guidelines for such a rule.
- 8-1-3** Reduces the number of players permitted on marked lane-spaces during free throws (not including the free-thrower) to 4 defensive and 2 offensive players with the lane spaces closest to the free throw line (and the shooter) remaining vacant. **Rationale:** This change will help reduce the amount of rough play during free throws and may provide the defense a rebounding advantage (one that may have been diminished with the return to the “rim” restrictions). Fewer players on the lane should make the free throw situation easier to officiate.
- 10-3-2**
Penalty Changes the penalty from an indirect to a direct technical to the head coach for a player participating after being disqualified. **Rationale:** A head coach should be aware of the fact that a player has been disqualified because they have been notified by an official. Therefore, the penalty should be charged directly to the head coach.
- Signal**
Chart Establishes a signal for a kicked ball: leg straight, kicking motion straight forward about 1 foot. **Rationale:** Presently, there is no signal for this violation – this would clarify violation being called. This would aid players and fans as to what violation is being called.

Major Editorial Changes

- 3-3-1e**
New Permits a captain to request a defensive match-up if three or more substitutes from the same team enter during an opportunity to substitute. This reinstates a guideline that was deleted several years ago.
- 4-23-2a** Clarifies that in order for a player to establish legal guarding position, both feet must be touching the “court.” Previously the rule stated that the player need only have two feet on the “floor.”

- 5-11-3** Clarifies that a 30-second time-out is charged, if that is all that remains, when the coach requests a time-out to correct an error and no correction is made.
- 5-12-5** Adds a description of the “bench area” to the area inside an imaginary rectangle formed by the boundaries of the sideline (including the bench), end line, and an imaginary line extended from the free-throw lane line nearest the bench area meeting an imaginary line extended from the coaching-box line. This addition provides clarity as to where teams may be during a charged time-out.
- 7-5-9** Adds a note that after a double simultaneous foul the spot for the throw-in is determined by the foul of the team not entitled to the alternating-possession throw-in.
- 9-9** Entire Section has been reorganized.

Points of Emphasis

1. Sporting Behavior – Taunting
2. Rough Play
3. Free Throw Administration
4. Time-Out Administration
5. Substituting – Player Disqualifications
6. Intentional Fouls

Major Officials’ Manual Changes

- D10** (2) When the Lead is “ball-side,” he/she will have primary coverage when the ball is in the area between the arc and the closest lane line, below the free throw line extended.
- 230b** The "bird dog" foul mechanic need only be used for clarification.
240b
- 231h** When a player fouls out, the non-calling official (2) or the new Trail official (3) shall: notify the coach, notify the player, then start the 30-second timer.
341h
- 273** (2) Changes the time out positions to be similar to those used in three-person. The administering official will stand on the near block opposite the benches during 60-second time-outs and intermission and at the top of the near arc during 30-second time-outs. The non-administering official will be at the same location on the other end of the floor.
- D28** (3) Changes the three-person court coverage by eliminating the “dual” area. The area inside the arc, below the free-throw line extended becomes primary area for the Lead. Each official has an area of primary coverage for fouls and violations on and off the ball.
- D29** (3) The Lead may rotate “ball side” once all three officials (or the ball and all 10 players) are in the front court.
- 343a** The exception of no long switch in the backcourt has been eliminated. The official who calls the foul goes opposite table.
EXC

