

2023-24 NFHS / NJSIAA Basketball Rule Changes & Modifications

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) 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.
- 5) Read the current NJSIAA Sportsmanship Statement to all team members and head coach.
- 6) Ask (and answer) if there are any questions.
- 7) 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)



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): An Indirect Technical Foul shall be charged to the Head Coach with loss of coaching box privileges. 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.

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



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.

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.

Black Under-Shirts Permitted (NFHS Rule Change)



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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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.

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 2023-24 (new):

- 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.

Rationale: Officials are reluctant to enforce the coaching box using a Technical Foul as the first penalty. Removal of coaching box privileges when coaches are consistently out of the box even if not unsportsmanlike, can be enforced easier.

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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.

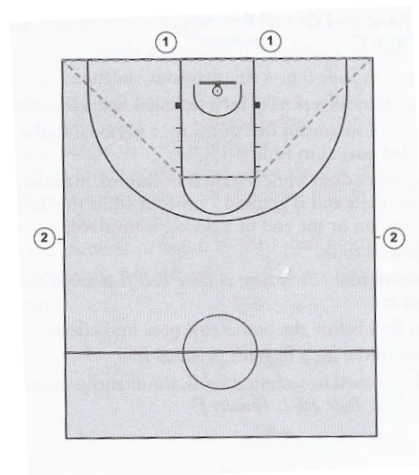
NFHS / IAABO Officiating Mechanics Changes

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 defensive team commits a violation, a common foul prior to the bonus, or the ball becomes dead.

Rationale: Simplifies throw-in procedure when there is team 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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Foul Reporting - Ruling Official Goes Tableside



NFHS Mechanic: Starting in 2023-24, NFHS, NCAA Mens, and NCAA Womens will be in alignment with the mechanic of staying tableside after ruling and reporting the foul. This mechanic change will be implemented as well for NJSIAA contests.

Rationale for the Tableside Communication Mechanic change:

- puts the foul-calling official in a better position to communicate with coaches;
- may improve coaching behavior with the official nearby to explain the call, rather than the coach trying to communicate with the official across the floor;
- improves officials' responding skills;
- speeds up the dead-ball period with the calling official moving toward the table.

Fouls in Backcourt / Reporting / Optional Switching (NJSIAA Modification)



Modification: When a foul is ruled by the official in the backcourt, and the offended team is not entitled to any free-throws, the administering official MAY move into the reporting area, properly report the foul, and then return to their previous position for the ensuing throw-in.

Rationale: This mechanic change provides a more seamless flow and allows the crew to resume play faster without impacting the game. In situations where free-throws are warranted, normal mechanics of dead-ball switching of officials will apply.

2023-24 NFHS Basketball Points of Emphasis



1. Uniforms, Equipment and Apparel
2. Bench Decorum
3. Throw-Ins – Proper Locations