



2020-21 Unified Basketball Rules Considerations

NHIAA Unified Sports Committee Adopted for 2020-21 Season

In support of the Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NFHS Basketball Rules Committee offers this document as guidance on how state associations can consider modifications to the NFHS Basketball Rules Book. The modifications outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

Any and all Rules Modifications adopted through the NHIAA Policy and Procedure Manual for Recreation and Player Development Unified Basketball should be adhered to in addition to any modifications made in this document.

The NHIAA highly recommends and encourages schools to develop protocols for the wearing of masks during practice and competition when at all possible and allowed based upon the rules of the sport. All NHIAA tournaments will require masks for all participants except in the sports of gymnastics, swimming, ski jumping, and spirit as determined by safety reasons by sports specific committees.

Return to Competition

1. Basketball Rules Considerations-

- ***Pregame Protocol (2019-2021) NFHS Officials Manual, page 16, 1.8***
 - Limit attendees to the referee and the head coach from each team with each coach standing on the center circle on each side of the division line.
 - All individuals maintain a social distance of 6 feet or greater at the center circle.
 - Suspend handshakes prior to and following the Pregame Conference.
- ***Team Benches (1-13-1)***
 - ***Social distancing should be practiced when possible. Below are some suggestions.***
 - **Limit the number of bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet or greater.**
 - **Note: Some gyms might be able to accommodate more or less students than the usual roster size. Be sure to consult the host school's athletic director prior to any contest.**
 - Place team benches opposite the spectator seating.
 - Additional chairs or rows may be added to allow bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet or greater.

- Create separation between the team bench and spectator seating behind the bench.
 - Limit contact between players when substituting. Substitutions should report to their side of the scorer's table and wait to be beckoned in by the officials.
 - Personnel not in the game should adhere to any required local/state face covering requirements.
 - In circumstances where closer contact for sustained periods is necessary, staff, volunteers, and athletes must wear cloth face coverings/masks when possible. (Limitations on Gatherings, NHIAA Phase 3 Reopening Guidelines & NH State Amateur an youth sport guidelines)
- **Officials Table (2-1-3)**
 - The host should sanitize the table before the game and at half time.
 - Place officials table sufficiently away from the sideline to allow for additional space for substitutes.
 - Limit seats at the table to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommend distance of 6 feet or greater between individuals. The visiting scorekeeper should be socially distanced but readily accessible to the home scorer and the officials. Other personnel (statisticians, media, PA Announcer, etc.) may not be deemed essential personnel and consider an alternate location for them.
 - Table personnel should adhere to any required local/state face covering requirements.

2. Pre and Post Game Ceremony

- Suspend the pregame introduction handshakes.
- Suspend post game protocol of shaking hands.

3. Basketball Rules Interpretations

- **EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES**
 - Basketball
 - The host school should ensure that the ball is sanitized before the game, during time-outs, and between quarters.
 - The visiting team should bring their own basketballs to be used for warm-ups.
 - Sanitizer should be provided by the host team at the table.
 - Cloth face coverings are permissible for players.
 - All bench personnel shall wear face coverings while on the bench.
- **Officials Uniform and Equipment**
 - Long-sleeved shirts are permissible.

- Officials should not be required to wear jackets during pre-game court/player observation.
- Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited).
 - Choose a whistle whose tone will carry inside.
 - Check the market for choices
- Cloth face coverings are permissible.
- Gloves are permissible.
- Officials should arrive to the contest dressed and ready as locker room facilities may not be available.

4. Other Considerations

○ **Jump Ball**

- In lieu of a jump ball, the visiting team will start the game with possession of the ball. Should the game go into overtime, the ball will be given to the team that has the possession arrow in their favor.

○ **Throw-in**

- Official may stand 6 feet or greater away from player making the throw-in and bounce the ball to that player on a front court throw-in.

○ **Free Throw Administration**

- The lead official shall stand on the end line and bounce the ball to the free thrower.

○ **Hydration**

- All students shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.
- Hydration stations (water cows, water trough, water fountains, etc.) should not be utilized.
 - Touchless hydration stations can be utilized for filling personal water bottles.

○ **Mouthguards**

- The NHIAA mouthguard requirement is suspended for the 2020 season only. Coaches are asked to remind student-athletes who wear mouthguards to leave them in as much as possible to protect their safety and that of others.

**Committee Approved 11.30.20

**Updated 1.8.2021