

IHSAA/IGHS AU BASKETBALL MERCY RULE

- A 35-point differential rule is in effect for all games played in Iowa, grades 7-12 for boys' basketball and grades 9-12 for girls' basketball.
- If there is a 35-point differential at the end of the first half or any time after, the game will be continued with a running clock.
- Beginning with the ensuing possession when the 35-point differential becomes effective, the following changes, and only these changes, will be made regarding rules determining when the clock will and will not be stopped.
- The clock will run continuously except for the following situations when it will be stopped:
 1. Anytime a time-out is charged to a team;
 2. Stoppage to administer free throws;
 3. Intermission between third and fourth quarter;
 4. Extended injury time-out;
 5. Anytime officials determine it is necessary for safety reasons.
- The first half will be played to completion with regular timing. If the differential is 35 points or more at half-time or anytime there is a 35-point differential during the second half, the running clock procedures will be used.
- If the score margin drops below 25 points, then normal timing will resume for the remainder of the game, or until the 35 point plateau is again reached.