



IGHSAU/IHSAA Basketball Memo



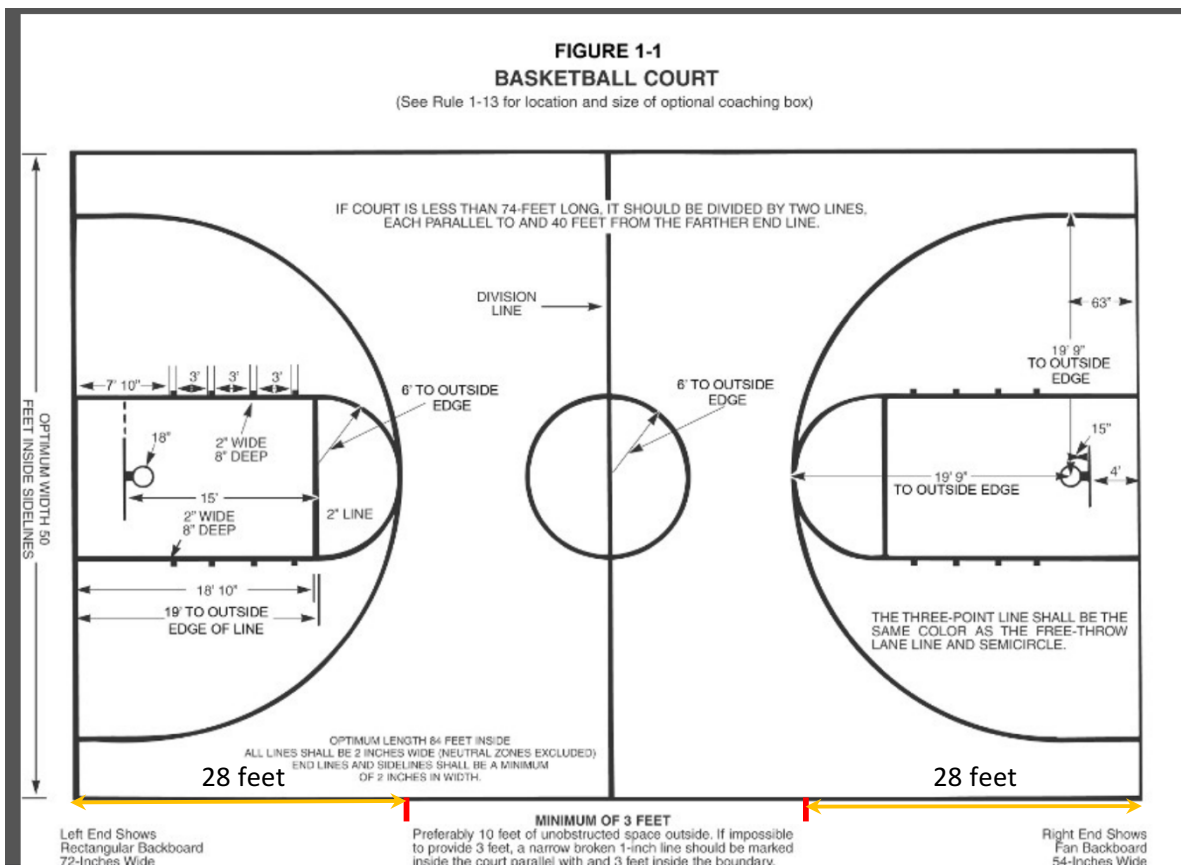
June 19, 2017

Basketball Coaches & Officials:

Please review the following rules changes and interpretations effective for the 2017-18 basketball season.

Coaching Box

NFHS Rule 1-13-2 provides that the coaching box shall be outlined outside the side of the court on which the scorer's and timer's table and team benches are located. The area shall be bounded by a line drawn 28 feet from the end line towards the division line (half-court line). At this point a line drawn from the sideline toward the team bench becomes the end of the coaching box going towards the end line. To properly mark the line, measure from the end line 28-feet toward the division line. No modification of the lineage for the coaching box will be permitted. This will keep the dimensions the same for all schools and teams. Please review the diagram below.



These new coaching box dimensions will allow the head coach freedom to move within the new box between the 28' mark and the end line to coach his/her players. Please remember that the coach is not required to use the coaching box. However, if the coach begins the game by sitting somewhere other than where the coaching box is located, he/she may not use the coaching box privileges anytime during the game. The coach must begin the game in a position within the box if he/she wishes to stand when permitted under the coaching-box provisions.

The coaching box lines are required to be on the floor for all basketball games involving students in grades 7 – 12. The game shall not begin until the lines are properly marked. Coaching box lines shall be 2-inches in width, are recommended to be a minimum of 3-feet in length, extending from the sideline away from the playing court, and may be any single solid color.

Two-Handed Foul Reporting Mechanics



This reads “24” to the scorer.

NFHS Rule 2-9-1 has now changed to match the Iowa adaptation from last year. Officials are now required to report fouls using two hands as illustrated in the PlayPic to the left. The right hand indicates the first digit (tens) and the left hand indicates the second digit (ones). The example reads “24” to the scorer. Display both hands at the same approximately eye level in line with the frame of your body and verbalize the jersey color of the player that fouled, his/her number – in this example “twenty-four,” and the nature of the foul (push, hold, etc.).

This change should help minimize foul reporting errors that occur between the officials and the scorekeepers. Two-handed reporting is easier for the scorekeepers to see and comprehend in addition to being less confusing.

Uniforms & Numbering

NFHS Rule 3-4-1d states that there are no color/design restrictions in the area of the team jersey from the imaginary line at the base of the neckline to the top of the shoulder and in the corresponding area on the back of the jersey. There are restrictions on what identifying names may be placed in this area, as Rule 3-4-4 states that identifying name(s) shall adhere to the following:

- a. If used, lettering with school name, school’s nickname, school logo, player’s name and /or abbreviation of the official school name shall be placed horizontally on the jersey.
- b. The panel in the shoulder area of the jersey on the back may be used for placing an identifying name as well.

This information should assist in determining what wording should go onto the jersey when purchasing uniforms.

Additionally, a reminder that legal numbers are required on the front and back of each player's jersey. The following numbers are legal: 0 or 00; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, and 55. Please remember that during the regular season, a team's roster is only limited by the 36 possible legal number combinations for a given game. Theoretically, a team could dress 36 players and legally have them in the scorebook, although the official scorer would have his/her hands full! The limitation allowing only 15 players in uniform is only in effect for the postseason.

Warning for Coach/Team Conduct

New NFHS Rule 4-48 states that a warning to a coach/team for misconduct is an administrative procedure by an official, which is recorded in the scorebook by the scorer and reported to the Head Coach:

Art. 1 . . . For conduct, such as that described in rule 10-5-1a,b,d,e,f; 10-5-2; 10-5-4 the official shall warn the head coach unless the offense is judged to be major, in which case a technical foul shall be assessed. Note: A warning is not required prior to calling a technical foul.

Art. 2 . . . For the first violation of rule 10-6-1, the official shall warn the head coach unless the offense is judged to be major, in which case a technical foul shall be assessed. Note: A warning is not required prior to calling a technical foul.

Many officials have been issuing informal warnings for minor misbehavior for many years, and this has been an approved practice of both the IGHSAU and IHSAA. Given the formal NFHS rule change for the upcoming season, please use the following procedure when issuing a formal warning:

The IGHSAU and IHSAA do not want officials stopping the game to issue a warning. If a coach's behavior is significant enough for an official to stop the game, a technical foul should be issued. When an official warns a coach, the official should both verbalize to the coach that this is his/her warning, while also giving the "stop sign" signal. At the next dead ball opportunity, the official shall report the warning to the official scorer.

Hopefully this procedure will help a coach understand that he/she is bordering on behavior that will result in a technical foul if the behavior continues or escalates. It also provides an avenue for officials to clearly communicate to the coach that he/she has reached their limit on borderline unsporting behavior and any further similar or worsening behavior will result in a technical foul.

Mercy Rule Approved for Junior High Girls' Basketball

The IGHSAU Board of Directors has approved use of the 35-mercy rule for grades 7-12 beginning with the 17-18 basketball season. Previously, the rule was only approved for use in high school basketball. The IHSAA and IGHSAU mercy rule is now the same, and the language of the rule is included below:

- A 35-point differential rule is in effect for all grades 7-12 basketball games played in Iowa.
- 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.

Please let us know any questions and enjoy your summer!

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