

Connecticut State Board #5 of Approved Basketball Officials

Interpreters Bulletin



NOVEMBER 2019

Welcome to the 2019-2020 Basketball Season! There are minimal rules changes for this coming season. Officials will continue to enforce the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Points of Emphasis, which allows each team to compete equally through the use of skill, athleticism and *Freedom of Movement Principles*. The Connecticut High School Basketball Rules Interpreters have developed this “*Bulletin*” as a communication resource to share among basketball officials, athletic directors and coaches. Our objective is to promote a common understanding to the rules that regulate the game of high school basketball. In future bulletins, we will describe actual play scenarios to aid in your understanding of specific rulings.

Connecticut has six (6) area Rules Interpreters, and a State Interpreter who serves as our liaison to the CIAC. We are members of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials (IAABO); the world’s oldest, largest and most respected organization dedicated to the education and continuous improvement of basketball officials. We annually train our officials to follow the rules and *Points of Emphasis* promulgated by the CIAC and the NFHS. Following are the High School Basketball Rules Interpreters and their geographic area:

Board #6 - Hartford & Middlesex Counties
Charlene Shepard
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Charley Harbach - **State Interpreter**
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Board #9 - Fairfield County
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Board #10 - New Haven & Middlesex Counties
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Ben Wakely
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A message from State Interpreter Charley Harbach:

Each Connecticut Board Rules Interpreter has been charged with delivering IAABO’s message of “*One Rule, One Interpretation, One Set of Approved Mechanics and Signals*”. With that in mind, all officials are obligated to enforce the rules as written, points of emphasis, and good sportsmanship throughout every contest. Solid partnerships between the CIAC, NFHS and IAABO have been created over many years to achieve these goals.

High school athletics are educationally-based, with many valuable life lessons to be learned. Thus, we share a commitment to support and enforce the value of healthy competition and good sportsmanship between student-athletes, coaches, and officials.

Coaches are strongly encouraged to *contact their local rules interpreter* regarding any rules questions or interpretations of the rules during the basketball season.



RULES CHANGES FOR 2019-2020

2019-2020 NFHS RULES CHANGES

3-4-3E (2): The option to use the style of the numbers that uses the team jersey color itself, bordered with not less than 2 ½ inch solid border(s) contrasting with the team jersey color will be eliminated by **2024-25**.

Rationale: To ensure that jersey numbers are visible to officials and fans, who may be sitting far away from the court.

3-5-5: Provided shorts are not in conflict with 3-4-5, no drawstring or other part of the shorts intended to maintain them in normal position causes potential harm to the player or others and wearing of the shorts is not objectionable in exposing the anatomy, there is no restriction on folding or rolling the shorts at the natural waistband seam.

Rationale: To allow players to feel comfortable wearing uniforms that may be oversized, without placing themselves or others at risk.

9-9-1 Exception: A ball in team control by Team A in the frontcourt that is deflected by a defensive player, which causes the ball to go into the backcourt, may be recovered by either team **unless** the offense was the last to touch the ball before it went into the backcourt. If the offense was last to touch the ball in its frontcourt, only the defense can legally recover the basketball.

Rationale: To ensure that a team is not unfairly disadvantaged on a deflected pass.

10-5-5: The Head Coach and any number of assistant coaches may enter the court in the situation where a fight may break out – or has broken out – to prevent the situation from escalating.

Rationale: To ensure Head coaches have a plan of action for addressing players on the court, as well as bench personnel, who may want to enter the court.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

SPORTS MEDICINE

- CONCUSSION RECOGNITION AND RISK MINIMIZATION
- MOUTHGUARDS
- RELIGIOUS MEDALLIONS/MEDICAL BRACELETS

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROPER UNIFORM AND APPAREL

The head coach, by rule, shall not permit a team member to participate while wearing an illegal uniform. It is therefore incumbent on the coach to be sure the rules and restrictions have been reviewed by the team including and especially, allowable accessories (headband, wrist band, arm/leg sleeves, compression shorts).

RULES REVIEW AND AREAS OF EMPHASIS

- HEADBAND vs. HAIR CONTROL DEVICES
- SILICONE MEDICAL BRACELETS
- THROW-IN VIOLATIONS
- PRE-GAME MEETING WITH ADMINISTRATORS/ CROWD CONTROL
- CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

Be a Leader! Promote Sportsmanship!