

Connecticut State Board of Approved Basketball Officials

Interpreters Bulletin



DECEMBER 2014

Welcome the 2014-2015 Basketball Season! There are minimal rules changes. 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 basketball. In future bulletins, we will describe actual play scenarios to aid in your understanding of specific rulings.

Connecticut has five (5) 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. The following individuals are the High School Basketball Rules Interpreters:

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A message from State Interpreter, Jeffrey Smith:

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

High school athletics are educationally-based, thus we share a commitment to support and enforce the value of healthy competition and good sportsmanship between student-athletes.

Coaches are encouraged to contact their local rules interpreter, as well as myself, regarding any rules questions or interpretations of the rules during the basketball season.

RULES CHANGES FOR 2014-2015



2014-2015 NFHS RULES CHANGES

RULE 3-5-3: Arm sleeves, knee sleeves, lower leg sleeves and tights are permissible and shall meet the color restrictions, except knee braces. Sleeves/tights shall be black, white, beige or the predominate color of the uniform. The same *solid* color shall be worn by all teammates, and must meet the logo requirements in 3-6. A "**brace**" is defined as anything that contains hinges and/or straps or an opening over the knee cap.

RULE 4-19-3d: Expansion of the intentional foul rule, now includes **Excessive Contact** with *any* opponent while the ball is live or until an airborne shooter returns to the floor, has been included in the intentional foul rule.

RULE 9-1-3g: A player occupying a marked lane space may not have either foot beyond the vertical plane of the outside edge of any lane boundary, or beyond the vertical plane of any edge of the space (2 inches by 36 inches) designated by a lane-space mark or beyond the vertical plane designated by a neutral zone (12 inches by 36 inches). A player shall position one foot near the outer edge of the free throw lane line. The other foot may be positioned anywhere within the designated 36-inch lane space until the ball has been released.

RULE 10-12 (NEW): The following acts constitute a foul when committed against a ball handler/dribbler:

- Placing two hands on the player.
- Placing an extended arm on the player.
- Placing and keeping a hand on the player.
- Contacting the player more than once with the same hand or alternating hands.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

Announcer's Responsibilities and Role: PA announcers shall be prohibited from making announcements while the clock is running and while the clock is stopped and the ball is alive, i.e. during free throws, a throw-in, etc.

Correctable Errors (RULE 2-10): Officials may correct an error if a rule is inadvertently set aside and results in:

- Failure to award a **Merited** free throw
- Awarding an **Unmerited** free throw
- Permitting a **Wrong Player** to attempt a free throw
- Attempting a free throw at the **Wrong Basket**
- Erroneously **Counting** or **Cancelling** a score.

Officials are granted the power within a certain "*window of time*" to make these corrections.

Frontcourt and Backcourt Status – Ball: Front or back court is determined by the location of object that the ball last touched inbounds as long as there is team control inbounds, be it a player, official or the playing court.

Frontcourt and Backcourt Status – Player: A player's location is determined by where the player is touching the floor or, in the case of the airborne player, where the player was last in contact with the floor.

Team Control Status During a Throw-in: Team control exists during a throw-in when the thrower-in has the ball at his/her disposal. The change was made **ONLY** to eliminate administering free throws when a teammate of the thrower-in commits a common foul during the throw-in.

Team Control Status Inbounds: During the throw-in, 10-seconds, 3-seconds, frontcourt status, backcourt status, closely-guarded, etc. are NOT factors, as there has yet to be player control/team control status obtained inbounds.