

Connecticut State Board #5 of Approved Basketball Officials

Interpreters Bulletin



DECEMBER 2022

Welcome to the 2022-2023 Basketball Season! There are not many rule changes for the upcoming season. Officials will continue to enforce the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Rules and Points of Emphasis, which allows each team to compete equally using skill, athleticism and *Freedom of Movement Principles*. The Connecticut High School Basketball Rules Interpreters have developed this “*Bulletin*” as a communication resource 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. Following are the High School Basketball Rules Interpreters and their geographic area:

RULES INTERPRETERS

Board #6 - Hartford & Middlesex Counties
Charlene Shepard

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Board #7 - Litchfield County
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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Board #35 - Tolland & Windham Counties
Ben Wakely

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A message from State Interpreter Charley Harbach:

Now that Covid-19 is in the rearview mirror for the most part, we officials look forward to serving you this season. 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.

High school athletics are educationally based; thus, we **ALL** 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 rule’s questions or interpretations of the rules during the basketball season.

Be a Leader! Promote Sportsmanship!

2022-2023 NFHS RULES CHANGE

Rule 3-5-4D: Team Member Equipment, Apparel – Hair control devices that are securely fastened to the head and do not increase risk to the athlete, teammates and opponents are permitted (Beads, barrettes, bobby pins, shells). Hair clips that are hard, protrude from the head and/or are easily dislodged, do NOT comply and are NOT legal.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- **Pre-game Captain and Coaches Meeting** – Rule 2-4-5; requires that game officials, **at the 12-minute mark**, verify with each head coach that the teams’ uniforms and equipment are legal and will be worn properly, and that all participants will exhibit proper sporting behavior throughout the contest. Before and after this pre-game verification, officials should monitor players and **notify the head coach** if they notice anything that needs to be addressed, including the color of uniforms, undershirts/undergarments, jewelry, casts, braces, or hair control devices.

- **Sportsmanship** – There must be a collaborative, working relationship between contest officials and game administration to promote good sportsmanship and safely conduct the contest.

Everyone has their roles to play in creating a positive, sportsmanlike atmosphere at contests. Contest officials should never engage with spectators who are exhibiting unsporting behavior. School administration is responsible for dealing with unruly spectators prior to, during and after the contest. If spectators are using demeaning or profane language at officials, coaches or players – or at others in the stands – those individuals should be removed from the contest by school administration.

- **Reducing Illegal Contact** – Officials should look to address contact that impacts RSBQ (rhythm, speed, balance and quickness) and places one player at a disadvantage. A foul or violation in the first quarter should be a foul or violation in the fourth quarter.

- **Handchecking**– Rule 10-7-12 is a very clear rule for officials to apply. In each of the following instances, a foul should be ruled: placing two hands on a ballhandler, placing an extended arm bar, placing and keeping a hand on the opponent and contacting an opponent more than once with the same hand or alternating hands..

- **Off-ball and Post play** – Keeping eyes on off-ball plays is also necessary to help reduce the physicality in the game. Officials need to keep their focus on their primary coverage area, and no place is that more critical than off-ball plays. Officials who tend to ‘ball watch’ will miss screening plays in front of them that involve illegal contact. Allowable action by screeners, cutters, and defenders are outlined in the rules, and officials who stay in their primary area will naturally better officiate these kinds of plays.

When either the offense or defense are allowed to play outside the screening and defending rules off-ball, more physical and illegal play tends to follow.

Please read the document, CIAC GUIDE TO EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COACHES AND OFFICIALS, which was approved by the by CIAC Sportsmanship Committee on February 3, 2022.