

Connecticut State Board of Approved Basketball Officials

Interpreters Bulletin



NOVEMBER 2021

Welcome to the 2021-2022 Basketball Season! There are several rule changes for the upcoming 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 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

charleneshepard@hotmail.com

Board #7 - Litchfield County
Charley Harbach - **State Interpreter**

charbach@charter.net

Board #8 – New London County
Michael Thomas

interpreter@iaabo8.org

Board #9 - Fairfield County
David Raila

dr54dr@live.com

Board #10 - New Haven & Middlesex Counties
Steve Wodarski

swodarski@snet.net

Board #35 - Tolland & Windham Counties
James Wildman

James.wildman@gmail.com

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*”. 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!

2021-2021 NFHS RULES CHANGES

Rule 2-14: State associations may establish a shot clock for the 2022-23 season

Rule 3-5-4E: Religious Head Coverings – players may wear head coverings for religious reasons (No abrasive or hard materials. They should fit snug to the head). **The player does not need prior approval from the CIAC.**

Rule 3-5-4F: Head Coverings for Medical or Cosmetic Reasons – a physician’s note is required BEFORE the state association can approve such coverings. As with religious coverings, these medical/cosmetic coverings cannot contain hard or abrasive materials or be dangerous in any way to another player. It must also be attached in such a way that it is highly unlikely to come off during play.

Elimination of the Team Control Signal – Using the SAME hand throughout this sequence, officials will stop the clock, verbally announce the color of the jersey and player’s number, use the player/team control signal (Hand behind the head), then signal direction and complete the mechanic by indicating the throw-in spot.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- **Time out Administration** – During a ‘DEAD’ ball situation, EITHER team may be granted a timeout. During a ‘LIVE’ ball, officials must see PLAYER CONTROL before granting a time out to that team. The head coach or platers request for a timeout does NOT guarantee a timeout will be granted. When in doubt that the head coach or player made the request and/or player control is unclear, do NOT grant the time out.

- **Euro Steps, Spin Moves and Jump Stops** – if executed within the parameters of the travel rule (4-44), each of these plays may be executed legally. Officials must be able to spot the pivot foot in order to know if it returned to the floor before being released on a pass or try for goal. A player who has completed a LEGAL jump stop, does NOT have a pivot foot. If either foot is picked up and returned to the floor, that player HAS traveled.

- **Screening** – Legal screening occurs when a player is screening an opponent and is stationary (facing any direction), is within their vertical plane, has both feet on the floor (inbounds and no wider than shoulder width) and allows time and distance to avoid contact. The screener shall be stationary EXCEPT when both the screener and the opponent are moving in the same path and same direction.

- **Unsporting Conduct** – Players, bench personnel, coaches, officials, and spectators have a responsibility to demonstrate civility and citizenship. Game management is responsible for spectators and officials should remind game managers of this responsibility before things get out of hand. Officials should not tolerate inappropriate conduct from players and coaches. Officials should utilize warnings for coaches or technicals for both parties to address such behavior. Players are not allowed to ‘let off steam’ by using profanity, even if it’s self-directed. The team huddle is not a safe haven for coaches’ bad language.

- **Officiating Signals and Mechanics** – Signals are used to communicate to players, coaches, table personnel, fans, and other officials. Officials **MUST** utilize IAABO approved high school signals and mechanics.