



2020-21 Basketball Rules Considerations

In support of the Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NFHS Basketball Rules Committee offers this document as guidance on how state associations can consider modifications to the NFHS Basketball Rules Book. The modifications outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

Return to Competition

1. Basketball Rules Considerations

- ***Pre-game Protocol (2019-2021 NFHS Officials Manual, page 16, 1.8)***
 - Limit attendees to the referee, two (2) head coaches from each team and two (2) captains [total of 5] standing at the center circle on each side of the division line.
 - All individuals maintain a social distance of 6 feet or greater at the center circle.
 - All 5 persons in the pre-game conference shall be masked.
 - Suspend handshakes prior to and following the Pre-game Conference.
- ***Team Benches (NFHS Rule 1-13-1)***
 - ***Social distancing should be practiced when possible. Below are some suggestions.***
 - Limit the number of bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet or greater.
 - Place team benches opposite the spectator seating.
 - Additional chairs or rows may be added to allow bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet or greater.
 - Create separation between the team bench and spectator seating behind the bench.
 - Limit contact between players when substituting.
 - Personnel not in the game should adhere to any required local/state face covering requirements.
- ***Officials Table (NFHS Rule 2-1-3)***
 - The host should sanitize the table before the game and at half time.
 - Place officials table sufficiently away from the sideline to allow for additional space for substitutes.
 - Limit seats at the table to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommend distance of 6 feet or greater between individuals. Other personnel (visiting scorer, statisticians, media, etc.) may not be deemed essential personnel and consider an alternate location for them.

- Table personnel should adhere to any required local/state face covering requirements.
- 2. **Pre and Post Game Ceremony**
 - Suspend the pre-game introduction handshakes.
 - Suspend post game protocol of shaking hands.
- 3. **Basketball Rules Interpretations**
 - ***EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES***
 - Basketball
 - Ball given to officials in the locker room, where it is sanitized as recommended by the ball manufacturer and not used for warm-ups.
 - The host school should ensure that the ball is sanitized during time-outs and between quarters.
 - Sanitizer should be provided by the host team at the table.
 - Cloth face coverings are permissible for players.
 - Consider requiring coaching staff and other bench personnel to wear face coverings while on the bench.
 - ***Officials Uniform and Equipment***
 - A solid black mask will be worn by the crew members.
 - Masks will be worn during the warm-up and pre-game.
 - Officials' masks may be removed during play.
 - Officials **may** wear a gator to pull over the nose and mouth when addressing a player, coach, crew member, etc.
 - Long-sleeved shirts are permissible.
 - Officials should not be required to wear jackets during pre-game court/player observation.
 - Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited).
 - Choose a whistle whose tone will carry inside.
 - Check the market for choices.
 - Cloth face coverings are permissible.
 - Gloves are permissible.
- 4. **Other Considerations**
 - ***Throw-in***
 - Official may stand 6 feet or greater away from player making the throw-in and bounce the ball to that player on a front court throw-in.
 - ***Free Throw Administration***
 - The lead official shall stand on the end line and bounce the ball to the free throw shooter.