



2015-16 BASKETBALL RULE CHANGES

- 10-6-12** The following acts constitute a foul when committed against a ball handler/dribbler. A player becomes a ball handler when he/she receives the ball. This would include a player in a post position.
- a. Placing two hands on the player.
 - b. Placing an extended arm bar on the player.
 - c. Placing and keeping a hand on the player.
 - d. Contacting the player more than once with the same hand or alternating hands.
- Rationale:** The current rule covers the ball handler/dribbler situations but ignores the action that goes on in the post area with the hands, arm bars, etc. The additional language will clarify that the illegal acts should be ruled for every position on the floor.
- Signal New** Establish a signal to be used after a basket is made and there is a stoppage in play. The signal is used by the officials to indicate the team inbound the ball may run the baseline. The signal will be executed by extending the arm laterally, bending the elbow at a 90-degree angle, moving the hand and forearm from the elbow in a waving motion horizontally along the end line. A new picture will need to be added to the signal chart. **Rationale:** Currently there is no signal to indicate when a player may move along the baseline after a made basket and there is a stoppage in play. (ie: timeout, injury).

2015-16 MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES

- 3-4-2c By state association adoption one commemorative/memorial patch may be worn on the jersey. The patch shall not exceed 4 square inches, shall not be a number and must be located above the neckline or in the side insert.
- 3-5-3c All sleeves/tights shall be the same solid color and must be the same color as any headband or wristband worn.
- 3-5-4a Headbands and wristbands shall be black, white, beige or the predominant color of the jersey and the same color for each item and all participants. They must be the same color as any sleeve/tights worn. See 3-6 for logo requirements.

2015-16 POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. **Post Play**
2. **Rebounding**
3. **Free Throw Shooter**
4. **NFHS Signals and Mechanics**



2015-16 Points of Emphasis

1. POST PLAY

New information has been added to the Rule Book that addresses cleaning up post play. It is legal for offensive and defensive players to touch when both are maintaining a legally established position. Illegal contact on a post player is any tactic using hands or arms or just generally demonstrates rough physical movements that allows a player on offense or defense to control the movement of an opposing player.

It is a foul and should be ruled as such when:

- a. An opponent is displaced from a legally established or obtained position;
- b. An arm-bar is extended and displaces an opponent;
- c. A locked and/or extended elbow displaces an opponent;
- d. A leg or knee is used in the rear of an opponent to hold or displace;
- e. Holding, hooking, slapping, pinning or pushing the leg or body of an opponent;
- f. An offensive post player “backs-down” and displaces the defender once that defender has established a legal guarding position.

2. REBOUNDING

One of the leading causes of injury in high school basketball continues to be the result of illegal contact that takes place during rebounding. Any activity to illegally gain rebounding position on an opponent must be properly enforced and penalized. Some examples of illegal rebounding activity are:

- a. Displacing, charging or pushing an opponent;
- b. Extending the arms or elbows to impede the movement of an opponent;
- c. Using the hips or knees to hinder or impede an opponent;
- d. Violation of the principle of verticality;
- e. Contact between players in free-throw lane spaces prior to the ball being released by the free thrower.

Rebounders include each player involved in the act, whether an offensive or defensive player. It is a coach’s responsibility to teach players the proper rule based technics of legal rebounding.

3. FREE THROW SHOOTER

Rule 9-1-3g was revised in 2014-15 to allow a player occupying a marked lane space to enter the lane on the release of the ball by the free thrower. As a result of this change, protection of the free thrower needs to be emphasized. On release of the ball by the free thrower, the defender boxing out shall not cross the free-throw line extended into the semicircle until the ball contacts the ring or backboard. A player, other than the free thrower, who does not occupy a marked lane space, may not have either foot beyond the vertical plane of the free-throw line extended and the three-point line which is farther from the basket until the ball touches the ring or backboard or until the free throw ends.

4. NFHS SIGNALS AND MECHANICS

The NFHS Basketball Officials Manual was revised for 2015-16. Officials are reminded that, when officiating a high school basketball game, the proper NFHS signals and NFHS mechanics are to be used.



COMMENTS ON THE 2015-16 RULES CHANGES

PLAYERS, SUBSTITUTES AND EQUIPMENT (3-4-2b NOTE added): The note was added to be consistent with other NFHS sports to allow a single American Flag to be worn on the jersey. The basketball uniform consists of a jersey, shorts or a skirt. State Associations may allow for special occasion, commemorative or memorial patches not to exceed the 4 square inch maximum allowed. The special patch may be worn on the jersey in an area that does not compromise the integrity of the number.

DEFINITIONS (4-19-7, clarified): The current definition of a team control foul has been in place since 2011-12. This provided greater consistency in the application of penalties for common fouls during a throw-in. A common foul committed by the offense would always result in possession to the offended team. The change was accomplished by modifying the definitions of team control and player control.

To further clarify, the end of the throw in may not end team control for the purpose of ruling a team control foul. The act of legally touching the ball after the release of the throw in, ends the throw in, but does not end 'team control status' for the purpose of ruling a team control foul.

CONTACT (10-6-12, clarified): The change in 2014-15 identified specific acts that are to be ruled fouls when applied on a ball handler/dribbler. Changes have been made by the committee to clarify when a player becomes a ball handler. When a player becomes the ball handler the provisions of rule 10-6-12 will apply.



2015-16 NFHS BASKETBALL RULES INTERPRETATIONS

Publisher's Note: The National Federation of State High School Associations is the only source of official high school interpretations. They do not set aside nor modify any rule. They are made and published by the NFHS in response to situations presented.

Robert B. Gardner, Publisher, NFHS Publications © 2015

Rule Book Corrections: Page 56, 2015-16 NFHS Basketball Rules omission: 9-1-3 Penalty 4b should read "If the second violation is by the free thrower or a teammate **behind the free-throw line extended and the three-point line**, both violations are penalized, as in penalty item (3).

Rule 9-1-3a: delete "or backboard"

Case Book Corrections:

Page 22, Situation 3.5.3 B: Substitute A6 reports to enter the game to replace A1. A5, **presently in the game**, is wearing beige compression sleeves on his/her arm and leg. A6 is wearing a black headband and wristbands. **Ruling:** A6 ~~and A5~~ **is** not allowed to enter the game because the rules require all team players to wear the same allowable color sleeves, headbands and wristbands. No penalty is involved. A6 ~~and A5~~ simply cannot participate until the color restrictions are corrected. (3.5.3)

Clarification Preseason Guide Article "Enforce Illegal Contact on Free Thrower and Violations During Free Throw", page 6, second paragraph: The free thrower must remain within the free throw semi-circle until the ball contacts the basket ring or the shot is made or missed. The same rule applies to all other players who do not occupy free throw lane line marked spaces. Players who occupy free throw lane line marked spaces during free throws may enter the free-throw lane upon the free thrower releasing the ball; however, should a defensive player cross the free-throw line too soon, it is a violation. A delayed violation signal is to be displayed. If the free throw is successful, the violation is ignored. If a defender contacts the free thrower, a personal foul is the correct ruling. If the free throw is unsuccessful,

the violation is enforced and a substitute free throw is awarded. If a defender contacts the free thrower, a personal foul is the correct ruling. Whether the free throw is or is not successful, the penalty for the personal foul is awarded. If the free thrower's team is in a bonus situation, the free thrower would be awarded a one-and-one or two free throws. If the free thrower's team is not in a bonus situation, his or her team would be awarded a throw-in along the end line.

Comment: Rule 9-1 does not address the issue of players, other than the free thrower during the free throw, entering the semi-circle. The national interpretation on this issue is during the free throw, anyone entering the semi-circle has created a violation. If it is a team member who violates, the ball should be blown dead immediately. If an opponent violates, it is a delayed lane violation and the free thrower should be awarded a substitute throw if the free throw is missed.

SITUATION 1: The opponent makes contact with the free-throw shooter before the free throw reaches the basket. The free throw is missed. **RULING:** The official should rule a violation on the opponent and a personal foul. (9-1-2g Penalty 2b)

SITUATION 2: After A1 releases the ball on a free throw try, B1 steps into the lane and backs across the free-throw line to box out the free-throw shooter then makes contact with the free-throw shooter. The free throw is missed. **RULING:** The official should rule a delayed violation on the opponent. A1 will be awarded a substitute free throw and the contact is ruled a foul. The substitute free throw would

be administered with the free-throw lane spaces unoccupied. (9-1-2g Penalty 2b)

SITUATION 3: During a free throw by A1, B1 pushes A2 and B2 is in the lane before the ball is released. **RULING:** Delayed violation and penalize the foul. If Team A is in the bonus, shoot one-and-one. If Team A is not in the bonus, A gets the ball for a throw-in along the endline. If the free throw is not successful, award a substitute free throw and also penalize the foul as a personal foul (live ball). The substitute free throw would be administered with the free throw lane spaces not occupied. (9-1-2 Penalty 2b)

SITUATION 4: An official notices members of Team A are wearing headbands that have extensions. **RULING:** Illegal. The coach should be informed that the headbands with extensions are illegal and the players will not be allowed to enter the game wearing them. (3-4-5b)

SITUATION 5: During warm-ups, A1 is wearing black tights, A2 is wearing a white headband and matching white wristbands. Both meet the definition of the rule as it relates to color. **RULING:** The officials should work with the coach, prior to the game, when they see several colors being worn by team members. Officials should be proactive in this situation. The coach needs to take responsibility to make sure team members are dressed properly. (3-5-3,4)