

INDIANAPOLIS — Effective with the 2017-18 high school basketball season, play will be stopped and an official warning will be given to the head coach – and recorded in the scorebook – for misconduct by the coach or other bench personnel unless the offense is judged to be major, in which case a technical foul shall be assessed.

This new rule was one of the five changes recommended by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Basketball Rules Committee at its April 10-12 meeting in Indianapolis. All changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

In addition to misconduct violations related to Rule 10-5, the head coach will be officially warned for the first violation of Rule 10-6-1 regarding the coaching box.

Rules 4-48-1 and 4-48-2 will both have a note stating that a warning is not required prior to calling a technical foul.

"Stopping play and making sure that the bench and the coach know that an official warning has been given sends a clear message to everyone in the gym and impacts the behavior of the coach, and in some cases the behavior of the opposing coach," said Theresia Wynns, NFHS director of sports and officials and liaison to the NFHS Basketball Rules Committee. "This change in behavior creates a better atmosphere and, many times, avoids the need to administer a technical foul."

In other changes, the rules committee approved enlarging the coaching box from 14 feet to 28 feet. The coaching box now shall be bounded by a line drawn 28 feet from the end line toward the division line. A line drawn from the sideline toward the team bench becomes the end of the coaching box toward the end line. State associations may alter the length and placement of the 28-foot coaching box.

"The committee thought the restriction of the (14-foot) coaching box limited the level of communication between the coach and players," Wynns said. "Allowing a coach freedom to move within the new box between the 28-foot mark and the end line provides a coach more access to his or her players."

Changes in Rules 3-4-1d and 3-4-4 regarding uniforms were approved by the committee, including restrictions on identifying names that can be placed in the allowable area of the jersey. Identifying names on uniforms must adhere to the following: school name, school nickname, school logo, player's name and/or abbreviation of the official school name. The panel in the shoulder area on the back of the jersey may be used for placing an identifying name as well.

The committee also approved a change in the way officials signal a foul against a player. After verbally informing the offender, the official shall use fingers on two hands to indicate to the scorer the number of the offender and the number of free throws.

"This change was made to minimize reporting errors that occur between the officials and the scorekeepers," Wynn said. "Two-handed reporting is easier for the scorekeepers to see and comprehend, and it is less confusing."

The committee did approve one rule change and two major editorial changes, which subsequently were approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

Rule 2-12 will now require the official scorer to wear a black-and-white vertically striped garment. Previously, this was a recommendation for schools.

"The players, coaches and officials need to be able to quickly and easily identify the official scorer, and making this a requirement should assist in that regard," Summers said.

Situation where a foul occurs. • One official signals an offensive foul (charge) and other official signals a block. • Basket will not be counted due to the offensive foul call. • Both fouls will be recorded in the Score Book (a double foul). • Ball will be put back in play in accordance with the Possession Arrow.