



2020-21 Recommendations for Basketball

Note: This is not an exhaustive list and further steps may be added throughout the season. These recommendations are to be integrated with the NCISAA Return-to-Play Minimum Standards.

Return to Competition

1. **Basketball Rules Considerations**

a. ***Pregame Protocol (2019-2020 NFHS Officials Manual, page 16, 1.8; NFHS Basketball Rule Book – 3-4-5)***

- i. Limit attendees to the referee and the head coach from each team with each coach standing on the center circle on each side of the division line.
- ii. All individuals maintain a social distance of 6 feet or greater at the center circle.
- iii. Suspend handshakes prior to and following the Pregame Conference.

2. ***Team Benches (1-13-1)***

a. ***Social distancing should be practiced when possible. Below are some suggestions.***

- i. Limit the number of student-athletes to 15* to observe social distancing of 6 feet or greater.
 1. **This limit will be mandatory for all postseason competition.*
- ii. Place team benches opposite the spectator seating.
- iii. Additional chairs or rows may be added to allow bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet or greater.
- iv. Create separation between the team bench and spectator seating behind the bench.
- v. Limit contact between players when substituting.
- vi. Personnel not in the game should adhere to any required local/state face covering requirements.

3. ***Officials Table (2-1-3)***

- a. The host should sanitize the table before the game and at half time.
- b. Place officials table sufficiently away from the sideline to allow for additional space for substitutes.
- c. Limit seats at the table to game operations essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommended 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.
- d. Table personnel shall wear cloth face coverings at all times.

4. **Pre and Post Game Ceremony**

- Suspend the pregame introduction handshakes.
- Suspend post game protocol of shaking hands.
- Officials will stand at the division line across from the benches during pregame introductions

Basketball Rules Interpretations

5. Rule 4-1 EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES

- a. Basketball**
 - i.* Ball given to officials in the locker room, where it is sanitized as recommended by the ball manufacturer and not used for warm-ups.
 - ii.* The host school should ensure that the ball is sanitized during time-outs and between quarters.
- b.** Sanitizer should be provided by the host team at the table.
- c.** Cloth face coverings must be worn at all times during practices and contests. A student with a medical condition that would prohibit wearing a face covering during competition, will need medical documentation from a physician licensed to practice medicine, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant.
 - i.* No gaiters are allowed
- d.** Coaching staff and other bench personnel are also required to wear face coverings at all times.

6. Rule 5-3 Officials Uniform and Equipment

- a.** By state association adoption, long-sleeved shirts are permissible. (5-1-3)
- b.** Officials should not be required to wear jackets during pre-game court/player observation.
- c.** Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited).
 - i.* Choose a whistle whose tone will carry inside.
 - ii.* Check the market for choices
- d.** Whistle guards/shields are required.
- e.** Cloth face coverings must be worn at all times during contests. An official with a medical condition that would prohibit wearing a face covering during competition, will need medical documentation from a physician licensed to practice medicine, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant.
 - i.* Must be solid black or white, or a medical cloth mask (blue/white)
 - ii.* All crew members do not have to match if masks are worn
- f.** Gloves are permissible.

7. Other Considerations

- a. *Throw-in***
 - i.* Officials may stand 6 feet or greater away from the player making the throw-in and bounce the ball to that player on a front court throw-in.
- b. *Free Throw Administration***
 - i.* The lead official shall stand on the end line and bounce the ball to the free thrower.
- c. *Officials Time Out***
 - i.* An official timeout (60 seconds) will be called at the first dead ball after the 4-minute mark of each quarter. The ball will be put back in play at the point of interruption (throw-in, free throw, etc.) when the official timeout was awarded.