

2020-21 Basketball

Rules / Mechanics Modifications



NFHS RULE MODIFICATION: Elimination of the Jump Ball Procedure (6-2-2)

- Eliminate the jump ball and award the choice of first possession of the ball to the team winning a coin toss, called by the visiting team.
- The alternating possession procedure will initiate with the throw-in to start the game. The A-P arrow will then reset by rule when the initial throw-in is completed.
- If a violation or foul occurs during the A-P throw-in to start a game, follow standard rules and procedures. (see 6-4-1)
- Overtime periods will be started with possession by the team based on the alternating possession arrow.

OFFICIATING MECHANICS MODIFICATIONS

- COVID-19 safety protocol as required by NJSIAA shall be followed. ([see protocol](#))
- Electronic whistles are optional and are permitted.
- 3-2-1: The referee shall “visually and verbally” confirm Rosters and Starters at the scorer’s table but will not touch books, pens / pencils, or be required to sign the scorer’s book.
- 2-4-5: Limit attendees in the pre-game conference to the referee, head coach and one captain representing each team. Each coach shall stand on opposite sides of the division line with all others maintaining a social distance of 6 feet or greater.
 - Order of activities:
 - Verbal Introductions (no handshaking)
 - NJSIAA Sportsmanship Statement Reading / Acknowledgement
 - NFHS Sportsmanship / Uniform Acknowledgement
 - Coin Toss (visiting team choice)
- Suspend handshakes before and following the Pregame Conference.
- 1-12-3: RECOMMENDED: The ball should be provided to officials in the locker room, after being sanitized (by home team staff) as recommended by the ball manufacturer. The game ball shall not be used for warm-ups.
- Officials are not required to wear jackets during pregame court/player observation. No clothing is to be left at the scorer's table from the officiating crew.
- 2-7-2: Putting the Ball in Play [Throw-in (7-6-1) and / Free Throw Administration (6-1-2c)]

- The official's will not be required to touch (or handle) the ball prior to a throw-in or free throw.
- Traditionally the ball is "at the disposal" of the player when the ball is handed or bounced (and caught) by the thrower.
- To avoid excessive contact of the official's hands with the ball, the **stop clock signal** (hand extended with open palm) will be shown followed by **one short blast** of the whistle. This signals the ball is now at the player's disposal for a throw-in or free throw and the appropriate count begins.
- For throw-ins that require this mechanic, the official administering the throw-in will handle such.
- For free throws, the LEAD official will handle this mechanic.
- Officials may use verbal cues such as, "wait for my whistle" or "on my whistle" as in other sports where live ball / dead ball mechanics are controlled by a whistle and/or signal.
- The administering official may also use other verbal cues, like "play" or "ready" in conjunction with the whistle to guide the thrower.
- Official's will place the game ball at the scorer's table during the halftime intermission for proper disinfecting procedures. This ball will not be used for warm-up activities.

Substitutions:

Standard substitution rules will remain in effect with several modifications:

- Only ONE player from each team is required to report to the table and remain at the "X" prior to being beckoned onto the floor - even if multiple players are being substituted for. (see Alternate Bench Locations below)
- If substitutes from both teams report to the scorer's table (and the "X") they are permitted to remain 6' apart for safety.
- Additional substitutes that are requesting to enter the game may remain on the bench until the official beckons the substitute at the "X".
- These players are still required to check-in with the scorer before entering the game and shall be beckoned onto the court by the same official.
- Any delay by the head coach in sending additional substitutes to the scorer's table shall be denied entry until the next eligible substitution opportunity.

Alternate Bench Locations

Schools are permitted to locate the benches on opposite sides of the playing court to maximize social distancing. It is recommended they be diagonal to one another. If this is the case the following items are required:

- The 28' coaching box must be clearly marked on both sides of the court (tape is acceptable) starting 14' from the division line extending to the endline, in front of the team's bench area. If markings are absent, coaches shall remain seated on both benches.

- A separate “X” for substitutions shall be placed (tape is acceptable) on the opposite side of the division line, across from the scorer’s table for the visiting team’s substitutes.
- Official’s should be cognizant that substitutes can enter from both sides of the court and take an extra “visual sweep” before putting the ball into play.
- Official’s closest to the side substituting shall beckon the players into the game.

Coaches and athletes confronting officials:

- Regular season penalties will be utilized. No Tolerance.
- If the coach or athlete persists with their behavior a DQ will be given and the DQ procedure will be used. (2 game suspension)
- Any player or coach who receives 2 DQ’s during the season will have the 2-game sit penalty doubled to a 4 -game sit penalty as per NJSIAA regulations.

Uniforms: Standard NJSIAA uniform modifications are still in effect.

Face Coverings – The CDC affirmed that face coverings are a critical tool in the fight against COVID-19 that reduces the spread of the disease, particularly when used universally within communities.

Face Coverings are permitted that do not pose a safety threat to the athlete or official. Color restrictions do apply to facemasks and Gaiters (both legal) - and must not contain any messaging. A single manufacturer's logo is permitted provided it does not exceed 2 ¼”, per NFHS logo requirements.

- Coaches are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the coach’s health.
- Students are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the student’s health, the student is in extreme heat, or the student is engaged in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities.
- Students on the bench or sidelines are required to wear face coverings.
- **Officials are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the official’s health, the official is in extreme heat, or the official is engaged in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities.**
- All other personnel necessary for the practice or competition are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the individual’s health.
- Neck Gaiters: Although neck gaiters were an acceptable alternative for face coverings outdoors, they are not recommended for indoors. Note: NFHS allows these but are not recommended.
- Please be aware of the current CDC and NJDOH guidelines regarding proper face-covering protection indoors. Source/ [NJSIAA Winter Guidelines](#)

- When in doubt, play the game and report uniform questions to your local chapter secretary and/or the NJSIAA.
- Officials are reminded they are not responsible for COVID-19 school specified protocol requirements with players, staff, and spectators. Discuss any safety issues with the on-site school administrator as needed.

Notes on Face Coverings for Officials:

- Officials must wear face coverings while transiting between their vehicle, inside the locker-room area (if provided), entering or navigating hallways within the school, and on the court when the game is not in progress.
- Officials should wear face coverings while observing warm-ups.
- Officials must wear face coverings when within 6' of a coach or other game management while engaging in a conversation. This includes the pre-game coaches conference with one captain and one coach from each team.
- Officials have an option to wear a face covering during the actual "run of play" in a live / dead ball scenario. Since basketball is considered a high intensity aerobic / anaerobic activity, it's permissible to remove the face covering during play as to not inhibit the official's health.
- Officials must have a face covering readily available to apply for situations that require a mask. This can be worn around the neck or kept in a pocket for easy application.

Officials - Use of Locker Rooms:

The use of locker rooms by officials will be determined by the home school's Board of Education policy.

- Officials should arrive at the game site dressed in their officials uniform and be ready to officiate the game.
- Schools should provide an area for the officials to stay during halftime of the game and should also provide a secure place for the officials to store their personal items during the game.
- A rest room area should be available for the officials.

It is recommended that the officials contact the school prior to arriving for the game for any other questions they may have in regard to locker rooms.

Officiating Recommended Procedures

Thank you to Jack Baum, Jeff Cohen, and all the other officials that have provided early feedback from Summer and Fall ball, regarding the application of these new COVID modifications. Here are some items that will help your game if you are consistent with these mechanics each and every time.

Out of Bounds: The team that will retain possession is responsible for retrieving the ball and getting the ball to the thrower. The official will announce loudly "On My Whistle" then blow the whistle and start the count.

Timeout: The team that will retain possession regardless of who is granted a timeout will be responsible for putting the ball at the throw-in spot prior to leaving the court. The clock will start for the timeout after ALL players are at their bench location.

Free-Throws: The team that is fouled and entitled to attempt a free-throw(s) is responsible for retrieving the ball and getting it to the free-thrower. If there are two free-throws the same team will retrieve the made or missed try and return it to the free-thrower. On the last free-throw the official will announce "on my whistle" , indicate there is "one shot" remaining and blow the whistle to make the ball live.

Prior to Game / Between Quarters: The team that wins the initial (and only) coin flip and is awarded the initial possession will bring the ball to the division line to begin play. To start subsequent quarters or overtime, a player from that team will bring the ball to the division line to begin play.

The official will announce loudly "On My Whistle" then blow the whistle and start the count.

For a complete overview of the 2020-21 NJSIAA Interpretations and COVID Rule Modifications please click this link to view (or download):

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

Officials are reminded to reach out to your local chapter rules interpreter with any questions on rule modifications, mechanics, or protocols.

Updated January 7, 2021

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ADDENDUM

NJSIAA 2020-21 Boys & Girls Basketball Season Modifications/ Regulations

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the following modifications will be applied to the 2020 NJSIAA Boys and Girls Basketball season. The NJSIAA is working with our member schools to offer our student athletes a worthwhile winter sports experience in 2020.

The NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust, change or cancel dates for the 2020 basketball season. Due to the current Covid 19 Pandemic the NJSIAA will not be sponsoring a NJSIAA Postseason Championship Tournament.

***Leagues, Conferences and Counties may host Championship Tournaments if the teams DO NOT exceed the 15 -game maximum. ***

Contacts:

Basketball Rules Interpreter: Billy Martin, billymartin@comcast.net

NJSIAA Assistant Director: Boys and Girls Tournament Director- Al Stumpf, astumpf@njsiaa.org, 201-230-1100

NJSIAA Assistant Director / Basketball Support: Kim Cole, kcole@njsiaa.org , 609-947-5592

General Information

Regular Season Dates:

First Practice –Monday, January 11, 2021 – PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO TRYOUT

PERIOD PRIOR TO THIS DATE.

Scrimmage- Schools will have the opportunity to participate in one pre-season scrimmage with a neighboring school. The scrimmage may occur any time within seven days of the regular season start date for that sport, Tuesday, January 26, 2021. First Scrimmage date: Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

First Game – Tuesday, January 26, 2021

End of Regular Season – Saturday, March 6, 2021

Maximum Number of Games – 15 games including at County, Conference or League Championship games. Teams may only compete in one (1) contest per day.

Number of Games per week – 3 games per week, CANNOT PLAY 3 GAMES IN A ROW –

CANNOT EXCEED 15 game limit.

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ALL GAME RESULTS MUST BE REPORTED TO www.njschoolsports.com . They should be reported by the morning after the game at the latest. If you have difficulties reporting your scores please contact via email HSSUPPORT@njadvancemedia.com

NJSIAA Post-Season:

There will be no NJSIAA sponsored post-season. Post-season play may be hosted locally by participating leagues and conferences at their discretion.

Multi-Team/Invitational Events:

Multi-team/invitational events are prohibited.

Out of State Opponents and Competitions:

On November 10, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 194 which prohibits member schools from hosting interstate competition in all indoor sports. Therefore, no member school may host an out-of-state opponent or host an event out of state. Moreover, NJSIAA is prohibiting member schools from traveling out of state to compete.

Medical Advisory Task Force recommendation:

“Every effort should be made to minimize crossover between levels – Varsity, JV and Freshman. Crossover can lead to a greater number of student-athletes being sidelined due to exposure to a student who tests positive for COVID-19.”

Coaches and athletes confronting officials:

- Regular season penalties will be utilized. No Tolerance.
- If the coach or athlete persists with their behavior a DQ will be given and the DQ procedure will be used. (2 game suspension)
- Any player or coach who receives 2 DQ’s during the season will have the 2-game sit penalty doubled to a 4 -game sit penalty as per NJSIAA regulations.

Student Transfers:

Transfers:

Any student-athlete that is subject to a transfer sit-period will be eligible for participation on Monday, February 8, 2021. As a reminder, those student-athletes that transferred between March 16, 2020 and November 1, 2020 are not subject to the transfer sit-period. If a student-athlete transfers after November 1, 2020, the student-athlete shall be ineligible to participate for a period of 30 calendar days, or one half of the maximum number of games being played, whichever is less.

Capacity/Spectator Attendance

Please refer to the Winter Sports Spectator Guidelines as they are updated by Governor’s office.

Bench Protocols

Home site is responsible for setting up the sideline areas to ensure that social distancing and CDC protocols are enforced.

It is recommended but not mandated that schools limit the number of players on the bench to only the necessary personnel needed for the game.

Players and coaches must wear face coverings while on the bench and must practice social distancing in the bench area.

It is recommended that if possible that the team benches be on the court opposite of the spectator seating area.

Home sites should set up the scorer's table following correct social distancing protocols.

Police Coverage

Home school is responsible for police coverage if needed.

Common Safety Factors

NJSIAA COVID-19 and NFHS Modifications will be used.

Sport specific considerations/guidelines will be placed on the NJSIAA website – www.njsiaa.org – click on Sports- Winter –Boys and Girls basketball.

Key Contacts:

Billy Martin
NJSIAA State Basketball Rules Interpreter
billymartin@comcast.net

Note:

Please reach out to your local chapter interpreter FIRST with any rules or mechanics questions.

NJSIAA Assistant Director / Boys and Girls Tournament Director
Al Stumpf
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