

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.

Basketball

There will be no multi-team events (tip-off tournaments etc.). The eighteen-game limit will remain in place; however, conference games will take precedence over non-conference games. Additional requirements/considerations for basketball are attached.

General Requirements/Considerations

1. Workouts/practices should be conducted in “pods” / “bubbles” of participants with same players working out together to limit overall exposure.
2. Vaccination for the flu is encouraged for players, coaches and officials.
3. Before, during and after the contest, players, coaches, and administration should wash and sanitize their hands as often as possible.
4. No out of state competition or teams traveling from out of state for competition, unless it is in a dual format and approved by the MHSAA Executive Director.
5. Always maintain social distancing of 6 feet while at the court when possible.
6. Everyone must have their own beverage container that is not shared. Safe handling practices should be adhered to during hydration, which includes refilling, retrieval and identification of water source.
7. All time-outs will be one minute in length for safe hydration practices.
8. Cloth facial coverings are required for all players, coaches and officials. Face Coverings do not have to be worn during play, but substitutes must wear masks when not competing or per specific MHSAA sport requirements. Face Coverings must be worn by players/coaches by rule, no matter the number of active COVID-19 cases in the county. MHSAA requires face coverings for coaches and for substitutes, players while participating do not have to wear face coverings. Facial coverings must be a single solid color and unadorned, except the mask can include the school logo/name and bear only a single manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference (partial or whole) that does not exceed 2 ¼ square inches with no dimension exceeding 2 ¼ square inches.
9. The five players that are in the game do not have to wear facial coverings during timeouts.

10. Gloves are permissible for all players, coaches and officials.
11. The ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest / event as recommended by the ball manufacturer.
12. Administrators must limit the number of non-essential personnel who are near the court throughout the contest.
13. Attendance at MHSAA events is dependent on host site and local health department guidelines and restrictions.
14. A family's role in maintaining safety guidelines for themselves and others is very important. Make sure your child and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home). Provide personal items for your child and clearly label them.

Return to Competition

1. Basketball Rules Considerations

- ***Pregame Protocol (2019-2020 NFHS Officials Manual, page 16, 1.8; NFHS Basketball Rule Book – 3-4-5)***
 - 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.
 - All individuals maintain a social distance of 6 feet or greater at the center circle.
 - Suspend handshakes prior to and following the Pregame Conference.
- ***Team Benches (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 (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 recommended distance of 6 feet or greater between individuals. Other personnel (visiting scorer, statisticians, media, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and consider an alternate location for them.

- MHSА requires face coverings for all table personnel.
- 2. **Pre and Post Game Ceremony**
 - Suspend the pregame introduction handshakes.
 - Suspend post game protocol of shaking hands.
- 3. **Basketball Rules Interpretations**
 - ***Rule 4-1 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.
 - The home team must provide separate racks of basketballs for warm-ups. (one rack will be used by the visiting team and one rack will be used by the home team).
 - Sanitizer should be provided by the host team at the table.
 - Coaching staff and other bench personnel are required to wear face coverings while on the bench.
 - ***Rule 5-3 Officials Uniform and Equipment***
 - By state association adoption, long-sleeved shirts are permissible. (5-1-3)
 - 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 during the contest however, they are required before and after the contest. Facial coverings must be a single solid color and unadorned, except the mask can be black and white striped.
 - Gloves are permissible.
- 4. **Other Considerations**
 - ***Throw-in***
 - Official will 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 thrower.