



25-26 IESA Basketball Officials Update



GIRLS BASKETBALL IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

NEW: Practice/Tryouts Begin: Sept 15

NEW: Games May Begin: Sept 27

NEW: 7th Regionals: Nov. 22, 24-26

7th Sectionals Dec. 3 - **New Time** - 6:00 p.m.

7th State Tournament: Dec. 6 and 11

NEW: 8th Regionals: Dec. 1, 2, 4, 5

8th Sectionals: Dec. 10 - **New Time** - 6:00 p.m.

8th State Tournament: Dec. 13 and 18

BOYS BASKETBALL IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Practice/Tryouts Begin: Oct. 20

Games May Begin: Nov. 1

NEW: 7th Regionals: Jan. 17, 19-22

NEW: 7th Sectionals Jan. 26 - **New Time** - 6:00 p.m.

NEW: 7th State Tournament: Jan. 31, Feb. 6

NEW: 8th Regionals: Jan. 24, 27-29

NEW: 8th Sectionals: Feb. 2 - **New Time** - 6:00 p.m.

NEW: 8th State Tournament: Feb. 7 and 12

IESA Good Sports Reports

The IESA continues to put a major emphasis on sportsmanship this year. When you witness good sportsmanship from a player, coach, or fan, please complete a Good Sports Report by accessing this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/wFeChFGvDn>

IESA Season Introduction

As an official with the IESA in the sport of basketball, you may occasionally officiate games at the junior high level. When those contests involve members of the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA), rules of play are exactly the same as the National Federation rules, with some exceptions. The exceptions are listed in the information contained in this handout. If you have questions pertaining to the IESA, or if you would like to add your name to our approved list so you can be eligible to receive state series assignments at the junior high school level, please contact us at 309-829-0114. Good luck this season



Chris Frasco

Girls and Boys Basketball Administrator

chris@iesa.org

309-829-0114

CHANGES AND REMINDERS

- Please complete ejection reports within 48 hours of the contest. This can be done in the IESA officials center using your IHSA credentials. <https://www.iesa.org/login/>
- Please ensure that teams and players are adhering to the NFHS uniform, equipment and apparel guidelines. If these rules are enforced during the regular season, we can avoid issues in the postseason.
- Please do not address the crowd or individual fans. This often escalates the situation. If you are having an issue with a fan, please inform game administration.
- Be consistent, calm, and professional throughout each contest. Your demeanor will, oftentimes, set the tone for the contest.
- Once again, we ask that you call both boys and girls basketball games consistent and tight early to avoid unnecessary contact and injuries.
- The mutual agreement of coaches cannot set aside IESA rules, i.e., using a running clock in the 4th quarter up 20 points. The rule is 30 points, no exceptions.



Points of Emphasis

- **Throw-in Plane Violation**
- **Huddle by either team or contact with the free-thrower that delays administration of the free throws**
- **Interfering with the ball following a goal**
- **Failure to have the court ready after a timeout**
- **Coaches meeting with officials**
- **Home uniforms must be white**

IESA Exceptions to NFHS Rules

- The smaller basketball has been adopted for IESA girls state tournament play. [1-12-1 d&e]
- Host schools shall provide a black and white striped garment to be worn by the official scorer for all games as required by rule . [2-11-12]
- The three-point field goal is mandatory for all regular season contests and state series tournaments games. [5-2-1]
- All games shall consist of six-minute periods. Overtime periods shall be three minutes. Member schools may play away basketball games with seven-minute quarters with member schools of the Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association. [5-5-2, 5-7-3]
- The Association has adopted the use of a 28ft coaching box.
- The Association has adopted a "mercy" rule for all regular season contests and the IESA State Series (regional, sectional, and state). [5-5-3]
- It is recommended a safe area be in place for all state tournament series contests as determined by the local and game management. [1-2-1]
- In the state series, the front row shall have no seating unless space is an issue.



NFHS RULE CHANGES

- **4-22-1 & 2:** This change removes the offensive team from goaltending violations, simplifying enforcement for officials and reducing ambiguity over whether a ball was a shot or a pass. It also encourages more scoring opportunities and minimizes confusion for players and coaches.
Your paragraph text
- **4-22-3 (NEW):** This rule change establishes that once the ball contacts the backboard, it is automatically considered to be on its downward flight. Therefore, if a player touches the ball after it hits the backboard, and the ball has a possibility of entering the basket, it is ruled as goaltending.

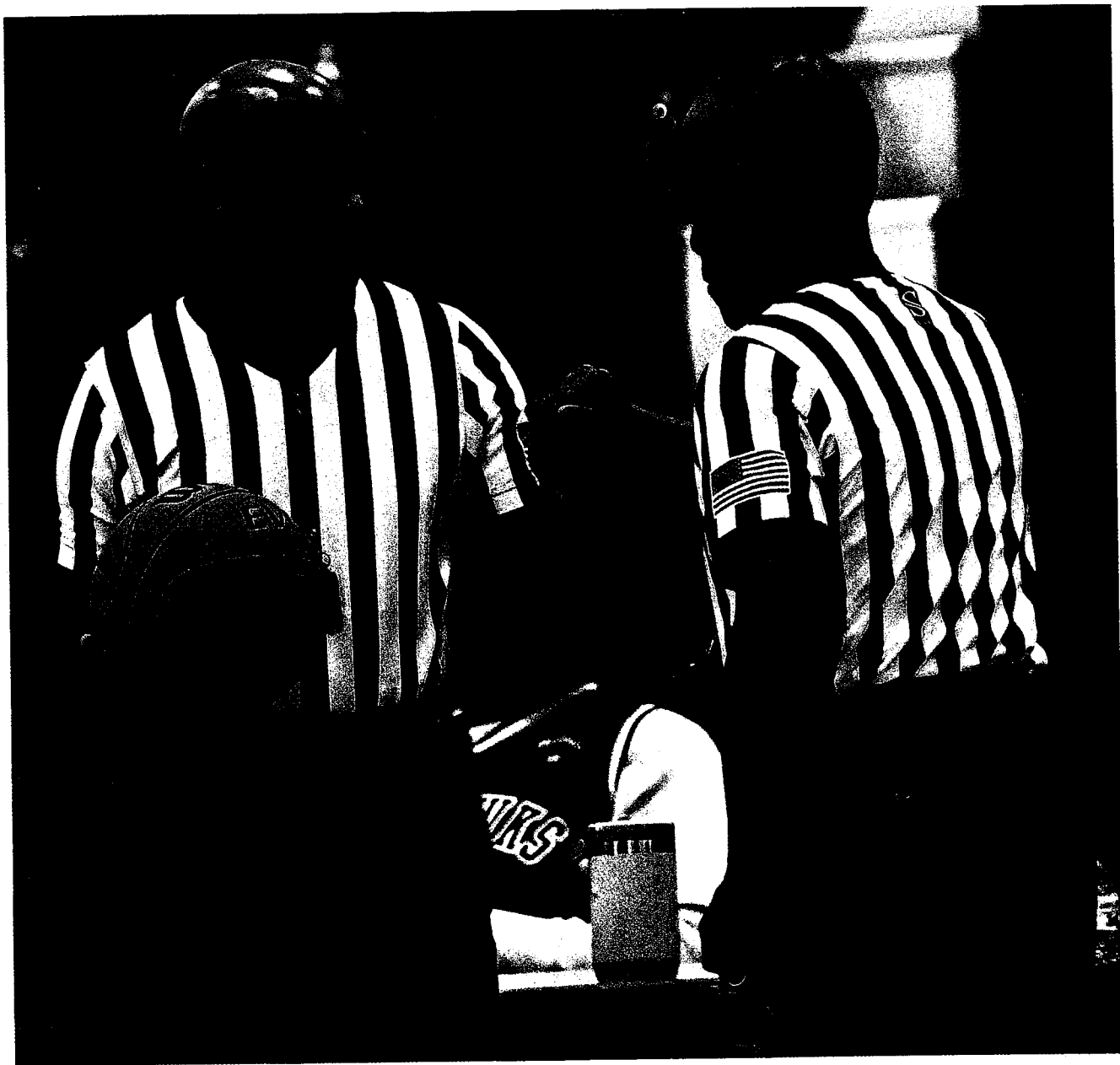


NFHS RULE CHANGES CONTINUED

- **4-34-1:** This rule change updates the definition of a player to clarify that a player is one of the five team members legally on the court at any given time, except during time-outs or intermissions. The change ensures consistency in rule enforcement by recognizing that it is difficult to distinguish between players, substitutes, and bench personnel during time-outs and intermissions. This clarification also supports the accountability of coaches for all team conduct during these periods and helps avoid misapplication of penalties such as technical fouls.
- **7-5-4:** This rule change updates the procedure for determining the designated throw-in spot following a stoppage of play (not due to the ball going out of bounds) in the frontcourt and backcourt. Instead of relying on an imaginary line, officials now use existing court markings, specifically the three-point line, to determine the location. This change improves accuracy, consistency, and clarity for officials by using visible floor markings rather than imaginary lines, which were often misjudged.
- **9-2-12 & 9-3-4 (NEW):** This rule change addresses situations where a thrower purposely and/or deceitfully delays returning inbounds after legally stepping out of bounds and then becomes the first player to touch the ball upon re-entering the court. Previously penalized as a technical foul, this action is now treated as a violation, aligning it with similar out-of-bounds scenarios. The change reduces the severity of the penalty to encourage more consistent enforcement by officials and prevents players from gaining an unfair advantage through deceptive re-entry tactics.
- **10-4-4b:** This rule prohibits players from illegally contacting the backboard or ring in ways that create an unfair advantage or interfere with a scoring attempt. This rule is designed to maintain fair play and protect the integrity of scoring opportunities by penalizing actions affecting the outcome of a shot, with a technical foul.
- **4-6-1a & b (NEW):** This rule change clarifies and expands the definition of basket interference to include additional actions that unfairly affect the ball while it is in a scoring position. Basket interference now occurs when a player slaps or strikes the backboard, causing the backboard or basket to vibrate, while the ball is on or within the basket, touching the backboard, or within the cylinder.

2025-26 Basketball Editorial Changes

4-19-3c, 4-47, 5.2.1 SITUATION C, 6-3-2a, 6-3-5b, 10-5-2



YOU'VE GOT THE LOOK

The Right Stature Will Help Your Stature

By Tim Sloan

It's well known among the basketball crowd that, "You can't teach tall." You can train players to dribble, shoot, pass and guard, but unless your team casts some long shadows in the paint, winning will

be a tougher prospect.

Does the same truism apply to officials? You don't have to be 6-foot-5 to be a great basketball official. If you are, however, coaches and teams seem to be a little more patient with you making an

impression. There's some "fitting the mold" that applies here. Years ago, NHL officials boss Stephen Walkom said players have more respect for the referees who are great skaters; since it's a skill that distinguishes the best players, it must say something about a linesman, too, right? They

Having the right look during the pregame, including good grooming, a properly fitting uniform and solid posture while waiting for the opening tip, will serve Bill Brooks, left, Torrance, Calif., and Mark Harvey, Harbor City, Calif., well as they try to make the right impression on the game participants.

must understand the game better. At another juncture, I was an assistant referee on a big semi-pro soccer game, lined up with the players for the national anthem. The visiting goalkeeper was standing beside me and asked pleasantly, "You guys cops?" At 6-3 and 205 pounds, I was still smaller than the tavern manager and automotive engineer working with me.

Perception is your first calling card; people form opinions on what they expect to see in officials.

This all came home to roost with me recently when I worked a varsity high school boys' basketball game with two females. Both are small college women's officials. Their game knowledge was solid and their judgment calls were spot-on. Between the three of us, we maintained a threshold for call/no call that persisted throughout.

Despite that, there was still a vibe of skunk-in-the-pup-tent afoot: It ran from some smart-ass comments drifting out of the student sections to one or two adults acting like they weren't allowed to talk around them. I don't care if someone's purple as long as they can do the job; maybe that's why I was there, too. The issue — if there was one — was that their presentation had been sculpted in a different environment than the rather novel one in which we were now working. It was an emotional and physical game, and I could tell they were aware of the scrutiny. I found myself coaching them during timeouts to keep their shoulders square, their facial expressions composed and their dead-ball movements deliberate. Both women come up to about my shoulder, so I couldn't teach them "tall," but I realize I was coaching them to be *like* tall, growing into the job.

When you look at your own game, there is much to be said for mastering the visual cues that make you more successful. Those are the little things that help the contestants believe you're committed, confident and in charge. They plant the seed in their minds that, when anything weird happens, "Well, (s)he must know what (s)he's doing ..." That benefits everyone. So, let's go through a list of some of the more salient things to work on.

Grooming: Look the part. Wear a clean uniform and coordinate with your partners so you all match. Neaten your coif, brush your teeth, manage your facial hair — boy, that's lost on some people. You don't need to look like Ken/Barbie, but you can dress like them, and it helps.

Stature: This begins from the moment you walk out for the warmup. If you're supposed to observe the players for dunking or illegal equipment, do that. Find a comfortable stance, balanced on both feet, with hands and arms somewhere "businesslike." Hands behind the back or arms comfortably folded works; hands-in-pockets, looking around or kibitzing with friends is a bad look.

During the pregame: When meeting and greeting anyone, make eye contact, have a pleasant expression and provide a solid handshake or fist bump: Seem interested, even if you threw the bum out in your last meeting. Thank the table people for their help and get everyone thinking you're there to work together. There's a lot to gain by setting a good mood before anything has gone wrong.

Move with a purpose: You don't have to run around like a squirrel on the interstate, but don't get caught dogging it either. When play stops, move briskly to your next position. Your goal is for all three of you to be in position, waiting for the players to restart play. When the teams are moving at the comfortable pace you set, good things happen; you

BY THE NUMBERS

The number of Final Four appearances for the 11 officials selected to work this year's NCAA Men's Final Four in San Antonio:

FINAL FOUR

- 10 — Doug Simmons
- 7 — Roger Ayers, Ron Groover, Keith Kimble
- 6 — Doug Shows, Terry Oglesby
- 4 — James Breeding, Tony Padilla
- 2 — Courtney Green
- 1 — AJ Desai, Michael Irving

The number of Final Four appearances for the 11 officials selected to work this year's NCAA Women's Final Four in Tampa, Fla.:

FINAL FOUR

- 9 — Brenda Pantoja, Felicia Grinter, Joe Vaszily
- 7 — Maj Forsberg
- 6 — Gina Cross
- 4 — Tiffany Bird
- 2 — Kyle Bacon, Brian Hall, In'Fini Robinson
- 1 — Fatou Cissoko-Stephens, William Smith

DID YOU KNOW?

Second-tier NCAA postseason basketball tournaments are often used as incubators to try out experimental rules for possible use in future NCAA competition.

NCAA

The NIT, WBIT and the new Crown Basketball Tournament all used, per a request from their respective rules committees, their 2025 events to address replay use in the closing minutes of games.

An experimental rule required a coach to call a timeout in order to review an out-of-bounds ruling inside the final two minutes of play instead of leaving it to the officials' discretion. There was no limit on the number of coaches' appeals; however, if a team did not have any remaining timeouts and lost an appeal, that team was charged with an administrative technical foul. If a team was successful with its appeal, it kept the timeout used to challenge the play.

TEST YOURSELF

In each of the following, decide which answer or answers are correct for NFHS, NCAA men's and NCAA women's rules, which might vary. **Solutions: p. 81.**

1. All of the following result in a technical foul, except which?
 - a. A foul for excessive and unnecessary contact during live ball.
 - b. A noncontact foul by bench personnel during live or dead ball.
 - c. A noncontact foul by a player during live or dead ball.
 - d. Adding a player to the scorebook after the game has started.
2. Which of the following is true of headbands?
 - a. The maximum width is 2 inches, and permissible colors are white, black, beige or the predominant color of the jersey.
 - b. The maximum width is 2 inches, and permissible colors are white, black, beige or any color contained within the fabric of the jersey.
 - c. The maximum width is 3 inches, and permissible colors are white, black, beige or the predominant color of the jersey.
 - d. The maximum width is 3 inches, and permissible colors are white, black, beige or any color contained within the jersey.
3. A player may be the first to retrieve and hold the ball and then dribble a second time if the first dribble ended in all the following ways, except which?
 - a. An interrupted dribble.
 - b. An opponent slapped the ball, which caused the player to lose control of the ball.
 - c. The player's pass was touched by another player.
 - d. The player attempted an unsuccessful try for goal.
4. Play is resumed at the point of interruption in all the following, except which?
 - a. A double personal foul.
 - b. An official's inadvertent whistle while a team is in control of the ball.
 - c. A technical foul charged to a player for disrespectfully addressing an official.
 - d. All of the above are resumed at the point of interruption.

IF YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO OBSERVE THE PLAYERS FOR DUNKING OR ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT, DO THAT. FIND A COMFORTABLE STANCE, BALANCED ON BOTH FEET, WITH HANDS AND ARMS SOMEWHERE "BUSINESSLIKE."

tend to keep them too busy playing basketball to give you as much of a hassle.

Stature 2: Keep your head up and eyes on the players as you move around the court; don't let transitions be your opportunity to look at your feet until you arrive at new lead. During timeouts, remember what we covered about observing the pregame; the same applies. When observing play, present yourself as alert, but not tense; you do that with quiet head and arm movements, and by standing still without rocking. When you do have to change angles or transition across the lane, move punctually and deliberately. Act like you're applying your experience to get ready for what might happen next. The longer you've been refereeing, you are.

Whistling: Let your whistle express your opinion about what made you blow it. Blowing your brains out every time a ball goes out of bounds is both annoying and suspicious. Offering a little toot on that block/charge with two seconds left in a tie game doesn't scream confidence. Learn when to be a little louder or longer (or the opposite) in situations; done properly, it helps more people understand who's boss for the evening, and how little help you need.

Signaling: To some extent, your signals can have a touch of your personality in them. I might chop

my wrist a little more firmly than others, but I won't make signals that look so odd they draw attention. Fitting into the mold by being prompt, firm and dispassionate will win the day.

Conversing: You probably said during the captains meeting they and their coaches would be welcome to ask questions as time/situation permitted. So, let them ask questions and, when they do, show respect. Keep a neutral expression, relaxed body language, and present as engaged. If there comes a point to curtail the conversation, be firm and impersonal about it. When you're in these tete-a-tetes, most observers can't hear what's being said but they will guess by how they see you acting; be beyond reproach.

I've only worked a couple thousand games in my life, but I'm forming this opinion: Following the tips listed above are *qualifiers*; they don't make you a great official but are behaviors exhibited by those who are. You aren't a great official just because you look like one of the folks on the cover of this magazine. Looking like that simply buys you the opportunity to be judged fairly on your knowledge, judgment and performance.

Stand up to the challenge and make believers of them all.

Tim Sloan, Davenport, Iowa, is a high school football, basketball and volleyball official, and former college football and soccer official. □