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Basketball Rules Changes

& Comments on the Rules

2026–2027 SEASON

Presented in partnership — NFHS national rules, & commentary

2026 – 2027 Basketball Rule Changes

01

Five New Rule Changes — with Commentary

Each rule paired with the official change, its rationale, and expert commentary on why it matters.

5-9-5

NEW RULE

Minimum Time Must Run Off the Clock

*Final 59.9 seconds of any quarter or
extra period*



Rule (NFHS)



Comment (ECBOA)

THE CHANGE

In the last 59.9 seconds of each quarter or extra period, if play resumes on a throw-in or an unsuccessful free throw, a minimum of three-tenths (.3) of a second must run off the game clock once the ball is legally touched by a player inbounds.

RATIONALE

A player may not gain control and attempt a try without at least .3 seconds expiring. This aligns with the existing tap-attempt provisions in Rule 5-2-5. Exemption: doesn't apply when the clock can't display tenths of a second.

OFFICIAL COMMENTARY

.3

SECONDS — minimum time
to legally catch & release a
try

Adds consistency to end-of-period timing on throw-ins and missed free throws. Officials and timer personnel should communicate clearly during these situations to ensure the minimum is properly administered.



5-10-2

NEW RULE

Correcting Timing Errors

New note on officials' counts as evidence



Rule (NFHS)



Comment (ECBOA)

THE CHANGE

If the referee determines the game clock malfunctioned, was improperly started or stopped, or failed to run, an official's visible or silent count — or other official information — may be used to correct the timing error.

RATIONALE

Officials already keep visible counts for backcourt, closely guarded, and three-second situations. This lets them also rely on silent counts as definite knowledge when correcting timing mistakes under Rule 5-10-1.

WHY IT MATTERS

Expands the types of official information available for correcting timing issues — both visible and silent counts now count as definite knowledge. Officials are encouraged to maintain awareness of elapsed time throughout the game, particularly when clock malfunctions or operator errors occur.



6-4-4g

NEW RULE

Faking Being Fouled — Language Deleted

Alternating-possession throw-in provision removed



Rule (NFHS)



Comment (ECBOA)

THE CHANGE

Language regarding an alternating-possession throw-in following a warning for faking being fouled after a released try has been deleted from the rule.

RATIONALE

The provision is no longer necessary because of the 2025-26 interpretation change that already modified the procedures for addressing faking-being-fouled situations.

OFFICIAL COMMENTARY

“The deletion of subsection (g) removes outdated language related to warnings for faking being fouled.”

These situations are now covered through current interpretations and no longer require a separate alternating-possession provision.



8-6-4

NEW RULE

Offsetting Technical Fouls

Both teams assessed technicals in the same dead-ball period



Rule (NFHS)



Comment (ECBOA)

THE CHANGE

- a. All technical fouls are treated as occurring at approximately the same time, for offsetting purposes
- b. All fouls are recorded and penalties identified
- c. If an unequal number of technicals occurred, play resumes as though the final single technical was the only foul
- d. If penalties cancel for an equal number of technicals, play resumes at the point of interruption

RATIONALE

Clarifies that all technical fouls occurring during the same dead-ball period are treated as occurring at approximately the same time.

PREVIOUSLY → NOW

PREVIOUSLY

Order mattered — officials had to determine which technical foul occurred first to sequence penalty administration correctly.

NOW

All technical fouls during that dead-ball interval are treated as occurring at approximately the same time, for consistent, less confusing administration.

Officials can administer penalties more consistently and reduce confusion regarding order of enforcement and resumption of play.



9-2

NEW RULE

Dead Ball & Throw-In Spot

Section 2 penalty — administration location



Rule (NFHS)



Comment (ECBOA)

THE CHANGE

The ball becomes dead when the violation or technical foul occurs. The location for administration is the original throw-in spot.

RATIONALE

Restores language inadvertently removed when designated throw-in spots were implemented, and clarifies administration procedures back to the original throw-in location.

ENFORCEMENT AT A GLANCE



Violation occurs here



Original throw-in spot
(enforcement basis)

The restored language clarifies that throw-in violations occur at the original throw-in spot, maintaining consistency with prior rules interpretations. Continue using designated throw-in spots when applicable.

KEY TAKEAWAY Enforcement is based on the original throw-in location.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

**Five changes.
One season.
Review it together.**

- 5 new rules tighten clock precision and technical-foul administration



QUESTIONS