2019

RULES INTERPRETATION

FOR COACHES & OFFICIALS

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**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF**

**APPROVED BASKETBALL OFFICIALS**

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**RULE CHANGES & POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

**2019-20 RULE CHANGES**

**3-4-3e(2) (Effective the 2024 – 25 season) Because it is difficult to see, the color of the number cannot be the same color as the body of the jersey. Two other options for the style of the number remain as indicated in the rules book**

**3-5-4b: There is a change in the headband rule. The headband may now be up to 3 inches wide and if worn it must be a circular design without extensions. It must be nonabrasive and unadorned and worn on the forehead/crown. Only one headband per player is permitted**

**3-5-4d Added to article 4d----Hair control devices are not required to meet color restrictions. (Only applies to hair control devices)**

**3-5-5 The rolling of shorts is no longer illegal provided the shorts are not in conflict with 3-4-5 and the wearing of the shorts does not expose any objectionable parts of the anatomy. The important item here is NO drawstrings or other parts of the shorts intended to maintain them in a normal position shall be visible as they can cause potential harm to the player or others. The restriction on folding or rolling the shorts at the natural waistband seam has been eliminated. Players are now allowed to roll over or fold their pants at the waistband. However, it is still illegal to have more than one manufacturer’s logo visible on the pants.**

**3-5-8: Establishes a new rule article: MOUTHGUARD**

**The new article describes how a mouthguard should be constructed. It will be added as Article 8 in Rule 3, Section 5. This provides another safety option for players. The State has not adopted the requirement to wear mouthguards. The new rule basically covers the construction of the tooth and mouthguard.**

**9-9-1: Exception: Reissue of rule change for years, 2017–18 and 2018–19. Wording added or changed to clarify the rule.**

**A ball in team control by Team A in the front court that is deflected by a defensive player which causes the ball to go into the backcourt, may be recovered by either team unless the offense was the last to touch the ball before it went into the backcourt. If the offense was last to touch the ball in its frontcourt, only the defense can legally recover the basketball.**

**10-5-5 NOTE: The head coach and (new) any number of assistant coaches may enter the court in the situation where a fight may break out (or has broken out) to prevent the situation from escalating. ADDED: any number of assistant coaches.**

**NEW SIGNAL: TO STOP CLOCK FOR HELD BALL– BASKETBALL MANUAL CHANGE**

**When a held ball occurs, covering official(s) shall stop the clock by extending a straight arm up with open palm extended while simultaneously sounding their whistle. Then both arms are extended straight out, at chest level, with fist clinched and thumbs are displayed as a part of the signal.**

**POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

The Points of Emphasis this year deal with proper head bands and hair control devices, the proper wearing of medical bracelets and medals, and throw-in violations. In addition, a requirement to meet with administrators on supervision and crowd control is stressed. All officials must be aware of the importance of meeting with the Site Manager at each game’s facility.

* The headband and hair control device are often thought to be interchangeable, but they are not. Each item has different guidelines to be followed. Coaches and players need to be aware of the differences between the two items so players are not found in violation of the rules.
  + A headband is defined as any item that goes around the entire head, no more than three inches wide and it must be circular in design without extensions. Headbands must conform to the legal color restrictions.
  + A hair control device is defined as an item that goes around the hair such as a rubber or elastic band. Barrettes or beads are not allowed. Hair control devices do not have color restrictions.
* The medical-alert medal or bracelet must be taped to the person securely while the medical information is visible. If a bracelet, it must be taped to the arm securely with the medical information visible Medical alert medals are the only pieces of jewelry a player may visibly wear. Piercing jewelry if visible is not allowed, even if it is taped over.
* Emphasis is also on throw-in violations--officials are and were advised to review throw-in violations and to administer the rule properly. A throw-in ends when the passed ball touches any in-bounds or out-of-bounds player. The throw-in also ends if the throw-in team violated.
* Another Point of Emphasis this year stresses that the game officials have a pre-game meeting with game administration on supervision and crowd control. The game officials are there to manage the contest which includes the players and coaches. It is the expectation that school administration will manage the student body, parents and all other spectators. Spectator behavior remains a critical concern with the use of abusive language towards officials, coaches and players as well as spectators approaching the court and other off-limits areas. Game administrators must create and follow security procedures and support efforts to have offending spectators removed from the premises.

**STATE EMPHASIS ON ROUGH PLAY**

Last year the Points of Emphasis dealt primarily with rough play. We must continue to emphasize to all officials that they must strictly enforce the contact and sportsmanship rules. There have been more altercations at games than there should be and many times it is a result of rough play. Officials should be alert for the beginning of trouble spots--players trash talking, unwanted contact, etc. Officials need to maintain control of these situations quickly. It is recommended that the officials, after calling a foul, spend a second or two at the spot of the foul call thus reducing the possibility of an altercation starting. Two or three seconds is worth it if it prevents unwanted extracurricular activity. In the last few years we have seen an escalation in the number of fights. It is, therefore, incumbent that game officials cut down on rough play, and maintain a fair and well-played game.

**Shot clock**

There have not been any changes made to the shot clock rules for high school games and the shot clock will remain at 35 seconds. There are a few differences between high school and college shot clock rules. The New York State High School rule will strictly be followed. A copy of the shot-clock procedure for shot-clock operators is available.

**New York State Sportsmanship Card**

Basketball officials are advised that NYSPHSAA requires that the Sportsmanship Card be read at each contest at all levels. In addition, by rule, it is the referee’s duty to verify with the head coach, prior to the game, that his/her team members’ uniforms and equipment are legal and will be worn properly, and that all participants will exhibit proper sporting behavior throughout the game. (Rule 2-4-5)

The Head Coach is also to be part of the pre-game captain’s/coach’s conference.

**Concussion rule**

The concussion rule and the official’s requirements per the rules book have not changed. By rule, officials shall immediately remove from the game a player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion. (Rule 2-8-2) Officials must be alert to when a player strikes his head, either on the floor, a wall, or another player and goes down. When this happens, the game should be stopped, and the player tended to.

Gentlemen, I have highlighted the 2019 – 20 rules changes and points of emphasis, as well added a few extra items. If anyone has any questions, I am always available and willing to discuss rules. My contact information is: E-Mail: [lpavlot@yahoo.com](mailto:lpavlot@yahoo.com) Phone: 315-729-7960

Thanks to all and good luck for an enjoyable and successful 2019 - 20 season.

Lee