



Oregon School Activities Association

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To: Athletic Directors and Basketball Coaches
From: Missy Smith, Assistant Executive Director
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Subject: Basketball Reminders for the 2025-26 Season

Please review this information with your basketball staff and best of luck this season! Each school offering basketball should have received two copies of the NFHS Basketball Rules Book from the OSAA, one for girls and one for boys. Athletic Directors received these in the mail. Feel free to contact me if you have questions.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

NFHS Basketball Uniform Information: (<http://www.osaa.org/docs/bbx/BasketballUniforms.pdf>)

Home uniforms shall be white and away uniforms shall be dark. Note that silver/light gray is not a legal uniform color.

Headbands / NFHS Rule 3-5-4b: Headbands shall be a maximum of 2 inches wide. As directed by the OSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, players wearing "Concussion Headbands" shall have a documented OSAA exception. Athletic Directors shall forward these requests to Missy Smith missys@osaa.org along with a note from an appropriate medical professional supporting the student wearing the equipment and a photo of the headband.

NFHS Rule 3-5-4e (NEW): Head coverings worn for religious reasons shall not be made of abrasive or hard materials; and must fit securely so that it is highly unlikely to come off during play. **NOTE: The State Association shall be notified, after the contest, if there is a concern about a head covering worn for religious reasons. Rationale:** The addition of this provision allows for religious head coverings to be permitted without state association approval provided they are secured properly and not made of abrasive or hard materials

Jewelry / NFHS Rule 3-5-7: Jewelry is not allowed during warm-ups or competition. Please note that this also includes ear buds, headphones and rubber plugs, fishing line, etc. that is used to insert in pierced openings when jewelry is removed.

OSAA Adopted Basketball: Host schools shall provide the Wilson Evolution when hosting OSAA post-season contests.

SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Court Warmup & Team Introductions: Teams are to remain on their own end of the court at all times during pregame and 2nd half court warmup. This includes the entrance of teams onto the court --- circling the entire court is not allowed. Team introductions may take place at half court, but any other team rituals shall take place on a team's own half of the court.

Time Outs and Quarter Breaks: Team members are to remain at their own bench area and not rush the court during these breaks.

HOME CONTEST MANAGEMENT

NFHS Rule 2-14/Shot Clock: (<https://www.osaa.org/docs/bbx/OSAA%20Basketball%20Shot%20Clock%20Packet.pdf>)

In accordance with Rule 2-14, OSAA has adopted a 35-second shot clock effective in the 2023-24 season at the varsity level. Please refer to the above the basketball page on the OSAA Website for resources and guidelines.

Court Markings: (<http://www.osaa.org/docs/bbx/NFHSBasketballCourtDiagram.pdf>)

Please make sure that all your competition courts are marked correctly for all levels of play according to the NFHS Basketball Court Your Coaching Boxes (NFHS Rule 1.13.2) and "X" marking the Scorer's Table (NFHS Rule 1.17) must be properly placed. It is also vital that your Coaching Boxes are placed in the same location on both ends of the court. Officials have been instructed to not begin a varsity contest until the coaching boxes and scorer's location mark are properly placed. The correct markings must also be in place for all sub-varsity contests.

Coaching Box / NFHS Rule Change: The coaching box shall be outlined outside the side of the court on which the scorer's and timer's table and team benches are located. The area shall be bounded by a line drawn 28 feet from the end line towards the Division line. At this point a line drawn from the sideline toward the team bench becomes the end of the coaching box going towards the end line. Tape may be used to extend the previous 14-foot line to 28 feet.

Public Address: (<http://nfhs.org/media/885875/announcer-responsibilities1.pdf>)

The announcer shall be prohibited from making unnecessary announcements such as "two minutes to go" while the clock is running during the course of the contest. This interrupts the game through the use of the microphone. The announcer is allowed to give basic information during the course of the game, such as who the foul is on, who is shooting free throws, which team is taking a time-out and the length of the timeout. Information that is visible on the scoreboard shall not be announced during play.

Blood Kit: Make sure that a blood kit is readily available in each gym for all home games.

NFHS NEW RULES:

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.

Rationale: The change eliminates the possibility of an offensive goaltending violation, which simplifies the rule for officials and players. It removes the need to judge whether a ball in flight is a try or a pass, resulting in clearer enforcement, greater consistency, and more opportunities for scoring plays near the basket.

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. This clarification helps protect legitimate shot attempts, reduces rough rebounding situations, and addresses a common rules misconception among coaches and players. It provides officials with a clearer standard for enforcing goaltending in backboard-related plays.

Rationale: This change enhances officiating clarity and protects legitimate shot attempts. It also addresses a common misconception among coaches and players by explicitly defining goaltending, leading to more consistent enforcement.

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. 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.

Rationale: By using the visible three-point line as the line of demarcation, officials will have a clearer and more consistent method for determining throw-in locations. This improves accuracy and reduces confusion, resulting in more reliable throw-ins.

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.

Rationale: The rule change aims to standardize and clarify the enforcement of basket interference, leading to fairer outcomes and more consistent officiating. The removal of subjective judgments around intent allows for clearer rulings and better alignment with current game dynamics.

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. Rationale: This clarification helps officials consistently identify interference that affects scoring plays and ensures the integrity of the basket area during shot attempts.

OSAA WEBSITE INFORMATION & SCHEDULING

Level of Play: If your number of players dictate that you will field only 1 team, you must play the same level for all games of the season due to the rankings. Your single team must be a varsity or a sub-varsity team --- for example, this cannot be a varsity team on Tuesday and a JV team on Thursday.

Adding Games to Schedules After December 17: Remember that results from contests added to a team's schedule after a certain date each season (Winter – December 17) vs. a team more than one classification away shall not be included in the rankings. Bracketed contests at tournaments are not affected by this policy.

Adding Any Contest to Schedules After January 07: A policy recently approved by the OSAA Executive Board states that results from contests added to a team's schedule after a certain date each season (Winter – January 07) shall not be included in the rankings. NOTE: Contests not affected by this policy include bracketed contests at tournaments, league tiebreakers, and district/league tournaments. Schools may apply for an exception to OSAA Staff in extenuating circumstances.

Tracking Out of State Opponents: (www.osaa.org/docs/osaainfo/ManagingOutofStateRecordsInstructions.pdf)

Varsity teams are required to update their schedule and results through the OSAA website throughout the season. Schools are also required to track records of out-of-state opponents. Each Oregon school is ultimately responsible for making sure their own schedule and results are accurate, including the records of their out-of-state opponents.

Rosters: It shall be the responsibility of each member school to submit varsity team sport rosters to the OSAA through <http://www.osaa.org/> prior to the first contest date of that sport's season. Varsity rosters are required for the following OSAA-sanctioned sports: football, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, volleyball, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, baseball, softball. Subsequent changes to each varsity teams' roster shall be updated as they occur throughout the season.

Tournament Play: When entering games for tournaments please make sure you mark those games as neutral EXCEPT if you're hosting the tournament at your home facility, those games need to be labeled as home games. (Example: Glencoe vs. Liberty @ Century is neutral, Glencoe vs. Century @ Century is not neutral but a standard home/away even in a tournament setting).