

2008-09 NFHS Basketball Rules Changes

3-5-3 Any item that goes around the *entire* head (elastic strips/bands, pre-wrap, headbands, etc.) shall meet the rule requirements regarding color, maximum size, logo restrictions and team uniformity. Black and beige have also been added to the colors a team is permitted to wear.

Rationale This change makes the rule more consistent in application and enforcement. The additional colors will provide student-athletes with the same low-cost options, while maintaining team uniformity.

8-1-4b, c, d During a free throw, all players will move up one marked lane space, leaving the two spaces closest to the end line vacant. A new mark (2 inches by 8 inches) must be reapplied to the lane line near the free-throw line to designate the last 3-foot marked lane space.

Rationale This rules change may reduce rough play during free-throw situations while maintaining defensive rebounding percentages within an acceptable range.

10-5-5 NEW A maximum of one technical foul shall be charged directly to the head coach when a participant wears an illegal jersey, illegal pants/skirt or an illegal number.

Rationale This rules change reduces the penalty from one technical foul assessed to *each* starter and *each* substitute to a maximum of one technical foul assessed directly to the head coach. There has been a proliferation of illegal uniforms worn by teams within the last several years. This change reduces the penalty, but puts the responsibility for illegal uniforms where it ultimately belongs – with the head coach – not the participant.

2008-09 Editorial Changes

3-4 The uniform section will be reorganized to separate the topics by articles and adjust the language to reflect current industry standards/terminology.

4-27-2 A portion of the first sentence of the ‘incidental contact’ definition will be removed to clarify that a foul should be called when displacement occurs while opponents attempt to secure a loose ball.

4-42-5 The article will be reorganized into sub-articles for clarity.

10-5 The section will be reorganized for better understanding and clarity.

2008-09 Points of Emphasis

1. Legal Uniforms
2. Rough Play
3. Time-outs
4. Slapping the Backboard
5. Officials’ Mechanics and Signals