Oregon School Activities Association
25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 1
Wilsonville, OR 97070
503.682.6722 http://www.osaa.org

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To: Athletic Directors and Basketball Coaches

From: Missy Smith, Assistant Executive Director
missys@osaa.org | 503.682.6722 x227

Subject: Basketball Reminders for the 2026-27 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 always remain on their own end of the court during pregame and 2nd half court warmup. This includes the entrance of teams into the court --- circling the entire court is not allowed. Team introductions may take place at half court, but any other team rituals should 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:

5-9-5 In the last 59.9 seconds of each quarter or extra period, if play is to be resumed by a throw-in or an unsuccessful free throw, a minimum of 3/10ths (.3) of a second must expire on the game clock when the ball is legally touched by a player inbounds

Comments: The addition of the .3-second requirement provides consistency for end-of-period timing situations involving throw-ins and unsuccessful free throws. Similar to existing provisions governing tap attempts, this change recognizes that a player cannot legally catch and release a try with less than three-tenths of a second remaining. Officials and timer personnel should communicate clearly during these situations to ensure proper administration. Schools utilizing clocks without tenths-of-a-second displays are exempt from this provision.

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.

5-10-2 Note: If the referee determines the clock malfunctioned or was not started/stopped properly, or if the clock did not run, an official's count, **visible or silent**, or other official information may be used to make a correction

Comments: This revision gives officials additional tools for correcting timing errors by allowing both visible and silent counts to serve as definite knowledge. Officials are encouraged to maintain awareness of elapsed time during all situations, particularly when clock malfunctions or operator errors occur. The rule improves accuracy and game administration by expanding the types of official information available when correcting timing issues.

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.

8-6-4a: ART 4…When, during the same dead-ball period that follows an infraction or stoppage in play and before the ball becomes live, both teams are assessed technical fouls:

- All technical fouls are considered to have been committed at approximately the same time for the purposes of offsetting their penalties;
- All fouls are charged, and their penalties are identified;
- When there is an unequal number of fouls committed during the dead-ball period, play shall resume as if the last committed single administrative, team, substitute, player, or bench technical foul was the only foul committed; and
- If, after the cancellation of the penalties for an equal number of fouls by both teams, the game shall be resumed at the point of interruption.

  All technical fouls committed during the same dead-ball period are considered to be at approximately the same time for purposes of offsetting their penalties

  Play resumes at the point of interruption

- While (A) and (B) occur more than 13 minutes apart in the pregame warmup, they are considered to be at approximately the same time for purposes of offsetting their penalties
- Even though the unsporting technical fouls are committed at the start (A) and end (B) of the time-out, they are considered to be at approximately the same time for purposes of offsetting their penalties

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.

9-2 (Penalty): When an infraction occurs on a throw-in, the location of the violation is the original throw-in spot

If the original throw-in spot is not a designated spot, the ensuing throw-in is moved to such a spot (as indicated in the diagram)

Comments: The restored language clarifies that throw-in violations occur at the original throw-in spot, maintaining consistency with prior rules interpretations. Officials should continue using designated throw-in spots when applicable while recognizing that the original throw-in location remains the basis for enforcement following violations.

Rationale: This change lessens the penalty for players who delay their return after being out of bounds, shifting the penalty from a technical foul to a less severe violation. This rule aligns with the penalty structure of similar violations, such as Rule 9-3-3 (where a player steps out of bounds on their own volition). The change is intended to make it easier for officials to recognize and penalize these actions consistently while reducing the severity of the penalty, encouraging more accurate enforcement.

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.

Comments: The definition of basket interference has been expanded to include situations in which a player slaps or strikes the backboard, causing the backboard or ring to vibrate, while the ball is in a scoring position. Specifically, if the ball is touching the backboard, located on or within the basket, or within the imaginary cylinder above the basket, such contact is now considered basket interference. This revision ensures that actions which may unfairly influence the outcome of a scoring attempt — by affecting the ball's trajectory or stability of the basket — are penalized appropriately. Officials now have clearer guidance when adjudicating plays involving contact with the backboard during shot attempts.

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

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

Uniforms – Education Based Activities	▪ Proper uniform standards remain an essential component of education-based basketball, reinforcing school identity, team unity, and respect for the game. Coaches and players share responsibility for ensuring uniforms are worn properly and in full compliance with NFHS rules. The traditional designation of white jerseys for the home team and dark jerseys for the visiting team continues to support proper game administration, alignment with NFHS rules, providing accuracy for officials, scorers, and spectators. ▪ Uniforms must be worn as intended by rule at all times. Jerseys designed to be tucked in must remain properly tucked (front and back). Players not in compliance shall be directed to leave the game until corrected, as outlined in Rule 3-3-4. To prevent avoidable interruptions, coaches are expected to proactively address uniform compliance prior to competition.
Timing Corrections and Officials' Counts	Accurate timing is essential to game integrity and competitive balance. Officials and table personnel must work collaboratively to ensure timing responsibilities are properly managed throughout the contest. When timing mistakes or equipment issues occur, officials may utilize visible or silent counts to maintain fairness and game consistency. Officials' counts are not limited to rule-mandated situations such as backcourt, closely guarded, or three-second counts. Counts may also be used to address timing mistakes or administrative issues impacting play. Strong communication between officials and the scorer's table is essential in these situations.
Bench Decorum, Sportsmanship and Professional Conduct	▪ Sportsmanship is a core expectation of education-based basketball and directly supports the mission of interscholastic athletics. Behavior on the court and in the stands should reflect the same respect, integrity, and responsibility expected in the classroom. Positive sportsmanship enhances the experience for all participants while reinforcing NFHS values. ▪ Education-based athletics require consistent professionalism, respect, and sportsmanship from coaches, players, and officials. Coaches on the bench serve as primary role models, and their behavior directly influences the tone and educational value of the contest. The head coach is responsible for all bench personnel and communication with officials, while assistant coaches must remain composed and supportive in a professional manner. ▪ Unsporting behavior, excessive reactions, prolonged dissent, and inappropriate comments undermine the integrity of the game. Taunting—defined as actions or remarks intended to embarrass, ridicule, or demean an opponent—has no place in high school basketball and must be addressed promptly and consistently per NFHS rules. Maintaining professionalism and appropriate bench decorum ensures respect for opponents, officials, and the game itself.
Physical Play and Illegal Contact	▪ Basketball remains a physical game; however, unnecessary or illegal contact that creates disadvantage or safety concerns is not consistent with NFHS rules or education-based athletics. Officials, coaches, and players must collectively ensure legal play is distinguished from illegal physical advantage. ▪ Illegal contact includes hand checking, displacement, push-offs using the controlling arm, and other actions that restrict freedom of movement or violate legal guarding principles. Unnecessary roughness or overly aggressive play must be penalized to maintain safety and game control. Post play requires special attention, including illegal use of two hands on the back, forearm displacement, or dislodging a legally positioned opponent. Consistent enforcement supports fairness, safety, and proper game flow.

Traveling, Continuous Motion and Legal Player Movement	▪ Proper enforcement of traveling and continuous motion rules is increasingly important due to the evolving athletic nature of offensive play. Officials must have a strong understanding of footwork, pivot rules, and legal movement to properly judge plays without penalizing legitimate skill-based actions. ▪ Moves such as euro-steps, spin moves, and jump stops are legal when executed within the limits of establishing and maintaining a pivot foot. However, dragging a pivot foot, taking extra steps, or failing to properly maintain a pivot foot when ending a dribble constitutes traveling. Officials must also accurately identify when continuous motion applies. If an opponent fouls after a player has started a try or tap for field goal, the player is permitted to complete the customary arm movement, and if pivoting or stepping when fouled, may complete the usual foot or body movement in any activity while holding the ball. Continuous motion ends when the ball is clearly in flight. Strong rule knowledge ensures fairness, consistency, and game flow.
Player Equipment – Tooth and Mouth Protectors	▪ Tooth and mouth protectors must be properly designed and worn as intended for protective purposes. Custom-fitted or molded protectors are required; however, they must not include attachments or features unrelated to protection. Decorative or non-protective additions are prohibited due to safety concerns for both the wearer and other participants. Proper equipment compliance is essential to maintaining a safe and fair competitive environment.
Authenticating Mark	▪ The NFHS Authenticating Mark identifies approved inflated and non-inflated game balls (and pucks where applicable) used in interscholastic competition under NFHS playing rules. All game balls must display this mark to ensure conformity with established standards. Proper equipment use is essential to competitive equity and game integrity. ▪ Administrators, coaches, and officials share responsibility for ensuring compliance. Non-conforming equipment must be reported to the state association following the contest. Coaches should reinforce proper equipment requirements during pre-game certification and throughout the season, while officials must remain vigilant in identifying and reporting non-compliant equipment.

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 16: Remember that results from contests added to a team's schedule after a certain date each season (Winter – December 16) 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 13th: 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 13th) 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).