

# Connecticut State Board of Approved Basketball Officials

## *Interpreters Bulletin*



### DECEMBER 2010

Welcome to the 2010-2011 Basketball Season! There are minimal rules changes. Officials will continue to enforce the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Points of Emphasis, which allows each team to compete equally through the use of skill, athleticism and freedom of movement principles. The Connecticut High School Basketball Rules Interpreters have developed this "**Bulletin**" as a communication resource to share among basketball officials, athletic directors, and coaches. Our objective is to promote a common understanding to the rules that regulate the game of basketball. In future bulletins, we will describe actual play scenarios to aid in your understanding of specific rulings.

Connecticut has five (5) area rules interpreters, and a state interpreter who serves as our liaison to the CIAC. We are members of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials (IAABO); the world's oldest, largest and most respected organization dedicated to the education and continuous improvement of basketball officials. We annually train our officials to follow the rules and points of emphasis promulgated by the CIAC and the NFHS.

The following individuals are the high school basketball rules interpreters:

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A message from State Interpreter Jeffrey Smith:

As officials, we are guardians of the game; it is our responsibility and goal to assist fellow officials and coaches to promote the highest level of sportsmanship during an interscholastic basketball competition.

This goal can be accomplished with the support of every coach, since interscholastic sports are "**co-curricular**" activities and an extension of the classroom and its educational process.

We follow IAABO's mantra: "**One Rule, One Interpretation, One Mechanic**".

Partnered with the CIAC and the NFHS, we have a shared commitment to encourage the value of good healthy competitive play among student-athletes.

Coaches are encouraged to contact their local interpreter, as well as myself, regarding any rules questions or interpretations during the season.

### RULE CHANGES FOR 2010-2011

The following are the **2010-2011 NFHS Rules Changes**:

- The procedure for handling a player who exhibits signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion has been revised. The CIAC has developed an Official's Concussion Protocol consistent with the new Connecticut Law (Public Act 10-62) passed in 2010. Very simply, officials will stop play and inform the coach that "*the player should to be checked out*".

- Players are now allowed to wear headbands and wristbands of school colors consistent with the rule.

- Players leaving the playing court for an unauthorized reason or to demonstrate resentment, disgust or intimidation, will be assessed an unsporting technical foul. In addition, team members leaving the bench area and/or playing court for an unauthorized reason, including a situation when free throws are attempted with no time remaining on the clock, will result in a *direct* technical foul to the head coach.

**Editorial Changes** include:

- Clarified that substitutes between quarters, at halftime or during a time-out, must report prior to the warning horn.

- Clarified that all team members are considered bench personnel during intermission and time outs for the purpose of penalizing unsporting behaviors.

- Clarified that the ball is at the disposal of a player when the ball is available to the player AND the official begins the throw-in count.

- Clarified that when the ball is awarded to the wrong team on a throw-in, the mistake must be rectified before the throw-in ends.

Officials have been instructed to enforce the following **Points of Emphasis**:

- Enforce the rules as written.

- Prevent teams from pre-game gatherings at midcourt, running under an opponent's basket or through their warm-up area, and warming-up on their half of the court **ONLY**.

- Closely-guarded violations (5-seconds) occur when a defender is within 6 feet of the ball handler.

- Hand checking, Palming and Verticality

**Key Reminders** from previous years:

- Coaches are reminded that requesting a time-out is not a guarantee. Officials must be certain that it is the player in control of the ball of the same team before granting a time-out to the head coach.

- The Coaching Box must be marked. It is measured 28 feet from the end line toward midcourt, then 14 feet down back towards the end line. Only head coaches are permitted to stand during play. If home management refuses to mark the coaching boxes with tape, the home team head coach must remain seated for the entire game. However, the visiting team head coach will be allowed to stand in an area designated by the officials.