

**WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**  
**2025-26 NFHS Basketball Rules Book**  
*(PLEASE KEEP WITH YOUR RULES BOOK)*

**NATIONAL FEDERATION ALLOWED ADAPTATIONS**

- a. A mercy rule will be used for all levels of high school games.
  - (1) When the point differential reaches 40 points or more with less than 9 minutes to play in the second half, the clock will go to running time. The clock will only be stopped for time-outs (team or official).
  - (2) Rule applies during the regular season and tournament series.
  - (3) If the differential drops below 40 points, clock still runs continuously until the game is over.
- b. Coaches, at all levels, are allowed to use a 28-foot coaching box.

**STATE ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS**

- a. All varsity games will be played in two 18 minute halves. All nonvarsity games will be played in two 16 minute halves.
- b. Pregame Warm-up Procedure and Player Introductions will follow NFHS Rule 4.1 (pg. 28) and 5.1 (pg.86) in the NFHS Officials Manual.
  - (1) There will be 15 minutes allowed for pregame warm-ups.
  - (2) Officials' Pregame Protocol (NFHS Basketball Officials Manual, pgs. 28 & 86)
    - (a) 15:00 Officials enter court and go directly to positions.
    - (b) 12:00 Referee goes to the table and checks scorebook(s), briefs scorer and timer, checks game ball.
    - (c) 10:00 Remaining official(s) go across the floor to join referee, greet the visiting coach, then greet the home head coach.
      - 1) Referee goes to area in front of scorer's table.
      - 2) U1 and U2 will get respective head coaches and captains from teams.
      - 3) Referee does introductions officials, coaches, and captain(s).
      - 4) Referee conducts pregame briefing to include discussing legal equipment and good sporting behavior with head coaches and captain(s). Also discuss team color, proper basket, other appropriate items and answer any questions.
      - 5) Return to original positions.
  - (3) Introduction of Players - All five starters of the visiting team shall be introduced first followed by the five starters for the home team. Players shall not seek out the opposing coach to shake his/her hand.
- c. The school of a player who breaks a backboard is responsible for replacing the board.
- d. Nonvarsity teams shall be allowed to wear old varsity uniforms, which are now unapproved, provided participant safety is not jeopardized.
- e. Coaches must report to their school administration within 48 hours following a contest any player or coach ejection. School administrators must then report the ejection to the WIAA via written communication within three (3) school days following the contest. This written communication must also include a plan of action to prevent future ejections. Officials will continue to provide electronic reports to the WIAA.
- f. Maintains the one-and-one for common fouls with the seventh team foul in the half and establishes the bonus as two free throws awarded for a common foul beginning with the team's tenth foul in the half.