

## National Federation Basketball Rules Revisions for 2004–05

The color of jerseys worn by the home team and players who leave the confines of the bench area during a conflict on the court, were the major topics of discussion during the National Federation Rules Committee Meeting.

Effective with the 2007–08 high school basketball season, home team jerseys are **required** to be white, while visiting jerseys remain a dark color. Rule 3–4–6 previously stated that “light colored home team jerseys **should** be worn.” However, with new styles and colors becoming more prevalent and teams beginning to show more creativity with fashion and light colors, greater liberties have been taken with this regulation.

Rule 10–4–4 which speaks to penalties for bench personnel was addressed with stricter scrutiny. Formerly, any bench personnel who left the confines of the bench area during a fight were subject to ejection. A fight was defined solely on the principle that a “punch” had taken place. The rule has now been narrowed in scope (tightened) to include any activity that may lead to a fight. Therefore, any person who leaves the bench for a fight or potential fight will be subject to ejection from the game.

IAABO has been steadfast in its position that coaches have a responsibility and must be held accountable when fights or potential fights occur or become imminent. The NFHS Rules Committee has made an initial step in pursuance of that objective.

Other changes made by the NFHS basketball rules committee included:

- 10–3–7d** Involves purposely obstructing an opponent’s vision by waving or placing one’s hands near the eyes. While in the past only the person with the ball could be treated in such a manner, this change prohibits **any** player from purposely obstructing another player’s vision, whether or not he or she has the ball.
- 4–29** Extends the kicking rule from the original requirement that a kick was intentional only if it was an affirmative act that occurred at the knee or below. The rule has now been expanded to include the entire leg.
- 1–5–2 and 1–13–2** were amended to reflect what has become common practice. These changes permit the lane space lines and neutral zone blocks to be the same color as the lane lines and end lines. Further, the coaching box line is no longer required to be of a contrasting color to the side and end lines.

A change to be reflected in the next edition (2005–07) of the NFHS Basketball Officials Manual was also made at the meeting. In a game officiated by a crew of three, the foul calling official will take a position tableside after reporting a foul to aid in “more meaningful dialogue and communication” with coaches and the scorer’s table.