



KEY RULES CLARIFICATIONS

JANUARY INTERPRETERS' CONFERENCE CALL

1. Jump Ball Restrictions

Clarification

Jump ball restrictions begin **when the administering official steps into the circle to make the toss.**

Restrictions End When

- The ball touches a non-jumper - The ball touches the floor - The ball touches an official

Key Notes

- A tap does *not* end restrictions by itself.
- An official is considered part of the floor.

Interpreter Emphasis

Stress patience before entering the circle. Officiating movement too early is a common source of incorrect violations.

2. Jump Ball – Leaving the Circle / Rare Plays

Clarification

A jumper may legally recover the ball *after* restrictions have ended—even if the play looks unusual.

Guiding Principle

If the ball has touched the floor, a non-jumper, or an official, jump ball restrictions have ended.

Interpreter Emphasis

Teach officials to rule based on *restriction status*, not aesthetics. Rare plays require rules-based judgment, not instinct.

3. Jump Ball Violations – Throw-In Location

Clarification

Following a jump ball violation, the throw-in is administered at the **nearest 28-foot mark** on the side of the violation.

Interpreter Emphasis

This applies regardless of frontcourt or backcourt status.

4. Division Line Throw-Ins – Violation Administration

Clarification

When a violation occurs on a division-line throw-in (start of quarter or technical foul), the ensuing throw-in **remains at the division line.**

Interpreter Emphasis

This interpretation has been confirmed through NFHS discussion, even if not easily found in archived publications.

5. Timing Errors – End of Game Situations

Clock Does Not Start / Stops Improperly

Clarification

There are no “do-overs” for timing errors when officials have definite knowledge of elapsed time.

Guiding Philosophy

Officials must rely on awareness, backcourt counts, and mechanics—not replay.

Interpreter Emphasis

Late-game preparation (clock awareness, partner communication) prevents unfixable situations.

6. Delay of Game Under Five Seconds

Clarification

If a team intentionally delays a throw-in under five seconds to stop the clock, officials are directed to **ignore the violation and allow time to expire.**

Additional Guidance

If officials incorrectly stop play, a technical foul may be assessed for violating the spirit of the rule.

7. Secondary Coverage Areas (Crew of Two)

Clarification

Officials must trust primary coverage areas but intervene when they are: - Late - Right - Needed

Interpreter Emphasis

Promote courage without over-officiating. Secondary coverage should save the crew, not undermine it.

8. Blood on the Jersey

Clarification

- Blood situations receive **20 seconds** to be corrected - Applies **only to blood**, not all injuries

If Not Corrected

- Team may use a timeout - Or substitute the player

Interpreter Emphasis

Common sense applies to dried or clearly old blood. Safety and practicality must coexist.

9. Jersey Removal – Blood Situations

Clarification

Removing a jersey within visual confines is technically unsporting, but education and prevention are preferred.

Interpreter Emphasis

Proactively instruct coaches to have players change away from the visual confines to avoid unnecessary technical fouls.

10. Four Players on the Court

Clarification

If a team ends up with four players due to substitution error, the absent player **may not return** until the next legal substitution opportunity.

Interpreter Emphasis

Officials should count **5 and 5** before administering play—prevention is key.

11. Non-Playing Personnel (Cheerleaders / Photographers)

Clarification

- No non-playing personnel between lane lines - Officials must have adequate space to operate safely

Interpreter Emphasis

Encourage interpreters to seek state association backing when site management support is lacking.

12. End-of-Period Whistles

Clarification

Officials should **not blow the whistle** to reinforce the horn.

Only Whistle If

- The ball is still in the shooter's hand - A violation occurs before release

Interpreter Emphasis

Unnecessary whistles create false expectations of fouls.

13. Contact Above the Shoulders

Clarification

Contact above the shoulders may be ruled: - Incidental (rare) - Player control - Intentional - Flagrant

Key Distinction

Elbow speed relative to body speed determines severity.

Interpreter Emphasis

When in doubt, err toward player safety.

References:

IAABO Rules Guide 11:9:F-H, Play Situation 11-9-4, 11-9-5, NFHS Casebook: 4.19.3F, 9.13.1B, 9.13.2

14. Medical Monitoring Devices

Clarification

Medical monitoring (e.g., glucose alerts) should be treated as **injury situations**.

Interpreter Emphasis

Player safety overrides procedural rigidity.

15. 30-Second Timeouts

Clarification

- Players on the court must stand - Bench personnel may sit or stand

16. Advantage on Delayed Return Throw-Ins

Clarification

A delayed return followed by first touch is a violation **only if advantage is gained**.

Interpreter Emphasis

Advantage—not technicality—should guide enforcement.

17. Offensive Basket Interference – Slapping Backboard

Clarification

If an **offensive** player slaps or strikes the backboard, causing the basket/backboard to vibrate when the ball is touching the backboard, is on or in the basket or in the cylinder, it is basket interference.

This can occur when a player attempts a lay-up and decides to slap the board during the attempt. If the try is successful, the goal should be cancelled.

Closing Guidance

These clarifications are intended to promote **consistency, credibility, and confidence**. Interpreters should emphasize philosophy and intent alongside rule language when educating officials.