

# Selected Comments on the 2003–04 High School Rules Revisions

**WARNING SIGNAL FOR REPLACING A DISQUALIFIED PLAYER ADDED (2–12–5):** A warning signal will now be sounded at 20 seconds before the expiration of the 30-second interval permitted for replacing a disqualified or injured player. This warning horn will be consistent with other timing situations and will communicate to the head coach that the substitution interval is about to end.

**FURTHER DEFINITION OF BASKET INTERFERENCE ADDED (4–6–4 New and 9–11–4 New):** This change further defines basket interference to include when a player pulls down a movable ring so that it contacts the ball before the ring returns to its original position. This situation was not previously covered by the rules.

**POINT-DIFFERENTIAL RULE ESTABLISHED: “Mercy Rule” (5–5 Note):** A state association, by adoption, may institute a “running clock” (not stopping the clock when required by rule) when a specified point differential is reached at a specified time in the game.

**NUMBER OF LANE-LINE PLAYERS REDUCED FOR FREE THROWS (8–1–3):** The number of players permitted on marked lane-spaces during free throws (not including the free-thrower) is reduced to four defensive and two offensive players, with the lane spaces closest to the free-throw line (and the shooter) remaining vacant. It is hoped this change will help reduce the amount of rough play during free throws and may provide the defense a rebounding advantage (one that may have been diminished with the return to the “rim” restrictions). Fewer players on the lane should also make the free-throw situation easier to officiate.

**HEAD COACH DIRECTLY PENALIZED WHEN PLAYER PARTICIPATES AFTER BEING DISQUALIFIED (10–5–3):**

A new article was added indicating that the head coach shall not permit a player to participate after being disqualified. This change merely removes the provision from Rule 10–3–2 as a player technical and places it under the head coach’s responsibility in 10–5–3. The penalty still results in two free throws and the ball to the offended team, but now assesses a direct technical foul to the head coach (rather than an indirect).

**Editorial Change 4–23 Further Clarified:** In order for a player to establish legal guarding position both feet must be touching the playing floor. In order to maintain legal guarding position, the guard must have in-bounds status.

**Spirit and Intent:** In addition, the spirit and intent of the game of basketball has traditionally been that play occurs within the boundary lines. This concept is supported by numerous rules, including: out of bounds, player location/status, leaving the court for an unauthorized reason, and others.

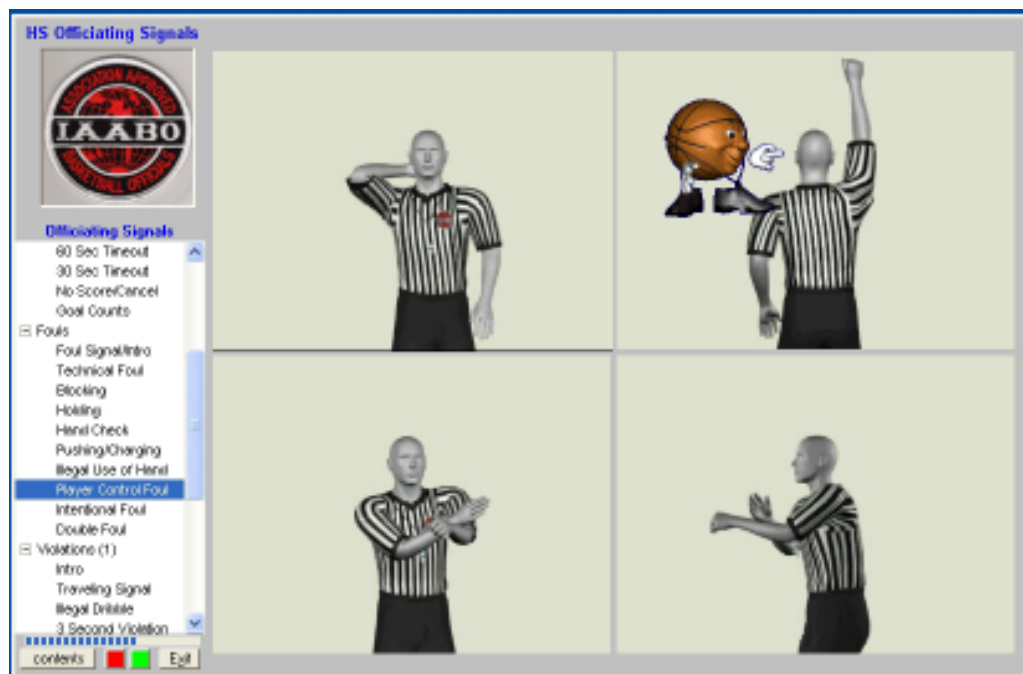
4–23–3a: When the book was edited to reflect this intent, 4–23–3a was changed to read, “The guard is not required to have either or both feet on the playing court or continue facing the opponent.” The intent of this sub-article was that the defensive player could be in the air and not touching the floor/ground/playing court. Understanding that the defensive player must have in-bounds status to maintain legal guarding position should help alleviate any confusion.

**Officiating:** There is no doubt that a block/charge call is a difficult call to make. Officials should know the location of the defensive player’s feet to properly call this play. If officials referee the defense, it becomes easier, but it is still quite possible that an official might not see a portion of the defender’s foot on the boundary line when contact occurs. Officials aren’t expected to do anything beyond what they were doing previously. Referee the defense and call the play as they see it. It’s still a judgment call.

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## Signals and Mechanics



High School Officials always seem to emulate the officials they see on the T.V. They mirror the mannerisms and mechanics of the high profile collegiate veterans on a regular basis. Bouncing the ball to the thrower-in along the end-line is prevalent. In crew of two mechanics, one frequently observes the lead official bounce the ball across the lane out of bounds to the thrower-in rather than move to the opposite side of the basket. Stopping the clock is becoming a thing of the past in high school basketball. In order to teach yourself proper mechanics, IAABO has developed a complete tutorial demonstrating all mechanics. It is a tremendous investment to refresh the memory of any official. The tutorial is available on disc. Visit the IAABO website for details.