

Boys and Girls Basketball – MN Rules Modification: Basket Interference

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Indicate the category of the proposed recommendation

State Tournament Recommendations regarding Format and Non-NFHS Rules or NFHS Experiments

Authors of the Proposal

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Activity/Activities (Check all that apply)

Basketball, Boys, Basketball, Girls

Current Rule/Policy

State the rule/policy as it appears in the current MSHSL Handbook or Activity/Sport Specific Rules and Policies.

NFHS Basket Interference Rule:

Basket interference occurs when a player: touches the ball or any part of the basket (including the net) while the ball is on or within either basket (4-6-1); touches the ball while any part of the ball is within the imaginary cylinder which has the basket ring as its lower base (4-6-2); touches the ball outside the cylinder while reaching through the basket from below (4-6-3); or pulls down a movable ring so that it contacts the ball before the ring returns to its original position (4-6-4).

If a player has his/her hand legally in contact with the ball, it is not a violation if such contact with the ball continues after it enters the imaginary cylinder or if in such action, the player touches the basket.

Dunking is legal and is not basket interference.

A player shall not commit basket interference.

Proposed Recommendation

Submit your proposed change to the above-stated rule/policy.

The proposal is to add "Causes the basket or backboard to vibrate when the ball is on or within the basket or the backboard and/or is on or in the cylinder" which is listed in the NCAA rule- #5.

Here is the NCAA rule:

Art. 2. Basket interference

a. Basket interference occurs when a player:

1. Touches the ball or any part of the basket while the ball is on or within the basket;
 2. Touches the ball while any part of it is within the cylinder that has the ring as its lower base;
 3. Reaches through the basket from below and touches the ball before it enters the cylinder; or
 4. Pulls down a movable ring so that it contacts the ball before the ring returns to its original position.
 5. Causes the basket or backboard to vibrate when the ball is on or within the basket or the backboard and/or is on or in the cylinder.
- b. The cylinder is the imaginary geometric figure that has the ring as its base and is formed by the upward extension of that ring.
- c. The ball shall be considered to be within the basket when any part of the ball is below the cylinder and the level of the ring.
- d. A player may have a hand legally in contact with the ball, when this contact continues after the ball enters the cylinder or when, during such action, the player touches or grabs the basket.

Include any other policies that are impacted by this proposal.

No other policies

Rationale

What is the history of the proposal?

The judgment of whether or not the ball is traveling upward or downward becomes EXTREMELY difficult for the official AFTER the ball has hit the backboard, especially considering the near simultaneous nature of the defender touching the ball and the ball touching the backboard.

To make things easier for the officials, the proposal would be to include language in the rule where it is considered a goaltend AFTER the ball hits the backboard, regardless of the ball going up or down, similar to the college rule.

The rules are very similar and the proposal is to add the hitting the backboard causing vibration that does not allow the ball to go in.

It seems to be a fairly regular occurrence in HS basketball. Most HS players are athletic enough to slap the back board and are only doing so if they are clearly and obviously beat by the offensive player going in for a layup. Adding this language also makes it easier on officials and creates a clear black and white situation rather than the ambiguity that currently exists.

The proposal, in collaboration with and support from MSHSL Assistant Director Jason Nickleby and Supervisor of Basketball Officials Steve Makowske, was presented to the NFHS Rules Committee in 2023 but was not adopted.

How does your proposal benefit education-based opportunities and MSHSL Mission and Beliefs for all Minnesota students?

The proposal would enhance the knowledge of the rule and consistent interpretation which would result in better understanding of the rule for Coaches, Athletes, and spectators resulting in improved sportsmanship when the situation occurs.

What other policies are significant in this proposal?

No other policies would be impacted.

Provide evidence of support for the proposal from other groups

A 2022 Survey of Boys Basketball Coaches (230 respondents) resulted in the following:

In Favor: 89.1%

Opposed: 10.9%

Discussion in a National HS Basketball Coaches meeting indicated many other states would favor the rule change as well.

MSHSL Staff and Officials have also indicated favor in the rule change as well.

Impact

How does your proposal affect this activity, including its impact on all classes, areas of the state, and variety of schools

The proposal would result in a consistent interpretation of the rule re: basket interference for all classes and all areas of the state.

Administration

How does your proposal impact section and state tournaments?

No impact on Section and State Tournaments

Length of Tournament

How does your proposal impact the needed competition time for section and state tournaments?

No impact

Participants

How does your proposal impact the number of participants/teams?

No Impact

How does your proposal impact the percentage of participants/teams that would qualify for the state tournament?

No Impact

Facilities

How does your proposal impact the facilities needed to accommodate your recommendation at both the section and state level?

No impact

Awards

How does your proposal impact the number of awards at both section and state?

No Impact

Other

Provide any other pertinent information not included in this proposal

The proposal is the result of a collaborative effort with and information provided by MSHSL staff and Officials.

Minnesota has adopted modifications of NFHS rules in multiple sports so precedent is in place for adopting this rule modification.

Primary Author and Contact for Proposal

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