



IHSA Basketball Rule Adoptions for 2021-22

1. The Mercy Rule (Rule 5-5-3) will be used in all regular season contests, regular season tournament games, and through the Super-Sectional level in the IHSA State Series contests. A running clock shall be used in the fourth quarter games that have at least a 30-point score differential. Once a game reaches this differential and the clock starts running, it will continue running and stop only for one of the following:
 - A team timeout
 - An injury timeout or the removal of a disqualified player.
 - The administration of a penalty for a technical foul
 - An officials' timeout
 - Correctable error situation

Note: The Mercy Rule will not be used during the Boys' or Girls' State Final contests.

2. The IHSA has adopted the use of a 28' coaches box for all regular and post season contests. Schools and officials are reminded that the use of the box is NOT a requirement. However, if the box is going to be used, it must be placed on the floor in accordance with rule 1-13-2. Schools and officials are also reminded that rule 10-5-4 and 10-6-1 clearly articulate the manner in which coaches can be off the bench within the confines of the box and the manner in which officials are to penalize the head coach or other bench personnel who violate the provisions of the coaches box rule.
3. Due to players wearing masks during contests, a media time-out will be taken each quarter at the first dead ball under the 4-minute mark to give players an opportunity to catch their breath.

Editor's Note:

The National Federation of State High School Associations has approved a state adoption rule for implementation of a shot clock in high school basketball. States choosing to adopt this rule can do so beginning with the 2022-23 season, using the model guide created by the NFHS Basketball Rules Committee. Illinois has yet to take a stance on this rule adoption and plans to use the current school year to gather feedback on when and how the rule might be implemented in Illinois. During the 2021-22 season, the IHSA Board of Directors has determined that no games, tournaments, shootouts, etc. conducted in Illinois will be allowed to experiment with the shot clock.