

# **NTBA Game Rules**

All National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) apply **except**:



## **Time**

9U/3rd grade – 12U/6th grade: Two 14-minute halves  
13U/7th grade – 11th/12th grade: Two 16-minute halves  
(Clock stops on all whistles unless the “mercy” rule is in effect)

## **Free-Throw / Bonus Rule**

Teams will shoot the double bonus (2 free throws) on the 10<sup>th</sup> team foul per half. *No 1-and-1 free throws.*

## **Mercy Rule**

If a team is up by 25 points or more then the clock will continue to run except during time-outs (clock will stop again on all whistles once the score is back under 20 points).  
Teams cannot press while the Mercy Rule is in effect.

## **Time-Outs**

Each team is given (2) two full time-outs and (2) thirty second time-outs per game for regulation. Time-outs do NOT carry over to each overtime. Each team is awarded (1) thirty second time-out for each overtime period.

## **Overtime**

First overtime will be (2) two minutes. Second overtime will be (2) two minutes. Starting with the third overtime, the time period will be (1) one minute. Each overtime after this will be (1) one minute until a winner is determined. This overtime rule will be for both pool play and bracket play.

## **Game Ball Size**

3rd – 6th grade boys (9U-12U age divisions): 28.5 intermediate size basketball  
*(\*6th/12u can use 29.5 ONLY if both coaches agree)*  
7th – 11th/12th grade boys (13U-19U age divisions): official men’s size basketball (29.5)  
3rd – 11th/12th girls: official women’s size basketball (28.5)  
The officials will choose the game ball to use for games. Both teams should have NFHS approved basketballs.

## **Half time and Pre-Game allotted time**

Half time: 2 minutes (but tournament director holds the right to shorten if needed)  
Pre-Game: 3 minutes (but tournament director holds the right to shorten if needed)  
*Each team should be stretched and ready to go as soon as the previous game is finished*

## **Scorebook**

The “home” team will provide someone to keep the official scorebook. NTBA recommends that the “away” team scorebook keeper sit beside the home team scorebook keeper to communicate and be proactive on any disputes. NTBA will provide someone to keep the scoreboard/clock. If for some reason no one is available to keep the scoreboard, then the away team will provide a responsible person for this (16 years or older).

## **Jersey numbers**

NTBA allows all numbers to be worn on jerseys. There are no illegal numbers.

## **Grace Period**

If a team is not present at game time, a 5-minute grace period will be given. If a team is not present (note: NTBA staff must see 5 players on the team) within that 5-minute grace period, the team present will be awarded a 25-0 forfeit win.

## **Starting Games Early**

Games should NOT start early unless BOTH head coaches agree. As long as both head coaches agree, games may start early.

## **Artificial Noise Makers / Pre-Game Music**

No artificial noise makers can be used at any time during the games and pre-game music is not allowed in facilities with multiple courts.