

Basketball Comments on the Rules - 2018-19

By NFHS on May 17, 2018 [basketball](#)

Addition to the description of the surface of the basketball (1-12-1c): Each year basketball manufacturers are becoming more creative in the design of the basketball. Even though these innovative designs are popular, they may not meet NFHS standards. In an attempt to give more specific direction, the committee added terminology to better describe the accepted surface of a legal basketball.

History of Changes in the basketball

- 1955 Rubber covered ball may be used
- 1957 Ball color must be tan or yellow
- 1959 Orange colored ball may be used
- 1960 Ball must be orange or natural tan
- 1968 Ball channels limited to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch
- 1985 A 1-inch smaller and 2-ounce lighter ball adopted for high school girls
- 2003 Multiple-paneled basketballs permitted
- 2015 Effective 2019-20 ball colors shall be Pantone Matching System (PMS) orange 152, red-orange 173 or brown 1535

An EXCEPTION added to the backcourt violation (9-9-1): To ensure that an offensive team is not unfairly penalized when the ball is deflected by the defense from the frontcourt to the backcourt. This exception allows the offense to recover the ball (that still has frontcourt status) in the backcourt without penalty. This also makes the play situation on the deflected pass consistent with other codes with very similar team control and backcourt rules.