



November 26, 2025

NFHS Basketball Weekly Rule Interpretations

Rule Reference: 7-5-4 – Throw-In Spot Determination (2025)

Purpose

The purpose of this interpretation is to clarify the updated procedure for determining the designated throw-in spot in both the frontcourt and the backcourt following a stoppage of play not caused by the ball going out of bounds. Beginning in 2025, officials are to use the three-point line to determine the location of a designated-spot throw-in, instead of relying on an imaginary line. This change enhances:

- Accuracy: Clear, visible court markings, in both the frontcourt and the backcourt, reducing judgment errors.
 - Consistency: All officials can apply the rule the same way across all facilities.
 - Clarity: Coaches and players better understand throw-in locations since the markings are familiar and visible.
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Rule Language

7-5-4 – Throw-In Spot:

Officials shall determine the designated spot by using the three-point line. If the stoppage of play occurs on or within the three-point line, the designated spot shall be the nearest point on the end line 3-feet outside the lane line. (See Diagram.) If the stoppage occurs outside the three-point line, the designated spot shall be the nearest sideline at the 28-foot line.

Interpretation

- When play is stopped for any reason other than an out-of-bounds violation, a technical foul, or to begin a quarter, the throw-in spot is now based on the three-point line.
 - Officials no longer use an imaginary line to approximate the throw-in area.
 - This provides a more visible and consistent reference point for both teams and officials.
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Game Scenario

Team A has the ball in its frontcourt when B2 commits a foul outside the three-point line, near the scorer's table. Play is stopped, and Team A is awarded a throw-in at the 28-foot mark table-side. (See Diagram) **RULING:** Correct Procedure **COMMENT:** Using the three-point line provides a clear and fixed marker, preventing confusion about where the ball should be inbounded and reduces inconsistency

Points of Emphasis for Officials and Coaches

- Throw-in spots in the frontcourt and the backcourt after stoppages not caused by the ball going out of bounds, technical fouls and to begin a quarter are now determined by the three-point line.
- Imaginary lines are no longer used.
- Officials must consistently apply this rule for all frontcourt and backcourt throw-ins.

- Coaches should ensure players are aware of this new procedure to avoid confusion during games.
- Throw-ins resulting from a technical foul or to begin a quarter will continue to be administered at the division line.

