

IHSAA & IGHS AU Shot Clock: Case Scenarios

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Statement 1: The shot clock guidelines say that the shot clocks shall be recessed and mounted on the backboard supports behind each backboard. What if they are flush mounted with the front surface of the backboard and not recessed? What if they are mounted a large distance above the top of the backboard on the supports and are slightly within the field of play?

RULING: Play and notify the IGHS AU and IHSAA. If the shot clock is within the field of play, and a ball hits the shot clock, this would be ruled "out of play."

Statement 2: The shot clocks can support tenths of a second and are configured to do so. It operates in full seconds initially, but then changes to display tenths lower in the countdown. When the shot clock is reset and started, it immediately turns from 35 to 34. (In theory it is representing 34.9 down to 34.0 while physically showing "34".

RULING: The IHSAA & IGHS AU recommends that tenths of seconds are not used on the shot clock.

Statement 3: The shot clock horn and the game clock horn are identical in sound.

RULING: The IHSAA & IGHS AU recommends that two different sounds are used to identify the game clock and shot clock.

Statement 4: The shot clock has been only programmed to begin at 35 seconds. Team A shoots the ball hitting the rim with 30 seconds left on the game clock. The shot clock cannot be turned off.

RULING: The IHSAA & IGHS AU recommend that the shot clock be turned off if the game clock is under 35 seconds. If this is not possible, the shot clock should be reset to 35 and not started.

IHSAA & IGHS AU Shot Clock Scenarios:

Situation 1: Upon arrival at the facility where the varsity contest is to be held, the officials notice: A) the facility has no shot clocks, B) the shot clocks are mounted to the wall, C) the shot clocks are not working prior the start of the game.

RULING: The IHSAA & IGHS AU require that varsity contests are to be held using a shot clock, that the shot clocks are mounted to the backboard and/or backboard supports and are to be used during the entirety of the contest, unless they malfunction after the start of the contest. In all above situations, the contest is not to be held until the requirements are met. Officials are not to officiate the contest under any circumstances, even if both teams are willing to play without a shot clock. Schools may use one of their scrimmages if available if they so desire. The officials may decide whether or not they will participate in the scrimmage.

Situation 2: Once the game has started, one of the shot clocks malfunctions, while the other shot clock is usable. What is the protocol to be used?

RULING: The IHSAA & IGHS AU require that both shot clocks should be turned off and the alternative timing device and PA protocols be used until both clocks are properly functioning.

Situation 3: Are shot clocks required to be used below the varsity level?

RULING: No. It is a local school district/conference decision regarding the use of the shot clock below the varsity level. The IHSAA & IGHSAA recommend that communication take place between schools prior to the traveling team arriving as to the status of the use of shot clocks. Home management should communicate with the officials upon arrival regarding whether the shot clock will be used for the contest(s). Procedures also state that the shot clock is to be used for the entirety of the contest, meaning that if the shot clock operator is not there at tip off, the shot clock is not to be used once the contest starts. Shot clocks are not to be used at the junior high level.

Situation 4: Assume that shot clocks have failed and a stopwatch is being used with a countdown on the PA. Team A in control of the ball with 8 seconds on the shot clock is the visiting team. As the PA announcer is counting 8...7...6... the home student section is counting 4...3...2... and effectively competing with and drowning out the PA announcer.

RULING: Administration should address the issue no differently than if a spectator had a whistle.

Situation 5: All shot clocks are working normally. Team A (the visitor, in the 1st half) has control of the ball with 8 seconds left. A1 is in the front court, table-side, wide near the baseline working to get the ball inside. A) Bench personnel from the Team B who are very near A1, begin a verbal countdown of 3...2...1... while the shot clocks still says 8 seconds. B) The same "false count" is done by the student section.

RULING: In A, where bench personnel were involved, we would allow the immediate play action to finish, but as soon as the basket was scored or a new shot-clock period had begun we would stop play and warn Team B's coach that this was unsporting conduct by his bench under 4-19-14 (unfair, unethical, dishonorable conduct or any behavior not in accordance with the spirit of play.). Team A would also be advised at that time as a preventive measure. However, in B where only spectators were involved, there should be no such enforcement and the game should play on.

Situation 6: With 29 seconds remaining on the shot clock and 4 seconds remaining on the 10-second backcourt count, Team A inbounds the ball from its sideline in the backcourt. When does the shot clock and ten-second backcourt count begin?

RULING: Both counts begin when an inbounds player legally touches the ball inbounds.

Situation 7: The time on the game clock is 5:30 and the shot clock reads 0:30. A1 shoots the ball with five seconds on the shot clock and the ball does not hit the ring or flange. Team A recovers the ball and the shot-clock operator, by mistake, resets the shot clock. No one notices the mistake by the shot-clock operator at this time. The game clock gets to 4:55 and B2 commits a foul against A2. Now, the officials get together and realize the shot-clock operator's mistake.

RULING: When the officials have definite information relative to the shot-clock operator's mistake, it is permissible to rectify that mistake. In this case, since the officials have definite information relative to the time involved, they shall put time back on the game clock and award the ball to Team B at a designated spot nearest to where the ball became dead for the shot-clock violation.

Situation 8: With 35 seconds on the shot clock, Team A inbounds the ball from their own end line. The shot clock starts when A2 legally touches the ball in the backcourt. With 23 seconds showing on the shot clock, B1 slaps the ball out of bounds. The official checks the clocks after the whistle and both the game clock and the shot clock stop on the whistle, so there is no timing mistake. The official realizes that the shot clock displays 23 seconds and that there should have been a 10-second backcourt violation when the shot clock reached 25 with Team A still in control in the backcourt.

RULING: The officiating crew has erred in not stopping the shot clock when it reached 25 seconds and failing to call a 10-second backcourt violation. The ball should be awarded to Team B at a designated spot nearest to where the violation occurred and the game clock reset to the time when the violation occurred.

Situation 9: B1 blocks A1's try for goal and the shot clock expires. The shot-clock horn sounds after B2 has clearly gained possession of the ball.

RULING: The shot-clock horn shall be ignored; the shot clock shall be reset and play shall continue.

Situation 10: B1 blocks A1's try for goal and the shot clock expires. The shot-clock horn sounds: a. While the ball is loose on the playing court; b. While A2 gains possession of the ball; or c. While the blocked try is in the air, the ball subsequently strikes the ring or flange or goes in the basket.

RULING a and b: Team A has committed a shot-clock violation because the try did not strike the ring or flange.

RULING c: The shot-clock horn shall be ignored and play shall continue with the shot clock reset upon possession by either team because A1 complied with the shot-clock rule when the try struck the ring or flange or entered the basket.

Situation 11: A1 releases the ball on a try for goal. After the ball leaves A1's hand(s), the shot-clock horn sounds. The ball: a. Hits the backboard and goes through the basket; b. Hits the backboard and rebounds directly to A2 or B1 without hitting the ring or flange; or c. Hits the backboard, strikes the ring or flange and rebounds directly to A2.

RULING a: Score the field goal. **b:** A shot-clock violation by Team A has occurred because the try did not hit the ring or flange. The referee shall sound the whistle, and the ball shall be awarded to Team B at a designated spot nearest to where the violation occurred. **c:** There is no shot-clock violation because the try hit the ring or flange. The shot clock shall be reset when Team A establishes possession of the ball on the rebound.

Situation 12: Player A1 attempts a try for goal and: a. The shot-clock horn sounds while the ball is in flight. The ball does not hit the ring or flange and is simultaneously recovered by A2 and B2 for a held ball; or b. After the try does not hit the ring or flange, it is simultaneously recovered by A2 and B2 for a held ball. The shot-clock horn does not sound.

RULING a: A shot-clock violation has occurred and the ball is awarded to Team B at a designated spot. **b:** Since the shot-clock horn has not sounded, there is no violation. The alternating-possession arrow shall be used with no reset of the shot clock when the alternating-possession arrow favors the team that shot the ball.

Situation 13: Player A1 is dribbling the ball in backcourt and with 29 seconds left on the shot clock when Player B5 intentionally: a. kicks the ball; or b. fists the ball.

RULING: a and b: The ball is dead when the violation occurs and is awarded to the opponents for a throw-in from the designated out-of-bounds spot nearest the violation. The shot clock will remain at 29 seconds. Additionally, Team A will have 10 seconds to advance the ball into the frontcourt.

NOTE: Any other violation under Rule 9 will result in a full reset of the shot clock.

Situation 14: Player A1 is dribbling the ball in the front court in near the team bench area when the shot clock expires.

RULING: Team A has committed a shot-clock violation and the ball is awarded to the opponents for a throw-in from the designated out-of-bounds spot nearest the violation. In this situation the designated out-of-bounds spot would be near Player A1.

Situation 15: Player A1 takes a shot prior to the shot clock hitting zero which does not hit the rim or flange and is caught by Player A2 after the shot clock horn goes off.

RULING: Team A has committed a shot-clock violation and the ball is awarded to the opponents for a throw-in from the designated out-of-bounds spot nearest the violation. In this situation the designated out-of-bounds spot would be near where Player A2 caught the ball.

Situation 16: Team B gains control of a rebound with 19 seconds left in the 1st quarter and the shot clock has been turned off. Should the official use a visible count for a backcourt violation.

RULING: Yes, in this situation, the IHSAA & IGHSAA recommend a visible count be used.

Situation 17: There are 26 seconds on the game clock and A1 is awarded a free throw. The shot clock should be turned off?

RULING: Yes.

Situation 18: A1's try strikes the rim and falls to the floor. The official has an inadvertent whistle and uses the AP arrow to resume play. Regardless of which team the AP arrow favors, the shot clock is set to 35 seconds.

RULING: Yes.

Situation 19: You must have an alternate timing device (digital stopwatch) or similar procedure available in the case of failure or lack of the availability of the electronic clocks.

RULING: Yes.

Situation 20: All fouls necessitate a reset to a full 35 seconds of the shot clock.

RULING: No. After any double personal or technical fouls or simultaneous personal or technical fouls when there is team control unless the penalty for the foul results in a change of possession, additionally, after any technical foul(s) is assessed to a team in control of the ball, or to the team entitled to the ball before it is at the disposal of the thrower-in, or to bench personnel.

Situation 21: LED lights located around the shot clock may be used, but the lights will only be activated for a shot clock violation.

RULING: Yes.

Situation 22: There are 22 seconds left in the first quarter and the shot clock has been turned off with Team A inbound the ball in the backcourt. Should the trail official use a visible count to determine a 10 second backcourt violation.

RULING: Yes, any time the shot clock is turned off, the IHSAA & IGHS AU require that the officials use a visible count for a potential backcourt violation.