



2017-2018 NCAA Women's Basketball
RULE INTERPRETATIONS/CLARIFICATIONS
As of 12/4/2017

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12/4/17 - Option to Advance the Ball – Inadvertent Whistle (Rule 5-14.2)

A team may advance the ball when the team's head coach or a player makes an oral or visual request for a timeout while: (1) the ball is dead following the opponent's successful goal, (2) the ball is at the disposal of the team for a throw-in or (3) the ball is in player control following a rebound or change of possession before any advance of the ball (Rule 5-14.2). The timeout is granted when it is recognized by an official, who signals the game clock (and shot clock, if running) to stop (Rule 5-11.3).

Before an official may grant a timeout to a team, they must ensure that the team is permitted to request the timeout by rule, similar to when a head coach requests a timeout when the ball is loose on the playing court. When an official sounds their whistle to grant a timeout, but the team is not entitled to a timeout due to the ball not being in control of a player of the requesting team, an inadvertent whistle has occurred (Rule 4-16). This commonly occurs when the official sounds the whistle after the ball has been released during a pass or a throw-in.

There are differences between how inadvertent whistle situations involving timeout requests are to be adjudicated, as seen in the following plays:

Play 1: With less than one minute remaining in the fourth period, A1 secures a defensive rebound. Team A's coach requests a timeout; however, when the official granted the timeout, the ball was

- a. in flight on a pass from A1 to A2 or
- b. released by A1 to start a dribble.

Ruling 1: In (a), this is an inadvertent whistle and play shall resume at the point of interruption, which is based on the location of the player when she threw the pass. The official is permitted to inquire as to whether Team A still wants the timeout, noting that the option to advance is **not** available. In (b), while Team A is entitled to the timeout, they may not advance the ball. When a player secures control of the ball in her backcourt from a rebound or change of possession, she is not permitted to advance the ball of her own volition by a pass or dribble prior to any timeout requested to advance the ball. It does not matter if the pass or dribble is completed.

Play 2: With less than one minute remaining in the fourth period, A1 secures a defensive rebound. Team A's coach requests a timeout; however, when the official granted the timeout,

the ball was

- a. loose following a fumble by A1 or
- b. batted from A1's control by B1.

Ruling 2: This is an inadvertent whistle and play shall resume at the point of interruption, which is based on the location of the ball when the whistle sounded. The official is permitted to inquire as to whether Team A still wants the timeout, noting that the option to advance the ball to the 28-foot throw-in spot in the frontcourt on either side of the playing court is available.

Play 3: With less than one minute remaining in the fourth period, B1 scores. Team A's head coach requests a timeout; however, when the official granted the timeout, A1's throw-in pass has been released but the throw-in had not ended.

Ruling 3: This is an inadvertent whistle and play shall resume at the point of interruption. Because the throw-in had not ended, play resumes with the re-administration of the throw-in (Rule 7-5.1.b). The official is permitted to inquire as to whether Team A still wants the timeout, noting that the option to advance the ball to the 28-foot throw-in spot in the frontcourt on either side of the playing court is available.

11/22/17 - Unsportsmanlike/Disqualifying Fouls and Option to Advance the Ball (Rules 5-14.2, 10-13 and 10-14)

One of the conditions that must exist for a team to advance the ball to the 28-foot throw-in spot in the frontcourt is when the ball is out of bounds in the backcourt, except for the correction of a timing or scoring mistake, an inadvertent whistle, a held ball, a technical foul assessed against the team in control, or an injury, blood situation or a lost or displaced lens after the team has advanced the ball (Rule 5-14.2.a). This means that when a foul is committed in the backcourt of the team in control by their opponents prior to the bonus being in effect, the team in control may advance the ball when they are granted and charged with a timeout.

This has raised the question of when the opponents commit an unsportsmanlike or disqualifying foul, because the awarded throw-in following the free throws is at the division line opposite the scorers' table, and whether this constitutes the ball being "out of bounds in the backcourt". There is no frontcourt or backcourt status when the ball is out of bounds for a throw-in (Rules 9-12.1 and .2). Teams should not be permitted to benefit by committing an infraction of the playing rules. As such, when a team commits an unsportsmanlike or contact disqualifying foul in its opponents' backcourt, or the ball was located in the opponents' backcourt when the disqualifying foul is a noncontact foul, the team entitled to the ball for the unsportsmanlike or disqualifying foul is permitted to advance the ball when they are granted and charged a timeout.

Play 1: With 34.9 seconds remaining in the fourth period, A1 is dribbling in her backcourt when B1 commits an unsportsmanlike foul against A1.

Ruling 1: Any member of Team A is awarded two free throws and Team A is awarded the ball for a throw-in at the division line opposite the scorers' table. If Team A is granted and charged a timeout, Team A may advance the ball to the 28-foot throw-in spot on either side of the playing court.

Play 2: There are 47.1 seconds remaining in the fourth period when A1 commits a noncontact disqualifying foul while B1 is holding the ball in her backcourt.

Ruling 2: Any member of Team B is awarded two free throws and Team B is awarded the ball for a throw-in at the division line opposite the scorers' table. If Team B is granted and charged a timeout, Team B may advance the ball to the 28-foot throw-in spot on either side of the playing court.

10/27/17 – Disposal of the Ball (Rule 4-10).

The rules committee made changes to the timeframes when the available courtside monitor may be used to penalize an unobserved unsportsmanlike or contact disqualifying foul and to review whether a try was released prior to the shot-clock period ending. In order for officials to properly adjudicate these rules, it is important to know what constitutes disposal of the ball for a throw-in.

The ball becomes live when it is at the disposal of a player for a throw-in (Rule 6-2.1.b), and the four methods that are used to determine whether the ball is at a player's disposal are:

- (a) When the ball is handed to the thrower-in or free thrower;
- (b) When the ball is caught by the thrower-in or free-thrower after it is bounced to her;
- (c) When the ball is placed on a spot on the floor; or
- (d) When the ball is available to a player after a goal and the official begins the throw-in count.

(D) describes a situation when the ball has passed through the goal and a player of the non-scoring team has recognized that it is her team's ball and fails to pick up the ball and take it out of bounds for the throw-in. In this situation, the covering official must give the new throw-in team a moment or two to recognize it is their ball for a throw-in and get a player into the area to pick up the ball. When a player of the throw-in team does not pick up the ball and the official determines that the ball is available, the official shall start the throw-in count.

However, when a player of the throw-in team secures control of the ball after the goal and has taken it out of bounds, the ball is at the disposal of the throw-in team once the player is out of bounds with the ball, regardless of whether the throw-in count has started or not.

10/27/17 – Unsportsmanlike or Disqualifying foul by an airborne shooter (Rules 4-1, 10-10.1.b, 10-13 and 10-14).

A player-control foul is a personal foul committed by a player in control of the ball or by an airborne shooter. When an airborne shooter commits a player-control foul and the ball enters the basket either before or after the foul, the goal shall not count (Rule 5-2.15).

A.R. 283 asks whether an airborne shooter can commit a foul that would not be a player-control foul. An airborne shooter can commit an unsportsmanlike or disqualifying foul, and when she does commit one of these fouls, the infraction shall be penalized as determined by the type of foul.

What the approved ruling does not address is whether a goal shall count when an airborne

shooter commits an unsportsmanlike or disqualifying foul after she has released the ball for a try. The intent of the player-control foul rule is to not reward an airborne shooter who commits a personal foul. Given the more serious nature of the unsportsmanlike and disqualifying fouls, when an airborne player commits one of these fouls while the try is in flight, or after the ball has entered the basket, the goal shall not count.

10/27/17 – Ten Seconds in the Backcourt (Rule 9-10).

There are four stoppages of the game which may occur with a team having control in their backcourt which do not give the team in control a new ten seconds to advance the ball into their frontcourt: an out of bounds caused by the defense, a technical foul assessed to the team in control, a held ball with no change in team control, and a timeout granted to the team in control. However, situations may arise when the shot clock may be reset but the team in control is not granted a new ten seconds.

Play: Following a goal, A1 is dribbling the ball in her backcourt when B1 bats the ball out of bounds. The shot clock shows 22 seconds (2 seconds remaining to gain frontcourt status). B3 is assessed a player/substitute technical foul. What happens to the shot clock and the backcourt count?

Ruling: After the free throws for the technical foul, Team A will be awarded the ball for a throw-in at the point of interruption. The shot clock is reset to 30 seconds per Rule 2-11.6.b.2. Because the stoppage in the game was caused by the defense causing the ball to go out of bounds, Team A will have 2 seconds to gain frontcourt status (28 on the shot clock).

9/20/17 – Option to Advance the Ball (Rule 5-14.2)

When a timeout is granted and charged to a team, the game resumes at the exact point at which it was stopped, with the exception of when a team is permitted by rule to advance the ball to the 28-foot mark on either side of the playing court. If a team is permitted to make a throw-in from any point along the end line following a successful or awarded goal, a timeout does not take the ability to move along the end line from the throw-in team. During the last 59.9 seconds of the game, if a team gains control of the ball and advances it prior to being granted a timeout, the team is no longer able to use the option to advance rule, and a successive timeout does not restore the team's ability to advance the ball to their frontcourt.

When a team advances the ball to their frontcourt and informs the officials of their desired throw-in spot, a successive timeout will not permit the team to change the throw-in spot. If the original throw-in spot is the 28-foot mark opposite the scorers' table, a successive timeout does not permit the team to move the throw-in spot to tableside.

7/31/17 – Option to Advance the Ball (Rule 5-14.2).

This year, the rules committee approved a change to the option to advance the ball rule that permits the team advancing the ball to choose which side of the playing court it wishes to make the throw-in from following their charged timeout.

When a team was granted and charged a timeout with less than one minute remaining in the game and the game situation permitted the team to advance the ball to the 28-foot mark in the frontcourt, the team had to notify the officials of their intention to advance the ball prior to the timeout being reported to the official scorer. There has been no change to this part of the rule. Now, the team advancing the ball must also inform the officials of the location of the throw-in prior to the timeout being reported to the official scorer. When a team informs the officials that they wish to advance the ball, but fail to inform the officials which side of the playing court the throw-in will be made before the timeout is reported to the official scorer, the throw-in will be made at the out-of-bounds spot at the 28-foot mark tableside.