Clarifications and Interpretations

By Art Hyland, Secretary/Editor, Men’s Basketball Rules Committee

January 2, 2018

The two rules topics referenced below continue to raise questions about the intent or application of each rule. The following is intended to clarify these issues.

1. **End of Period Situations (First Half)**

   A. **Timing Mistakes** – Per Rule 5-12.1 and 11-2.1.c.1.b and .c, no game-clock timing mistake shall be carried over from one period to the next. These mistakes must be corrected in the period in which they occurred and before the start of intermission. See also A.R. 277.

   B. **Penalties** – Per Rule 5-7.4, no penalty or part of a penalty shall carry over from one period to the next except for disqualification or ejection. In other words, if a player is disqualified or ejected during the first half, that penalty is still in effect during all subsequent periods, but all other fouls must be penalized completely in the period in which they occurred. See also Rule 11-3.1.a.3, 5-7.3.c, A.R. 116 and 305.

   C. **Technical Fouls Following the End of the First Half** – Per Rule 5-7.6, when any technical foul occurs after the ball has become dead at the end of the first half, the second half shall begin by administering the penalty. This includes enforcement of penalties for unsporting technicals, contact dead ball technicals and all flagrant 2 technicals (both contact and non-contact). Following the free throws for an unsporting technical, play shall be resumed at the point of interruption which is a throw-in to the team entitled to the ball under the alternating-possession rule. (Rule 5-7.6 and 4-28.1.e.) Following the free throws for either a contact dead ball technical or a flagrant 2 technical, play shall be resumed with a throw-in by the offended team at the division line on either side of the court. (Rule 5-7.6 and 7-4.8.)

   D. **New Interpretation for Unobserved Flagrant Fouls** – Per Rule 11-2.1.d.2, when officials fail to observe a potential flagrant foul, contact dead ball technical or fight, they may use the monitor to review the act when the play occurs:

      a. When the game clock was stopped, it must be corrected:

         1. During the first dead ball after the clock was properly started.

      b. When the game clock was running, it must be corrected:

         1. During the first dead ball after the clock was properly stopped; or
2. Before the second live ball when the ball became dead after a successful goal but the clock continued to run.

Under this Rule, if an official believes that there may have been an unobserved flagrant or contact dead ball technical near the end of the first half, the official must review the play before leaving the court for the intermission and penalize any infraction as part of the first half. Once the teams and officials leave the court for the intermission, there can be no further instant replay review to determine if a flagrant foul or contact dead ball technical foul occurred prior to the end of the first half, even though this time frame may fall within the statute of limitations described in Rule 11-2.1.d.2.

Since there are some slight differences in the rules pertaining to the enforcement of fouls at the end of the second period or any extra periods, officials should review Rules 5-7.3 and 5-7.6.a for further clarification.

2. Timing Mistakes – The rules for correcting timing mistakes are found in Rule 5-12.1 (games without instant replay) and 11-2.1.c.1 (games with instant replay). There are three types of timing mistakes which often occur near the end of a period. The correct administration of these timing mistakes is as follows:

A. A1 attempts a throw-in and the clock operator mistakenly starts the game clock before the ball has been legally touched inbounds by a player. An official recognizes the mistake and blows his whistle while the ball is in flight or untouched on the court. Ruling – Either with or without the use of instant replay, the official, with definite knowledge of the mistake, shall place the correct time back on the game clock and resume the game with a throw-in by Team A at the original throw-in spot. (A.R. 125(1)

B. In a similar play as above where the clock starts early, the official does not recognize the mistake until the ball is legally touched by Team A (the ball is still in Team A’s control on the throw-in) or controlled inbounds by a Team A player. The official then blows his whistle while the ball is either loose or in a Team A player’s possession. Ruling – The officials, with definite knowledge of the mistake, should place the correct time on the clock when the stoppage occurred with a throw-in to Team A at the nearest out of bounds spot if the ball is in Team A’s backcourt and at the appropriate spot using Rule 7-3.2.a if in Team A’s front court. If the ball is either in Team B’s control or out of bounds off Team A when the whistle blows, the officials should correct the timing error and resume play with a throw-in by Team B. (A.R. 125(2)

C. In a similar play as in A above where the clock starts early, the throw-in is first touched (but not controlled) by a Team B player. The official then blows his whistle while the ball is loose. Ruling- Even though the ball is “loose”, it is still in Team A’s control since the throw-in is a pass between teammates per Rule 4-9.2.b. The officials, with definite knowledge of the mistake, should place the correct time on the clock when the stoppage occurred with a throw-in to Team A at the nearest out of bounds spot if the ball is in Team A’s backcourt and at the appropriate spot using Rule 7-3.2.a if in Team A’s front court. (A.R. 125(2)
D. When the clock operator fails to start the game clock on a throw-in by Team A near the end of a period, and play continues before the officials recognize the mistake and blow a whistle to stop the game, the officials are not permitted to leave the original time on the game clock and repeat the throw-in by Team A. The officials must determine what time, if any, should be on the game clock and place that amount of time on the game clock. If no time remains, the period has ended. (A.R. 126.)

If you have any questions, please email me at art.hyland@comcast.net.