



GUIDELINES FOR CLOCK ADJUSTMENTS IN LAST MINUTE OF PERIOD

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Rule 5-10.2.d requires that during the last 59.9 seconds of any period or extra period, when the ball is legally touched on the playing court following a throw-in or unsuccessful free throw and an official immediately signals to stop the clock, a minimum of 3/10 of a second must expire on the game clock.

What does this mean?

There are situations when the game clock starts when the ball is legally touched on the playing court which starts the game clock and then an official immediately signals for the game clock to stop (i.e., for an out of bounds, foul, timeout, etc.). This rule provides for a minimum amount of time which must expire from the game clock in these situations. When these situations occur, a minimum of 3/10 of a second must expire.

Throw-in situation

Play 1: With 43.3 seconds on the game clock when the official places the ball at A1's disposal for a throw-in. A1 releases the ball onto the playing court and B1 immediately deflects the ball out of bounds. The game clock shows:

- (1) 43.3 seconds
- (2) 43.2 seconds
- (3) 43.1 seconds
- (4) 43.0 seconds
- (5) 42.9 seconds

Ruling 1: In (1) through (3), because a minimum of 3/10 of a second did not expire on the game clock, the officials shall instruct the timer to set the game clock to 43.0 seconds. In (4) and (5), because a minimum of 3/10 of a second expired on the game clock, there is no adjustment made to the game clock.

Free Throw Situation

Play 2: There are 27.9 seconds on the game clock when the official places the ball at the disposal of free thrower A1 for two free throws. A1's last free throw is unsuccessful and the ball is secured by B1, who immediately requests and is granted a timeout. The game clock shows:

- (1) 27.9 seconds
- (2) 27.8 seconds
- (3) 27.7 seconds
- (4) 27.6 seconds
- (5) 27.5 seconds

Ruling 2: In (1) through (3), because a minimum of 3/10 of a second did not expire on the game clock, the officials shall instruct the timer to set the game clock to 27.6 seconds. In (4) and (5), because a minimum of 3/10 of a second expired on the game clock, there is no adjustment made to the game clock.

Other situations

Play 3: There is one minute on the game clock when A1 attempts her last free throw, which is unsuccessful. B1, who is the first player to touch the ball, causes it to go out of bounds. The game clock shows 59.8 seconds. Should the officials have the timer adjust the game clock to 59.7 seconds?

Ruling 3: No. The rule is in effect only when the game clock reads 59.9 seconds or less in any period or extra period.

Note: When the game clock reads 1:00, the actual time remaining in a period may range from 1:00.9 to 1:00.0.