

FIBA OFFICIAL BASKETBALL RULES 2004

OFFICIAL INTERPRETATIONS

The interpretations presented in this document are the FIBA Official Interpretations of the FIBA Basketball Rules 2004 and are effective as of 1st September 2004. Where the interpretations in this document differ from previously published FIBA interpretations, this document shall take precedence.

The FIBA Official Basketball Rules are approved by the FIBA Central Board and are periodically revised by the FIBA Technical Commission.

The rules are kept as clear and comprehensive as possible, but they express principles rather than play situations. They cannot, however, cover the rich variety of specific cases that could happen during a basketball game.

The aim of this document is to convert the principles and concepts of the rulebook into practical and specific situations as they might arise in a normal basketball game.

The interpretations of the different situations can stimulate the officials' minds and will complement an initial detailed study of the rules themselves.

The Official FIBA Basketball Rules shall remain the principal document governing FIBA basketball. However, the referee shall have the full power and authority to make decisions on any point not specifically covered in the rulebook or in the following FIBA official interpretations.

Art. 5 Players - Injury

Statement 1:

If a player is injured or appears to be injured and, as a result, the coach, assistant coach, substitute or any other bench personnel of the same team comes onto the playing court, that player is considered to have received treatment, whether or not actual treatment is administered.

Example 1:

A4 appears to have injured an ankle and the game is stopped.

- (a) The team A doctor comes onto the court and treats A4's injured ankle.
- (b) The team A doctor comes onto the court but A4 has already recovered.
- (c) Coach A comes onto the court to assess A4's injury.
- (d) Assistant coach A, substitute A or team follower A comes onto the court but does not treat A4.

Interpretation:

(a), (b), (c) (d) A4 is considered to have received treatment and shall be substituted.

Statement 2:

There is no time limit for the removal of a seriously injured player from the court if according to a doctor the removal is dangerous for the player.

Example 2:

A4 is seriously injured and the game is stopped for about 15 minutes because the doctor estimates that removal from the court could be dangerous for the player.

Interpretation:

The doctor's opinion shall determine the appropriate time for the removal of the injured player from the court. After the substitution, the game shall be restarted without any sanction.

Art. 9 Beginning and end of a period

Statement 1:

A game shall not begin unless each team has a minimum of five entitled players on the court and ready to play. If fewer than five players are on the court at the time the game is to begin, the officials must be sensitive to any unforeseeable circumstance(s) that could explain the delay. If a reasonable explanation is provided for the delay, a technical foul shall not be charged. If, however, no such explanation is provided, a technical foul and/or forfeiture of the game may result.

Example 1:

When the game is scheduled to begin, team A has fewer than five players on the court and ready to play.

- (a) The representative of team A is able to provide a reasonable and acceptable explanation for the late arrival of the team A players.
- (b) The representative of team A is unable to provide a reasonable and acceptable explanation for the late arrival of the team A players.

Interpretation:

- (a) The beginning of the game shall be delayed for a maximum of 15 minutes. If the absent players arrive on the court ready to play before 15 minutes has passed, the game shall begin. If the absent players have not arrived on the court ready to play before 15 minutes has passed, the game may be forfeited to team B and the score recorded as 20 : 0.
- (b) The beginning of the game shall be delayed for a maximum of 15 minutes. If the absent players arrive on the court ready to play before 15 minutes has passed, a technical foul may be charged to coach A (recorded as B) after which the game shall begin.

If the absent players have not arrived on the court ready to play before 15 minutes has passed, then the game may be forfeited to team B and the score recorded as 20 : 0.

Statement 2:

The Art. 9 clarifies which basket a team is to defend and which basket it is to attack. If by confusion any period begins with both teams attacking/defending the wrong baskets, the situation shall be corrected as soon as it is discovered, without placing either team at a disadvantage. Any points scored, time used, fouls charged, etc. before the stopping of the game remain valid.

Example 1:

After the start of a period, the officials realise that both teams are playing in the wrong direction.

Interpretation:

The game shall be stopped as soon as possible and without placing either team at a disadvantage. Teams shall exchange baskets. The game shall be resumed from the mirror-opposite place nearest to where the game was stopped.

Example 2:

At the beginning of a period, team A is attacking/defending the correct basket when B4 by loss of orientation dribbles to the incorrect basket and scores a field goal.

Interpretation:

The two points shall be awarded to the captain of team A.

Art. 12 Jump ball and alternating possession

Statement:

The team that does not obtain control of the ball on the jump ball at the beginning of the game will be awarded the ball for a throw-in from out-of-bounds at the place nearest to where the next jump ball situation occurs.

Example 1:

A referee tosses the ball for the opening jump ball. Immediately after the ball is legally tapped by jumper A4:

- (a) A held ball between A5 and B5 is called.
- (b) A double foul between A5 and B5 is called.

Interpretation:

Since possession has not yet been established, the official cannot use the alternating possession arrow to award possession. The referee shall conduct another jump ball at the centre circle and A5 and B5 shall jump.

Whatever time has passed on the game clock, after the legal tapping of the ball and before the held ball/double foul situation, shall remain consumed.

Example 2:

Team B is entitled to a throw-in under the alternating possession rule. An official and/or the scorekeeper makes an error and the ball is erroneously awarded to team A for the throw-in.

Interpretation:

Once the ball touches or is touched by a player on the court, the error cannot be corrected. Team B does not lose its alternating possession throw-in opportunity as a result of the error and is entitled to the throw-in when the next alternating possession situation occurs.

Art. 17 Throw-in

Statement 1:

Before a thrower-in has released the ball on a throw-in, it is possible that the throwing-in motion could cause that player's hand(s) with the ball to break the plane of the boundary line separating the in-bounds area from the out-of-bounds area. In such situations, it continues to be the responsibility of the defending player to avoid interfering with the throw-in by contacting the ball while it is still in the hands of the thrower-in.

Example:

A4 is awarded a throw-in. While holding the ball, A4's hand(s) crosses the plane of the boundary line so that the ball is above the in-bounds area. B4 grabs the ball that is in A4's hand(s) or taps the ball out of A4's hand(s).

Interpretation:

B4 has interfered with the throw-in, thereby delaying the resuming of the game. A warning shall be given to B4 and communicated to coach B and this warning shall apply to all team B players for the remainder of the game. The repetition of a similar action by any team B player may result in a technical foul.

Statement 2:

On a throw-in, the thrower-in must pass the ball (not hand the ball) to a team-mate on the playing court. To hand the ball to a player on the court would violate the intent of a throw-in.

Example:

On a throw-in by A4, A4 hands the ball to A5 who is on the playing court.

Interpretation:

A throw-in violation has been committed by A4. The ball must leave the player's hand(s) in order for the throw-in to be considered legal. The ball is awarded to team B for a throw-in from the place nearest to where the violation occurred.

Art. 18/19 Charged time-out / Substitutions

Statement 1:

A charged time-out or a substitution cannot be granted before the playing time for a period has started or after the playing time for a period has been completed.

Example 1:

During the jump ball to start the game but before the ball is legally tapped, jumper A5 commits a violation and the ball is awarded to team B for a throw-in. At this moment either coach requests a time-out or a substitution.

Interpretation:

The time-out or substitution cannot be granted because the playing time has not yet started.

Example 2:

At the same time as the game clock signal sounds for the end of a period or extra period, a foul is called and A4 is awarded two free throws. At this moment either coach requests a time-out or a substitution.

Interpretation:

The time-out or substitution cannot be granted because the playing time has expired.

Statement 2:

The twenty-four second device signal sound does not stop the game clock and therefore it does not create a substitution or time-out opportunity.

Example:

On a shot for a field goal, the ball is in the air when the twenty-four second device signal sounds. The ball then enters the basket. At this time:

- (a) Either one or both teams request substitutions.
- (b) Either one or both teams request time-outs.

Interpretation:

- (a) The twenty-four second device signal is ignored because it does not stop the game clock. The game clock would be stopped and a substitution would be permitted only for the non-scoring team and only in the last two minutes of the 4th period or each extra period, unless an official interrupts the game. If the team that has been scored upon is granted a substitution, then the opponents may also substitute.
- (b) This is a time-out opportunity only for the non-scoring team.

Statement 3:

If a violation is committed by the free-throw shooter on a last or only free throw, the resulting dead ball situation creates a substitution opportunity for both teams, whether or not a request for a substitution was made before the ball was placed at the disposal of the free-throw shooter for the first or only free throw.

Example:

During a last free throw, free-throw shooter A4 commits a violation. A10 and/or B10 now request to enter the game as a substitute. The substitution for either team had not been requested before the last free throw.

Interpretation:

The substitution(s) is permitted. Following a violation, either team may substitute.

Statement 4:

If, following a request for a time-out, a foul is committed by either team, the time-out period shall not begin until the official has completed all communication with the scorer's table relative to that foul. In the case of a 5th foul committed by a player, this communication would include completing the necessary substitution procedure. Once the substitution procedure has been completed, the time-out period shall begin when an official blows his whistle and gives the time-out signal.

Example 1:

A time-out request is made by coach A. The ball next becomes dead as the result of a foul by B4. This is B4's 5th foul.

Interpretation:

The time-out period shall not begin until all communication relative to the foul has been communicated to the scorer's table and a substitute for B4 has entered the game.

Example 2:

A time-out request is made by coach A. The ball next becomes dead as the result of a foul by B4. This is B4's 5th foul. While the official is communicating with the scorer's table, players immediately go to their respective benches, rather than waiting for the official's whistle that begins the time-out.

Interpretation:

Teams shall be permitted to go to their team benches as soon as the game clock is stopped if they are aware that a time-out has been requested, even though that time-out has not yet formally begun.

Statement 5:

If the officials discover that more than five players are playing on the court simultaneously for the same team, the error must be corrected as soon as possible without placing the opponents at a disadvantage.

Assuming that the officials and the table officials are doing their job correctly, one player must have entered or remained on the court illegally. The officials must therefore order one player to be removed from the court immediately and charge a technical foul against the coach of that team (recorded as B). The coach is responsible for ensuring that a substitution is applied correctly and that the substituted player leaves the court immediately after the substitution.

Example:

While the game is being played it is discovered that team A has more than five players playing on the court.

- (a) At the time of the discovery, team B (with five players) is in control of the ball.
- (b) At the time of the discovery, team A (with more than five players) is in control of the ball.

Interpretation:

- (a) The game shall be stopped immediately unless team B is placed at a disadvantage. The player who has entered (or remained in) the game illegally must be removed from the game and a technical foul (recorded as 'B') shall be charged against that team's coach.
- (b) The game shall be stopped immediately. The player who has entered (or remained in) the game illegally must be removed from the game and a technical foul (recorded as 'B') shall be charged against that team's coach.

Statement 6:

After it is discovered that team is participating with more than five players, it is also discovered that points have been scored or a foul committed by player A5 while participating illegally. All such points shall be valid and any foul committed by (or against) that player shall qualify as player fouls.

Example:

The officials realise that A5 is on the court and participating as a 6th player for team A.

- (a) The game is then stopped following a foul by A5.
- (b) The game is then stopped following a field goal by A5.
- (c) The game is then stopped after B5 fouls A5 during an unsuccessful shot for a field goal.

Interpretation:

- (a) The foul by A5 shall be considered a player foul and penalised accordingly.
- (b) The field goal by A5 shall count.
- (c) The free throws resulting from the B5 foul shall be attempted by any team A player on the court at the time of the foul as chosen by coach A.

Statement 7:

The Art. 18 and 19 clarify when a substitution (or time-out) opportunity begins and ends. Coaches desiring a substitution or a time-out must be aware of these limitations and be prepared to make such a request only at the proper time. If the request is made at any time other than during a valid substitution or time-out opportunity as provided in Art. 18 and 19, the substitution or time-out should not be granted.

Example:

A substitution (or time-out) opportunity has just ended when coach A runs to the scorer's table, loudly requesting a substitution (or time-out). The scorekeeper reacts and erroneously sounds the signal. The official blows his whistle and interrupts the game.

Interpretation:

Because of the official's whistle, the ball becomes dead and the game clock remains stopped, resulting in what would normally be a substitution (or time-out) opportunity. However, because the request was made too late, the substitution (or time-out) should not be granted. The game shall resume immediately.

Art. 24 Dribbling**Statement:**

If a player deliberately throws the ball against a backboard (not attempting a legitimate shot for a goal), this is considered the same as if that player has bounced the ball on the floor. If the player then touches the ball again before it has touched (or been touched by) another player, this is considered to be the same as a dribble.

Example 1:

A4 has not yet dribbled when A4 throws the ball against a backboard and catches it again before the ball has touched another player.

Interpretation:

After catching the ball (ball comes to rest in his hands) A4 may shoot or pass but may not begin a new dribble.

Example 2:

After ending a dribble, and either in the continuous motion or standing still, A4 now throws the ball against a backboard and catches it again before it has touched another player.

Interpretation:

A4 has committed a violation for making a new dribble.

Art. 28 Eight seconds

Statement 1:

The application of this rule is based solely on the individual counting of the eight seconds by an official. In case of any discrepancy between the number of seconds counted by the official and those displayed on the twenty-four second device, the decision of the official shall take precedence.

Example:

A4 is dribbling the ball in team A's backcourt when the official calls an eight-second violation. The display on the twenty-four second device shows that only seven seconds have passed.

Interpretation:

The decision of the official is correct. The official is solely entitled to decide when the eight-second period is terminated.

Statement 2:

If an eight-second count in the backcourt is stopped because of a jump ball situation and the resulting alternating possession throw-in is awarded to the team that was in control of the ball, that team shall have only whatever time was remaining in the eight-second period.

Example:

Team A has been in control of the ball for five seconds in the team A backcourt when a held ball occurs. The officials determine that team A is entitled to the next alternating possession throw-in.

Interpretation:

Team A shall have only three seconds remaining to cause the ball to move into the team A frontcourt.

Art. 29 Twenty-four seconds

Statement 1:

When a shot for field goal is attempted near the end of the twenty-four second period and the signal sounds while the ball is in the air, if the ball hits the backboard or misses the ring, a violation has occurred unless the opponents have gained immediate and clear control of the ball.

Example 1:

A shot for goal by A5 is in the air when the twenty-four second device signal sounds. The ball touches the backboard and then rolls on the floor, where it is touched by B6 followed by A6 and is finally controlled by B7.

Interpretation:

This is a twenty-four second violation because the ball missed the ring and then there was no immediate control of the ball by the opponents. Team B is awarded the ball for a throw-in from the endline place nearest to where the violation occurred (but not from behind the backboard).

Example 2:

A shot by A5 touches the backboard, but misses the ring. On the rebound, the ball is touched, but not controlled by B5, after which A4 gains control of the ball. At this time the twenty-four second device signal sounds.

Interpretation:

A twenty-four second violation has occurred. The twenty-four second clock continues to run when the shot fails to touch the ring and the ball is again controlled by a team A player.

Example 3:

At the end of twenty-four second period, A4 with one or both feet on the floor shoots for goal. The shot is legally blocked by B4 and then the twenty-four second device signal sounds. After the signal B4 fouls A4.

Interpretation:

A twenty-four second violation has occurred. B4's foul should be disregarded unless technical, unsportsmanlike or disqualifying. The ball is awarded to team B for a throw-in from the sideline or endline place nearest to where the shot was taken.

Example 4:

A shot for a field goal by A4 is in the air when the twenty-four second device signal sounds. The ball misses the ring on the shot, after which a held ball between A5 and B5 is immediately called.

Interpretation:

A twenty-four second violation has occurred. Team B did not gain immediate and clear control of the ball on the rebound. Team B shall be awarded the ball for a throw-in at the free-throw line extended.

Statement 2:

If a team that was in control of the ball is awarded an alternating possession throw-in, that team shall have only whatever time was remaining in the twenty-four second period at the time the jump ball situation occurred.

Example 1:

Team A is in control of the ball with ten seconds remaining in the twenty-four second period when a held ball occurs. An alternating possession throw-in is awarded to:

- (a) Team A.
- (b) Team B.

Interpretation:

- (a) Team A shall have only ten seconds remaining in the twenty-four second period.
- (b) Team B shall have a new twenty-four second period.

Example 2:

Team A is in control of the ball with ten seconds remaining in the twenty-four second period when the ball goes out-of-bounds.

The officials either cannot agree on whether it was A4 or B4 who was the last to touch the ball before it went out-of-bounds, or cannot determine which player was the last to touch the ball before it went out-of-bounds. An alternating possession throw-in is awarded to:

- (a) Team A.
- (b) Team B.

Interpretation:

- (a) Team A shall have only ten seconds remaining in the twenty-four second period.
- (b) Team B shall have a new twenty-four second period.

Art. 31 Goaltending and interference

Statement 1:

When the ball is above the ring during a field goal or a free throw, it is interference if a player reaches through the basket and contacts the ball.

Example:

On a last or only free throw by A4, before the ball has touched the ring, B4 reaches through the basket and contacts the ball.

Interpretation:

A B4 violation has occurred for touching the ball illegally. One point is awarded to team A.

Statement 2:

When the ball is above the ring during a pass or rebound, it is a violation if a player reaches through the basket and contacts the ball.

Example:

The ball is above the ring as a result of a pass when A4 reaches through the basket and contacts the ball.

Interpretation:

A simple violation (not goaltending or interference) has occurred. Team B shall be awarded the ball (and the new twenty-four second period) for a throw-in from the endline place nearest to where the violation occurred (but not from behind the backboard).

Statement 3:

Following the last or only free throw and after the ball has touched the ring, the free-throw attempt changes its status and becomes a two-point field goal if the ball is legally touched by any player before it enters the basket.

Example:

A last or only free throw by A4 has touched the ring and is bouncing above it when B4 tries to tap the ball away but the ball enters the basket.

Interpretation:

Because the ball has been legally touched, the free-throw attempt has changed its status and two points are awarded to team A.

Statement 4:

If, after a field goal attempt, a player touches the ball while it is in its upward flight, all restrictions related to goal tending and interference shall apply.

Example:

After a shot for a goal by A4, the ball is in the air when it is touched in its upward flight by B5 (or A5). In its downward flight to the basket the ball is touched:

- (a) By A6.
- (b) By B6.

Interpretation:

The contact of B5 (or A5) with the ball in its upward flight is legal and does not change the status of a shot for a goal. However, the subsequent contact with the ball in its downward flight by A6 or B6 is a violation. In

- (a) The ball is awarded to team B for a throw-in.
- (b) Two or three points are awarded to team A.

Statement 5:

It is considered interference if during a shot for a field goal, a defensive player causes the backboard or the ring to vibrate in such a way that the ball, in the judgment of the official, is prevented from entering the basket.

Example:

A4 attempts a shot for a three-point field goal near the end of the game. While the ball is in the air the game clock signal sounds for the end of the game. After the signal, B4 causes the ring or the backboard to vibrate and because of this action, in the judgment of the official, the ball has been prevented from entering the basket.

Interpretation:

Even after the game clock signal sounds for the end of the game, the ball remains live and therefore an interference violation has occurred. The three points are awarded to team A.

Art. 35 Double foul**Statement:**

Whenever there are contradictory decisions of the officials or the infractions of the rules occur at approximately the same time and one of the sanctions is to cancel the scored basket, that sanction prevails and no points shall be awarded.

Example:

While in the act of shooting, there is physical contact between shooter A4 and B4. The ball enters the basket. The lead official calls an offensive foul against A4 and therefore the basket should not count. The trail official calls a defensive foul against B4 and therefore the basket should count.

Interpretation:

This is a double foul and the basket shall not count.

Art. 38 Technical foul**Statement 1:**

When an official warning is given to a player for an action or behaviour which if repeated may lead to a technical foul, that warning shall also be communicated to the coach of that team and shall apply to any member of that team for the remainder of the game. An official warning would be given only when the game clock is stopped and the ball is dead.

Example:

A member of team A is given a warning for:

- (a) Interfering with throw-in.
- (b) Clapping hands in the face of an opponent who is shooting for a successful field goal.
- (c) Unsportsmanlike behaviour.
- (d) Any other action which, if repeated, may lead to a technical foul.

Interpretation:

The warning shall be communicated also to coach A and shall apply to all team A members for the remainder of the game.

Statement 2:

If during an interval of play a technical foul is committed by a team member who is entitled to play and who is designated as player-coach, the technical foul shall count as a player foul and shall count towards the team penalty situation in the following period.

Example:

A4 is a player-coach for team A. A4 is charged with a technical foul for:

- (a) Hanging on the ring during the pre-game or half-time warm up.
- (b) Unsportsmanlike behaviour during an interval of play.

Interpretation:

- (a) and (b) A technical foul shall be charged to A4 as a player. The foul shall count as one of the fouls leading to the team penalty situation in the following period as well as one of the five fouls leading to A4's having to leave the game.

Statement 3:

While the player is in the act of shooting for goal, opponents shall not be permitted to disconcert that player by actions such as waving a hand(s) to obstruct the shooter's field of vision, shouting loudly, stamping feet heavily or clapping hands near the shooter. To do so may result in a technical foul if the shooter is disadvantaged by the action, or a warning if the shooter is not disadvantaged.

Example:

A4 is in act of shooting for a goal when B4 attempts to distract A4 by shouting loudly or stamping feet heavily of the floor. The shot for goal is:

- (a) Successful.
- (b) Unsuccessful.

Interpretation:

- (a) A warning shall be given to B4 and shall be communicated to coach B. This warning shall apply to all players of team B for the remainder of the game for the similar behaviour.
- (b) A technical foul may be charged to B4.

Statement 4:

If a player re-enters the game after having committed a 5th foul and after having been notified that the player is no longer entitled to participate, the illegal participation shall be penalised immediately upon discovery, without placing the opponents at a disadvantage.

Example:

After committing a 5th foul, B4 is notified of being no longer entitled to participate. Later, B4 enters the game as a substitute. B4's illegal participation is discovered:

- (a) Before the ball has become live for the resuming of the game.
- (b) After the ball has again become live and while the ball is in control of team A
- (c) After the ball has again become live and while the ball is in control of team B
- (d) After the ball has again become dead following B4's entering the game

Interpretation:

- (a) B4 shall be removed from the game immediately. A technical foul (recorded as 'B') shall be charged to the coach.
- (b) The game shall be stopped immediately unless team A is placed in disadvantage. B4 shall be removed from the game and a technical foul (recorded as 'B') shall be charged to coach B.
- (c) and (d) The game shall be stopped immediately. B4 shall be removed from the game and a technical foul (recorded as 'B') shall be charged to coach B.

Statement 5:

If, after having been notified of being no longer entitled to participate because of a 5th foul, a player enters the game again and scores a field goal, commits a foul, or is fouled by an opponent before the illegal participation is discovered, the field goal shall count and the foul shall be considered a player foul.

Example:

After having committed a 5th foul and having been notified of being no longer entitled to participate, B4 enters the game again as a substitute. B4's illegal participation is discovered after:

- (a) B4 scores a field goal.
- (b) B4 commits a foul.
- (c) B4 is fouled by A4 (5th team foul).

Interpretation:

- (a) The field goal scored by B4 shall count.
- (b) The foul committed by B4 shall be considered a player foul.
- (c) The two free throws merited by B4 shall be attempted by the substitute for B4.

After all the activity connected with (a), (b), (c) is terminated, the penalty for the technical foul of coach B (recorded as 'B') shall be administered.

Statement 6:

If, after having committed a 5th foul and not having been notified of being no longer entitled to participate, a player remains in (or re-enters) the game, that player shall be removed from the game as soon as the error is discovered (without placing the opponents at a disadvantage). No penalty shall be applied for the player's illegal participation. If that player scores a field goal, commits a foul or is fouled by an opponent, the field goal shall count and the fouls shall be considered player fouls.

Example:

A10 asks to substitute for A4. The ball next becomes dead as a result of a foul by A4 and A10 enters the game. The officials fail to notify A4 that the foul is A4's 5th foul. A4 later re-enters the game as a substitute. The illegal participation by A4 is realised

- (a) After the game clock has started and while A4 is participating as a player.
- (b) After A4 has scored a field goal.
- (c) After A4 fouls B4.
- (d) After B4 fouls A4.

Interpretation:

- (a) The game shall be stopped and A4 shall be removed from the game immediately, replaced by a substitute, without placing team B at a disadvantage. No penalty shall be charged because of A4's illegal participation.
- (b) The field goal scored by A4 shall count.
- (c) The foul committed by A4 shall be considered a player foul and penalised accordingly.
- (d) The foul committed by B4 shall be considered a foul against a player; A4's substitute shall be awarded two or three free throws.

Art. 39 Fighting**Statement:**

If a team is in control of the ball at the time a fight breaks out or threatens to break out, that team shall have only whatever time was remaining on the twenty-four second clock when the game resumes.

Example:

Team A has possession of the ball for twenty seconds when a situation occurs which may lead to a fight. The officials disqualify members of both teams for leaving the confines of the team bench area.

Interpretation:

Team A, who controlled the ball before the fighting situation, will be awarded a throw-in from the centre line extended, opposite the scorer's table with only four seconds left in the twenty-four second period.

Art. 42 Special situations**Statement 1:**

In special situations where a number of penalties are available to be administered during the same stopped clock period, officials must pay particular attention to the order in which the violation or fouls occurred in determining which penalties are to be administered and which penalties are to be cancelled.

Example 1:

A4 attempts a jump shot for a field goal. While the ball is in the air, the twenty-four second device signal sounds. After the signal, but with A4 still in the air, B4 commits an unsportsmanlike foul on A4 and:

- (a) The ball misses the ring.
- (b) The ball only touches the ring but does not enter the basket.
- (c) The ball enters the basket.

Interpretation:

In all three cases the unsportsmanlike foul of B4 cannot be ignored.

- (a) A4 was fouled by B4 while A4 was in the act of shooting (penalty: two or three free throws followed by a throw-in for team A at the centre line extended opposite the scorer's table). After that a twenty-four second violation was committed by A4 (penalty: a throw-in for team B at the free-throw line extended). A4 shall be awarded two or three free throws but team A's right to a throw-in shall be cancelled because it is not the last penalty to be administered. The game shall resume with a throw-in for team B at the free-throw line extended.
- (b) No twenty-four second violation has occurred; two or three free throws shall be awarded to A4, followed by a team A throw-in at the centre line extended, opposite the scorer's table.
- (c) No twenty-four second violation has occurred. two or three points are awarded to A4 followed by one additional free throw for A4. Team A is then awarded the ball for a throw-in at the centre line extended, opposite the scorer's table.

Statement 2:

If a double foul is committed during free-throw activity, or if fouls with equal penalties are committed during free-throw activity, the fouls shall be charged but the penalties shall be cancelled.

Example 1:

A4 is awarded two free throws. After the first free throw, a double foul is committed by A5 and B5.

Interpretation:

Fouls shall be charged to A5 and B5, after which A4 shall attempt the second free throw and the game shall resume normally as after any last or only free throw.

Example 2:

A4 is awarded two free throws. After the first free throw, technical fouls are committed by A5 and then by B5.

Interpretation:

Technical fouls shall be charged to A5 and B5, after which A4 shall attempt the second free throw. The game shall resume normally as after any last or only free throw.

Example 3:

A4 is awarded two free throws. Both free throws are successful. Before the ball can again become live following the last free throw:

- (a) A double foul is committed by A5 and B5.
- (b) A5 and B5 commit technical fouls.

Interpretation:

(a) and (b) Fouls shall be charged to the appropriate players, after which the game shall resume with a throw-in from the endline as after any successful last or only free throw.

Art. 46 Referee: Duties and powers**Statement:**

During a normal basketball game it is quite possible that an incident or situation could occur which is not specifically covered in the FIBA Basketball Rules or FIBA Official Interpretations. In such incidents or situations the referee is empowered to make a decision, based on his personal judgment, within the spirit and intent of fair play and the philosophy of the rules. The referee has the power to make decision on any point not specifically covered by the rules, commonly referred to as the "elastic power" of the referee.

Example:

Following a team A field goal during the last two minutes of the game, the ball rolls far away from the court.

Interpretation:

During the game under normal circumstances, the official would blow the whistle to stop the game clock. Time-outs and substitutions for both teams would then be permitted while the clock is stopped and the ball is dead. This does not apply, however, to after a field goal is scored during the last two minutes of the game in a 4th or any extra period. If an official were to blow his whistle at this time, this would place at a disadvantage the team entitled to the throw-in because it would permit the scoring team to substitute or to request a time-out. Therefore the official will not blow his whistle because this will create an interruption of the game.