

Uniformity and Consistency...Play-Calling Proficiency

Keep Alive While the Ball is Dead

When the ball rolls away from the court, don't turn your head and eyes from potential dead ball action on the court to retrieve it. Rather, continue to face the players and request a player to grab it for you (best if it is a player from the team that will have next possession). Most times, players will happily grab the ball and bring it back. It is important that officials keep their eyes on the potential for issues, as you never know when something might arise.

Pressing Doesn't Come Easy

Often times teams that utilize the full court press need a few seconds between a made basket and the opposing team's throw-in to set up their defensive formation. Of course, their opponents don't wait around for them to get into position and try to get the ball back into play as quickly as possible.

It appears in order break up the action, some players are being instructed to catch or deflect the ball as it drops following a made basket in order to delay—if even for a brief moment—the throw-in team from getting the ball into their teammates right away. This, if not countered by the diligence of the officiating crew, creates a significant disadvantage for the throw-in team. Fortunately, you have the ability to address this in a less-punitive manner for the initial violation. This will make it clear that this tactic won't be allowed, and gives the pressing team a heads up without having to penalize them. Rule 4-47-3 allows for a warning for team delay (reported to the head coach and recorded in the scorebook) for interfering with the ball following a goal. Now, you're on solid ground to issue a team technical for any additional occurrences by that team.

Give 'em Some Space

When the throw-in team line up stacked next to one another, we need to determine whether the formation they set up in is legal. Rule 7-6-5 provides that "Teammates shall not occupy adjacent positions which are parallel to and within 3 feet of the boundary line if an opponent desires one of the positions."

The above scenario is displayed in diagram below. This is the only instance where officials must allow opposing team players to "squeeze in" between players of the throw-in team. In all other circumstances, positions on the court for a throw-in are first come, first serve.



Rules Review: During the free throws following a technical foul, an intentional foul or a flagrant foul, where must the other nine players besides the free throw shooter stand?

- A. Anywhere on the court other than the free throw lane spaces
- B. Behind the division line
- C. Behind the three-point arc and the free throw line extended
- D. In front of their respective bench areas

Last Bulletin's Review: Which results in a designated throw-in at a spot closest to the foul? The answer is all are correct—flagrant personal fouls, intentional fouls and common fouls prior to the bonus.