



ALBERTA BASKETBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

2010-11 EXAM REVIEW

Exam Overview

This year's exam featured a mixture of questions covering rule changes from the new 2010 FIBA rule book as well as questions that address both violations and fouls. We had over 600 writers. The average throughout the province was 78.2%. The high average speaks positively of the education and training that is taking place at the local level. The comments below are intended to assist officials to better understand the rules and apply them correctly in game situations. As we enter the second half of the season it is still a good idea to spend some time reviewing these tougher questions and the remainder of the exam to stay sharp and bring your best game to the floor every time out.

Question 10 (27% correct)

A2 has control of the ball in Team A's frontcourt, when B4 taps the ball out of A2's hands and the ball rolls into Team A's backcourt. Shall the 8-second count start as soon as any Team A player touches the ball?

Answer: No; Article 28.1.1

A good question as it tests a situation that happens often in games. Based on the exam results most officials would not start the count until the player touches the ball. This is incorrect. Team A is in control of the ball in the frontcourt when the ball is deflected by Team B back into the opponent's backcourt. Team A is still considered to have team control. For example the shot clock would continue to count down and fouls committed by Team A would still be considered team control fouls. Why would the 8 second count not begin as soon as the ball is in backcourt and Team A is still deemed to be in control of the ball? By rule they still maintain team control and they have 8 seconds to return the ball to the frontcourt. To hold the count is to penalize the defense for having made an opportunistic play.

Question 14 (30% correct)

Team A executes a throw-in from the end line of their backcourt. With the ball still in Team A's backcourt, the official notices that the 24 second clock has not started. The official blows his whistle and resumes play at the nearest point out of bounds with a new 24 second clock and a new 8 second count for Team A. Is the official correct?

Answer Yes; Articles 50.2; 28.1.3

Article 50.2 is the basis for this question:

Whenever an official blows the whistle as a result of:

The game being stopped because of an action not connected with either team, unless the opponents would be placed at a disadvantage, the twenty-four (24) second clock shall be: Stopped and reset to twenty-four (24) seconds

Again a good question as it tests a situation that unfortunately happens at all levels including ACAC and Canada West play. Time keepers occasionally fail to do their job and despite what most officials thought, the correct procedure is to follow the scenario listed above. FIBA has clarified that the situation described in question 14 does not place the opponents at a disadvantage.

Under what conditions would an official remove time from the clock?

Team A has a throw in from the end line in their backcourt with 28 seconds left in the quarter. As A1 dribbles the ball toward the centre line the official notices that the shot clock has not started. The game clock now reads 22 seconds. If the official simply sounded the whistle and took the ball to the nearest spot this would place Team B at a disadvantage. Team A could hold the ball until near the end of the quarter and prevent Team B from gaining a scoring opportunity. The official should set the shot clock at 18 and indicate to both teams that the backcourt count for Team A is at 6 seconds.

Question 28 (39% correct)

At the beginning of the game, jumper A1 taps the ball directly out of bounds and Team B is awarded a throw-in. On the throw-in by B2, A2 is the first player to gain possession of the live ball on the playing surface. Shall the possession arrow now favour Team B?

Answer Yes; Interpretations, Article 12, Statement 1, Example 2

After the throw-in the team that does not gain control of the live ball **on the playing court** will be entitled to the first alternating possession at the place nearest to where the next jump ball situation occurs.

With only one jump ball officials often fail to review the rules around the opening tap and what might happen if the ball is knocked straight out of bounds. A good piece of practical advice if this occurs is to instruct the table crew to only set the arrow after the throw in is complete and possession has been determined.

Question 42 (50% correct)

On a last free throw, if the free thrower violates and there is no disconcertion, shall violations by the opponents be disregarded?

Answer Yes; Article 43

This is rule change introduced this year. The Oct.14 memo on the ABOA webpage <http://www.refalberta.ca/> covers this change. Please refer to it for further information.

Question 18 (51% correct)

While A1 is in the act of shooting, A2 and B2 commit a double foul. A1, after the whistle sounds, in a continuous motion, A1 releases the try for goal and the ball enters the basket. Shall the basket count?

Answer No: Articles 10.3, 16.1.1

Remember the principle of “continuous motion” by the shooter only apply when a foul is committed by the defense or if a field goal attempt occurs at “approximately the same time as the double foul.” The question attempts to separate the foul from the shot attempt therefore the whistle stops play and no points may be scored.

Question 40 (52% correct)

Near Team B's basket, A2 attempts a pass to A4, but the ball is deflected by B1. The ball then hits the ring. Shall the shot clock be reset?

Answer Yes; Articles 29, 50

This rule has been in place for many years in FIBA. The rule states:

The twenty-four (24) second clock shall be stopped and reset to twenty-four (24) seconds, when the ball touches the ring of the opponents' basket (unless the ball lodges between the ring and the backboard).

This question has been on previous exams as well.

Some years ago when NCAA rules were being used in the province the shot clock could only be reset if a player attempted a shot that struck the ring. A deflected pass that struck the ring was ignored. This may be the source of the confusion.

The FIBA rule simplifies things for both the 24 second operator and the officials. Regardless of the intent of the Team A player, if a ball strikes the ring of the opponent's basket the shot clock must be reset.

Question 26 (59% correct)

A5's try for goal is in the air when the 24-second signal sounds. The ball then lodges on the basket support. Team A is entitled to the next alternating possession throw-in. Shall an alternating possession throw-in be awarded to Team A?

Answer No; Article 29

Questions regarding the ball lodging on the basket seem to occur every year. According to FIBA a ball lodging on the basket support has not struck the ring. In the question Team A has not met the requirement for a reset so the ball would be given to Team B for a throw in nearest the spot of the violation.

The "science" of this may be questionable but the rule application is consistent. For instance the possession arrow favors Team A and A1's shot attempt becomes stuck on the basket support. Does Team A get a reset? Answer no; because by rule the ball is deemed to have not touched the rim and therefore no reset is allowed. Therefore it is consistent to rule that a shot near the end of the 24 second period that lodges on the basket support is also deemed to have not touched the rim leading to a violation.

Question 32 (59% correct)

With 1:28 remaining in the last quarter A4 scores a field goal. The ball, after passing through the net, strikes a player's foot and rolls to the opposite end of the court. The official sounds his whistle and goes to retrieve the ball. Team A requests a time out. Shall the request be granted?

Answer Yes; Article 18.2.8

Rule 18.2.8 is clear on this:

A time-out shall not be permitted to the scoring team when the game clock is stopped following a successful field goal during the last two (2) minutes of the fourth period or the last two (2) minutes of each extra period **unless** an official has stopped the game.

Quite simply if the official sounds his whistle after a field goal in the last 2 minutes of quarter 4 or overtime either team may request a timeout. Keep in mind if Team A intentionally delays the game by interfering with Team B's opportunity to resume play in a timely manner then the official should assess a technical foul to the offending player for delay of game.

Question 47 (60% correct)

With less than 2 minutes to play in the 4th quarter, B5 commits an unsportsmanlike foul on A5 who is dribbling in his backcourt. The shot clock shows 18 seconds. Team A is granted a time-out. After the free throws, when Team A is ready to make the throw-in, shall the shot clock be reset to 24?

No; Articles 17.2.4, 29.2.1

This is rule change introduced this year. Memo no. 4 on the ABOA webpage <http://www.refalberta.ca/> covers this change. Please refer to it for further information.

Question 33 (64% correct)

A3 is awarded 2 free throws. The first free throw is bouncing on the rim and still has a chance to enter the basket when B5 slaps the ball away from the rim. The official counts the free throw. Should the official also assess a technical foul to B5?

No; Articles 31.2.4, 31.3.2, 31.3.3

As there are additional free throws to be attempted the defensive player can not touch the ball if it still has a chance to enter the goal. There is no technical foul assessed however.

Question 36 (65% correct)

On the opening jump ball, B1 violates after the toss but before the ball is tapped; may either team substitute at this time?

No; Interpretations, articles 18/19, Statement 1

Despite the fact that the ball is live and therefore the game has started substitutions shall not be granted because the game clock has not yet started. This is part of the rule changes for this year as well. The ball is live when the official released the toss, but the clock doesn't start until one of the jumpers touches the ball. Hopefully this isn't how your next game starts!

Concluding Comments

Rule knowledge is part of an official's skill set. It goes along with a good whistle, a strong voice, an appropriate level of fitness, interpersonal skills, a calm mind and numerous other attributes that an official needs to have to be successful on the floor. Some of these traits come with experience others such as rule knowledge can be worked on away from the game. Use opportunities at the local level to review the rule book to make your understanding of the game better and hopefully your "on floor" judgements more accurate.

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