

MHSAA OFFICIALS BULLETIN



Game Management

CHALLENGE: After a timeout, teams delay returning to the court to resume play on the second horn as required by rule.

TRY THIS: Don't rush starting the clock to begin the timeout.

Remember, the clock doesn't start until you point with a single finger to the timer and say, "Start the clock." When we hurry and start the clock too quickly, that's often when coaches feel the need to linger longer and fail to end the in time to resume play.

[HERE](#) is an example from which to learn.

Timeouts are valuable. Be generous when you start the clock on the front end and they'll likely be prone to comply on the other end.

If an outright abuse of the rule is apparent, the Resumption of Play (7-5-1) is a legitimate tool available to you. When used judiciously, the ROP procedure typically solves the problem, too. But that need not be the first thing to do.

Rules

Was the ruling correct on [THIS](#) play? **SITUATION:** A1 releases the ball on a three-point try. After the release, an official blows his whistle and rules a foul on A2 who fouls B2 while the teammate A1's attempt is in flight. After the whistle sounds, A1's attempt is successful.

QUESTION: Did teammate A2's foul or the official's whistle cause the ball to become dead? Should we count the score? Cancel the score? What rule applies here?

RULING: Rule 6-7-4 states, "The ball becomes dead when ... a team control foul occurs," however, there is no team control after the release of the try (4-12-3a), so this rule is not applicable. Rule 6-7-5 says that "The ball becomes dead when ... an official's whistle is blown," but there is an expressed exception to this rule "when an official's whistle is blown while a try or tap for a field goal is in flight" (6-7 EXCEPTION a). Therefore, neither the official's whistle nor teammate A2's foul causes the ball to become dead in this situation. Score three points.

Mechanics

The new MHSAA Officials' will revise where to stand for timeouts. To expedite the process for approaching the huddles at the sounding of the first horn, we're bringing officials closer. And to harmonize the floor positioning for both the 2- and 3-person officials, we will be standing in the same spots for both systems: at the end of the free throw lines tableside for 30-second timeouts, and at the end of the free throw lines opposite table for 60-second timeouts. For 3-person, the third official stands with the ball where it will be next made live (OOB for a throw-in or free-throw). For 2-person, the ball will be put on the floor either 3 feet inbounds from the subsequent throw-in, or at the free throw line if a free throw follows, or at the center jump circle if it's at the end of a period. See diagrams below.

