

FIBA Major Rules of Play

For a complete set of rules, go to www.fiba.com and download the Official Basketball Rules 2008 from the startup page.

1. Handled ball – the ball is handled after every stoppage of play.
2. Shot Clock – When a player gains control of a live ball on the playing court, his team must take a shot for a field goal within 24 seconds.
3. When a player gains control of a live ball in the backcourt, the team must cause the ball to go to its frontcourt within 8 seconds. The 8-second period will not be reset when the team that previously had control of the ball is awarded a throw in the back court as a result of;
 - A ball having gone out of bounds.
 - A player of the same team having been injured.
 - A jump ball situation.
 - A double foul.
4. Time outs are to be requested by the coach from the scorer's table. Time outs will only be granted at the next stoppage of play or if scored upon.
 - No time outs between free throws.
 - Time out is one minute in duration.
 - If the last free throw is successful, the team scored upon may be granted a time out.
5. Jump ball will be used to start the game at centre; alternating possession is used thereafter. A jump ball is used to start overtime.
6. The player shall take a throw in at the place nearest the infraction, as indicated by the official. Only in the following situations shall the subsequent throw in be taken at the centre line extended.
 - At the beginning of all periods other than the first period.
 - Following a free throw(s) resulting from a technical, unsportsmanlike or disqualifying foul.
 - During the last 2 minutes of the fourth period and the last minute of each extra period, following a time out granted to the team that was entitled to the possession of the ball from its backcourt.
7. Substitute players must be at the scorers table
 - Subs will be permitted to enter the court during stoppage of play if the request for the time out or sub is made before the ball is at the disposal of a player for a throw in following a free throw(s).
 - Subs will be granted for both teams if the last or only free throw is successful.
 - In the last 2 minutes of the 4th quarter, a substitution may only be initiated by the team that was scored upon.
 - The opposing team may substitute provided the players are at the scorer's table prior to the field goal.
8. During free throws there is a maximum of five players in the designated lane spaces.
 - A violation by either team, excluding the shooter is called only if the free throw is unsuccessful.
 - Violation by free thrower takes precedence over the other violations.
 - If the free throw is successful and the shooter does not violate, all other violations are ignored and the free throw counts.
 - There are no free throws on a team control foul. The free throw shooter has 5 seconds to attempt the free throw.
9. There is a 5 second count on a player holding the ball anywhere on the court.