

Good morning and Happy New Year!

Ever have the clock start too soon because the timer is watching the ball and not us...or not start the clock at all.....or not stop the clock.....or.....timing issues can go on and on. Sometimes it is a bad timer. Sometimes we have the chance to be preventative.....we ALWAYS have the chance to talk to the timer before the game starts.

Take a look at the clip [here](#). So how could this be handled better? SOME people and officials would say 'they missed the shot at the end so it didn't matter anyhow.' WRONG!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Did the clock make a difference? *Very well could have.* Did the score on the scoreboard make a difference? *Very well could have.*

As a crew, we need to be aware of the clock at ALL times, but especially at the end of the game when the teams have no chance to make up for a timing error. We NEED to get the timing mistake corrected. If we can talk to ourselves and remind myself to glance at the clock on each whistle, we have just helped our crew immensely. If that had happened, the timing error could have been corrected in this game. As far as the incorrect scoreboard score.....even if the books have it correct, the team that was losing may not have realized the score was incorrect and planned a play (three-point shot and hopefully a foul) to compensate for the 4 point deficit. If the team had known it was a 2-point game, their play call for the end of the game most likely had been quite different.

How do we rectify it all? As before, glance at the clock on whistles. We should also be aware of the score in these final seconds as well. MAKE SURE all is good at the table late in games by being 'aware' of the situation'. We also MUST talk with the timer as the R prior to each game. Just reminding him/her to watch the CHOP to start the clock.....remind him/her to not add fouls or points to the board on fouls until we have actually reported the foul and a good goal or not. These are all preventative ways to help. At the end of a close game, it doesn't hurt to remind him/her to watch the official chopping to start the clock.

We all know gyms where timers are good and 'not-so-good.' Make this a part of your pregame conference. We also know that many JH timers are students or fill-ins at the last minute. We need to be more aware of timing and scoring issues in these games as well.

Wednesday bonus: What should the R do at the table at halftime? Wait near the midcourt circle until the teams clear, then the R goes to the table. He should have the timer switch the arrow and start the 10:00 halftime clock if it's not already started. CONFIRM the arrow with BOTH scorekeepers. Also ask the two scorekeepers if they agree on everything. If all went well the first half, it doesn't hurt to say 'nice job the first half' or something else positive. Remember, they are part of our crew. Make sure to take anything back to the locker room that belongs to the officials, like jackets or reading glasses (for those of us blessed to 'get' to use them!). Take care of any issues before you leave for your locker room.

Have a great game tonight!

Tim