

Good morning!

Ever had the horn go off during live play for no apparent reason or just mistake by the timer? Take a look at a sample play [here](#).

Was the horn an accident, trying to bring substitutes in (late, obviously) or trying to get our attention for a correctable error?

We need to use common sense in these situations even though the players are supposed to continue playing until they hear a whistle. In the case here, the free throw shooter was obviously unaffected by the horn (GREAT job by her!). In some cases, the players ARE affected by the horn and stop playing or throw the ball to an official. In this case, we need to 'reset' the play and go to point of interruption for the play when the horn sounded. If the timer was trying to bring subs in, it was obviously too late to bring them in during live play, so they need to stay at the table. If it was during a free throw as it was here, we need to seriously consider a replacement free throw if she had missed (like a definite replacement free throw if she missed). If she made it, we play as if nothing happened.

If ANY of the players 'stop playing' then an advantage has been gained by the horn and we need to blow the whistle and go to point of interruption.

I have been fortunate and have not seen a timer make this error more than once in a game, but if it does happen more than once then we need to have a discussion with the timer....especially if the horn is stopping play when the visiting team has the ball.

Just remember in a case where the horn sounds when it shouldn't then it was either a mistake by the timer OR they are trying to get our attention for a correctable error. We NEED to check with the table to make sure which case it was.

Monday Extra: For a player who gets his/her fifth foul, the process after being notified by the table that the player has 5 fouls is:

- 1) Say to the coach of the player who fouled out 'Coach, number ## has five fouls, you have 15 seconds to replace him/her'.
- 2) Say to the timer while making eye contact, 'give me a horn right now then another horn in 15 seconds'.
- 3) Go to player number ## and say 'you have 5 fouls'.
- 4) Bring the sub into the game when at the table.

Notes: The sub must be at the table before the horn after 15 seconds. We notify the coach first so that player number ## is immediately bench personnel and the coach is responsible for any unsportsmanlike actions when he/she is going to the bench.

Monday Bonus: A situation involving an unsafe playing court due to it being slippery has arisen at a local school several times this season. In December, the court was able to be cleaned in about 20 minutes and the game safely resumed. Last week, the floor was not able to be cleaned appropriately to resume safely. In a case such as this, the officials, coaches and game management should get together and discuss the situation. The officials should definitely give their opinion of the court with safety a priority. It is ultimately the decision of game management to decide to continue or not, but the officials and coaches

need to voice all thoughts. The last thing we want is an injury to a player or official due to something that could have been prevented. The unsafe floor last week caused one varsity game to be suspended and another to be moved to the opponent's school. Err on the side of caution.

Have a great game tonight and last week of January!

Tim