

Good morning!

Did you know it is illegal to hit the ball with an open fist? Check out rule 9-4!!! Even more, the ball is DEAD when the violation occurs. Why does this matter? If we have a throw-in and the ball is hit with a fist (most likely by the defense), the ball is dead immediately and NO TIME should run off the clock.

Take a look at the clip of the play [here](#). (Thanks for the video Dom Frassinelli!)

The game situation here is that we are very near the end of OT – 0.7 seconds to be accurate – and black just scored with that much time left to take a 2 point lead. White throws a near length of the court pass and black punches the ball with a fist – a violation. Since the ball is dead when it is punched, the clock should not have started. This means that we not have a front court throw-in for white at one of the four spots. It appears that the violation happened outside the baseline throw-in area, but that would better be answered by the new lead. At any rate, a throw-in with 0.7 seconds remaining has a much better chance of success than a full court throw-in. The R should go to the table and have the timer reset the clock to 0.7 seconds. If there was a TO before this throw-in, it does not hurt for the R to go to the timer and tell him to watch the official chop to start the clock.

When the 0.7 seconds is put back on the clock, the coach for black may blow a gasket. HOPEFULLY NOT, but the coach may need a quick explanation from one of the officials not at the table getting the clock reset. BOTH coaches may need to be brought together for a brief explanation.

This is an abnormal situation since we know the throw-in is most likely going the length of the court. Knowing that, MAYBE an experienced crew could have a second official, in addition to the new T administering the throw-in, to chop the clock. This is not in the manual to do, but certainly could help the timer. If this is done, the timer needs to know who to look at to start the clock.

I GREATLY appreciate video sent that we all can learn from!

Tuesday Extra: A held ball in the front court retained by the offense will result in a throw-in at one of the four new throw-in spots. If we remember that a ball that goes OOB is the only front court throw-in NOT at one of the four new throw-in spots, we should get them right!

Tuesday double: There are a significant number of trams that do NOT have a new scorebook to keep track more easily of the 5 fouls per quarter. So far, I would say that about 40% do not have a new book, and do not PLAN to get a new book. Make sure to have a discussion with the scorekeeper about the new procedure. Timers have been good so far in either stopping the scoreboard at 5 fouls, or quickly changing from 6 to 5 when we remind him/her.

Have a great game tonight!

Tim