

NEW RULES FOR 2009

FIBA has made a number of changes to the rules, which are to be effective from 1st October 2008. The new rule book can be downloaded from the FIBA website (www.fiba.com) by selecting the *Inside FIBA* section and then going to *Rules, Regulations and Other docs Downloads* and selecting Official Basketball Rules 2008.

New Rules will come into effect as from the start of the Summer Season at Knox in November 2008. In bold are the important changes to keep in mind.

A Summary of Rule Changes for Domestic Competitions

Art. 5.3 Injured player

An injured player who receives treatment **must be substituted** unless the team would be **reduced to less than five (5)** players on the playing court.

Old Rule

The team would have to play with less than five players.

Art. 11.2 Location of a player and an official

If a player jumps from their **frontcourt** and establishes **new control**, the **location** of the player is **not determined** until the player has again **returned to the floor** (Refer Art. 30.1.2)

Art. 17 Throw-in

While there is no change to Art. 17, the Interpretation document details **additional situations** to those listed in Art. 17.2.3 in which the subsequent **throw-in shall be taken from the centre line extended**, opposite the scorer's table:

- (a) A **player making the throw-in** from the centre line extended opposite the scorer's table **commits a violation** and the ball is awarded to the **opponents** for a throw-in at the place of the **original throw-in**.
- (b) If in a **fighting** situation **members of both teams** are **disqualified**, there are **no other foul penalties** remaining for administration, and **at the time the game was stopped a team had control of the ball or was entitled to the ball**.

In all the above situations the thrower-in can pass the ball to either the frontcourt or the backcourt.

Art. 24.1.1 Dribbling

To **deliberately throw the ball against the backboard** has been added to the **methods that a player can commence a dribble**. This change to the Rule Book is the **Interpretation** that has been the **applied since the October 2006 Rules and Interpretation** document.

Art. 25.2.3 Player falling on the floor

It is **legal** when a player **falls and slides** on the floor **while holding the ball**.

It is **not a violation** if a player who is **lying on the floor** gains **control** of the ball and similarly it is **not a violation** if a player who is holding the ball **falls unintentionally** to the floor.

It is also possible that the **momentum** of a player who is moving at the time he/she falls will cause that player to **slide briefly** which is **also legal**. If, however, the player **then rolls or attempts to stand** while holding the ball, **a violation occurs**.

Art. 28.1.3 Ball goes into team's frontcourt

During a dribble from backcourt to frontcourt, the ball goes into a team's frontcourt **when both feet of the dribbler and the ball are in contact with the frontcourt**. This applies to the player **only as long as they are dribbling**.

Note:

Two practical consequences of this rule change are:

- (a) The **8 second count continues** until **both of the dribbler's feet** have touched the **front court** and **the ball has touched the floor** in the front court.
- (b) If a dribbler has **both feet touching the front court** but is **dribbling** the ball in the **back court** they could **continuing dribbling and step back** into their **back court**. Although this is **not a violation** the **8 second count continues**.

Statement 3

During a dribble from backcourt to frontcourt, the ball goes into a team's frontcourt when both feet of the dribbler and the ball are in contact with the frontcourt. This applies to the player only as long as he is dribbling.

Example 1:

A1 (not a dribbler) stands on the court **straddling the centre line**. He **receives** the ball from **A2** who is in the **backcourt**. A1 then **passes** the ball back to **A2** who is still in the **backcourt**.

Interpretation:

This is a **violation** by A2 as **A1 is not the dribbler**. The Art. 28.1.3, 3rd bullet applies to the dribbler only.

Example 2:

A2 dribbles the ball from his backcourt and **ends his dribble** while **straddling the centre line** holding the ball. After that **A2 passes** the ball to **A1** who stands on the court **also straddling the centre line**.

Interpretation:

The **dribbling ends** when the **player touches the ball with both hands** simultaneously or permits the ball to **come to rest** in **one or both** hands. Therefore **A2**

is **no longer a dribbler**. Any pass of A2 to A1 who is **straddling the centre line** or a pass to **any other team-mate** in the **backcourt** is a **violation**.

Example 3:

A2 is dribbling the ball from his backcourt and has **one foot** (but not both) already in the **frontcourt**. A2 then **passes** the ball to **A1**, who is **straddling the centre line**. **A1** then continues to **dribble** the ball in his **backcourt**.

Interpretation:

Violation by A1. The original dribbler, A2, has not caused the ball to move into the frontcourt. However, the **ball** does move into **team A's frontcourt** when it touches A1 who has **part of his body** in contact with the **frontcourt**. A1 shall **not** be permitted to then **return** the ball to his backcourt.

Example 4:

Dribbler A4 is advancing the ball from the team A backcourt when A4 **stops** his **forward motion** but **continues the dribble**

- (a) While **straddling** the centre line.
- (b) While both **feet** are in the **frontcourt** but the **ball** is being dribbled in the **backcourt**.
- (c) While both **feet** are in the **backcourt** but the **ball** is being dribbled in the **frontcourt**.

Interpretation:

In (a), (b), and (c), **dribbler A4 continues to be in the backcourt until both feet as well as the ball are touching the frontcourt**. The eight-second count shall continue in each situation.

Example 5:

Dribbler A4 is advancing the ball from the team A backcourt when **A4 dribbles along the centre line** with both **feet** in the team A **frontcourt** but with the **ball** being dribbled in the **backcourt**. A4 then **continues the dribble** by **returning both feet** to the team A **backcourt**.

Interpretation:

Dribbler A4 **continues** to be in the backcourt **until both feet and the ball** are touching the **frontcourt**. The eight-second count shall continue.

Art. 30.1.2 Ball returned to the backcourt

It will **not be a violation** anymore if a player, who **jumps from their frontcourt**, establishes a **new team control** while still **airborne** and then **lands in his team's backcourt**.

Example:

This applies when a player intercepts a pass. For example, Player B5 has the ball in their back court and passes to B2 who is on a fast break. Player A1 jumps from the front court and intercepts the pass, and then lands in their backcourt. This is not a violation.

When an airborne player

1. jumps from their frontcourt,
2. gains control of the ball while still airborne and in doing so **is the first player on their team to establish team control**, and

3. then **returns to the floor** in that team's **backcourt**, the **player is helpless to avoid a violation** for illegally returning the ball to the backcourt.

Art. 31 Goaltending and interference

It is a **basket interference** whenever a player **reaches through the basket from below and touches the ball**. This applies whether the ball had been **shot, passed or has already touched the ring**.

The article has also been changed to include in the definition of interference when **a player grasps the basket** to play at the ball and **applies after the ball has touched the ring**. This is interference if **in the judgement of the official** the ball has been prevented from entering the basket.

Art. 36.1.4 Unsportsmanlike foul

If a **defensive player** causes **contact** with an opponent **from behind or laterally** in an attempt to **stop a fast break** and there is **no opponent between the offensive player and the opponents' basket**, then the contact shall be judged to be **unsportsmanlike**.

In addition to the above situation, the following situation is outlined in the Interpretation document. When the **ball is out-of-bounds for a throw-in** and is still in the **hands of the official or is already at the disposal of the thrower-in** and at that moment a **defensive player** on the court **causes contact** with a player of the **team of the thrower-in** also on the court and the **foul is called**, this shall be judged as **unsportsmanlike**.

This contact is judged as **unsportsmanlike** because the player is obviously **not making any effort to play the ball** and an **unsportsmanlike advantage** is gained by **not allowing the game clock to restart**. An **unsportsmanlike foul** must be called **without a warning** being given.

Art. 38.3.1 Technical foul

A **technical foul** can be called on a player for **excessive swinging of elbows (without contact)**. Serious injury can result whenever an excessive swinging of elbows is permitted, especially in rebounding activity and closely guarded situations. **If such action results in contact**, then a **personal (unsportsmanlike) foul** may be called. If the **action does not result in contact**, a **technical foul** may be called.