



NEW 2026-27 Basketball Shot Clock State Association Adoptions and Protocols

The 2026 IHSA Basketball Advisory Committee met in April and proposed recommendations. The committee's minutes and recommendations were posted on the IHSA Girls' and Boys' Basketball webpages. They were subsequently reviewed and voted on by the IHSA Athletic Administrators Committee and IHSA staff. At its June meeting, the IHSA Board of Directors reviewed and approved the following recommendations, effective with the 2026-27 basketball season:

IHSA Basketball State Association Adoptions

1. The committee recommends the use of the following State Association Adoptions:
 - a. Mercy Rule: continue using with previously established parameters
 - b. Coaches Box (28' in length)
 - c. Shot Clock
 - i. Will be used at the varsity level during the 2026–27 regular season, regular season tournaments, shootout games and during the IHSA State Tournament series contests. The decision to use the technology at lower-level contests is left to conferences and individual schools.
 - ii. For non-conference lower-level games, both schools must agree in advance to use the technology.
 - iii. The model rule previously adopted by the IHSA Board of Directors must be followed.
 - iv. A school may not host a varsity contest if a shot clock is not installed or is not properly mounted on the backboard in the primary gym in accordance with NFHS rules. The host school must secure an alternate facility or allow the opponent to host the contest. If the host school is unable to secure a gym with functioning shot clocks and the opposing school cannot host, the game shall be forfeited by the home team.

A varsity game cannot begin unless both shot clocks are functioning properly. If either shot clock is not working, and the clocks are properly mounted, the game must be postponed or moved to another gym with functioning shot clocks.

NOTE: When a school hosts a tournament or shootout utilizing multiple gyms, and a traditional backboard-mounted shot clock is not feasible in an auxiliary gym, shot clocks must be mounted on the wall behind the basket, at or above the backboard, and must be clearly visible and unobstructed.

IHSA Shot Clock Protocols

- a. Ball that hits the rim on a pass/deflection and is recovered by the offense in the frontcourt shot clock resets to :20. Same situation recovered in the backcourt by the offense shot clock resets to :35.
- b. No visible 10-second count for officials in the backcourt. Officials use the shot clock for the ten-second backcourt. Any official can call the 10-second backcourt violation when it occurs.
- c. If a single technical foul is called, the shot clock should be set to 35 seconds after the

official reports the technical foul, and before the inbound throw-in at the division line.

- d.** A ball knocked out of bounds in the backcourt results in a new 10-second period. If the shot clock is at 29, the 10-second violation would be called with 19 on the shot clock.
- e.** Ball lodged in the rim/backboard should be a :20 reset if offense retains possession.
- f.** Out of bounds off the jump ball to start a game or an OT period with neither team gaining possession should be :20 if the throw-in is in the frontcourt and :35 if the throw-in is in the backcourt.
- g.** Shot clocks must be set up so that the LED lights around the backboard do not go off when the shot clock horn sounds. Backboard LED lights should only illuminate when the game clock gets to :00. A special report should be submitted if not followed.
- h.** An air horn, an electronic whistle, or another device that creates a different sound shall be present at every scorer's table available to use if the shot clock horn malfunctions.
- i.** The end-of-quarter horn must be different than the shot clock horn.
- j.** Closely guarded count only occurs on the "hold" and not the dribble in all shot clock games.
- k.** If the shot clock is off (under :35 or :20) or there is a shot clock malfunction, officials MUST use a visible backcourt ten-second count.