

Basketball Counts

Three Seconds (Rule 9.7) This is a NON-VISIBLE count.

A player shall not remain for three seconds in that part of his/her free-throw lane....while the ball is IN CONTROL OF HIS/HER TEAM IN HIS/HER FRONT COURT. Art. 1

The player only needs to have one foot touching the boundary which includes the lines that “frame” the free throw lane (the lane space marks are not part of the lane). Art. 2

Allowance is made (i.e. the count is suspended) for a player who has been in the restricted area for less than 3 seconds, and then dribbles in or moves immediately to try for goal. Art. 3

Five Second Closely Guarded (Rule 9-10) This is a VISIBLE count. The count starts with the arm at the chest, bent at the elbow, then continues with a motion of extending the arm straight out away from the chest.

A player who is closely guarded IN HIS/HER FRONT COURT shall not hold the ball for five seconds or dribble the ball for five seconds, 9-10 Art 1a or be in control of the ball for five seconds in an area enclosed by screening teammates 9-10 Art 1b.

A Player who is in control of the ball IN HIS/HER TEAM’S FRONT COURT is Closely Guarded when:

A defender is in legal guarding position (does not have to be “playing defense”) Casebook 9.10.1 situation C.

Within 6 feet of the player holding or dribbling the ball—measured from the forward foot of the defender to the forward foot of the offensive player. 4-10

The count is terminated when the offensive player gets his/her shoulders past the defensive player. 4-10

There can be more than one defender closely guarding the offensive player. If one defender drops off, yet the other continues to closely guard the player with the ball, the count continues. Casebook 9.10.1 situation B.

There can be a sequence where a player who is closely guarded legally holds for four seconds, dribbles for four seconds then holds for four seconds without violating.

A closely guarded count shall not be started during an interrupted dribble. 9-10 Art. 2

A closely guarded count shall be terminated during an interrupted dribble. 9-10 Art. 3

Five Second Throw-in (Rule 9-2 art. 4) & Rule 7-6 Art. 2 This is a VISIBLE count. The count starts with the arm at the chest, bent at the elbow, then continues with a motion of extending the arm straight out away from the chest.

Once the throw-in starts, the ball shall be RELEASED on a pass directly into the court before five seconds have elapsed.

Note that after a made basket or basket interference or goaltending by a defensive player, a player on the team making the throw-in may pass the ball to a teammate out of bounds along the end line, but the ball must still be released on a pass into the court from that point before five seconds have elapsed.

The throw-in starts when the ball is at the disposal of a player of the team entitled to the throw-in.

A ball is at the disposal of a player when it is (4-4 Art 7):

- a. Handed to a thrower or free thrower
- b. Caught by a player after it is bounced to him/her
- c. Placed on the floor at the spot
- d. Available to a player after a goal and the official begins the throw-in count

Ten Second Backcourt Violation (Rule 9-8) This is a VISIBLE count. The count starts with the arm at the chest, bent at the elbow, then continues with a motion of extending the arm straight out away from the chest.

A player shall not be, nor shall his / her team be in continuous control of the ball which is in his / her backcourt for 10 seconds.

The ball must attain front court status for the count to end (if the ball is in the air on a pass traveling from the backcourt to the frontcourt and the count reaches ten, it is a violation). Casebook play 9.8 situation A.

If a ball in control by a team in the backcourt is deflected (but not controlled) by the defense, the original count continues. Casebook play 9.8 situation D (b).

Note that if the ball becomes dead; for example if the defense causes the ball to go out of bounds, or if the offense requests a time out, a new 10 second count begins if the offense gains possession in the backcourt. Casebook play 9.8 situation C.

Ten Second Free Throw Count (Rule 8-4) This is a VISIBLE (but more low-keyed) count. Your arm is at your side in a normal position. The counting motion is a simple flick of the wrist with minimal arm movement (use the arm nearest to the table).

The try for goal shall be made within 10 seconds after the ball has been placed at the disposal of the free thrower at the free throw line.