



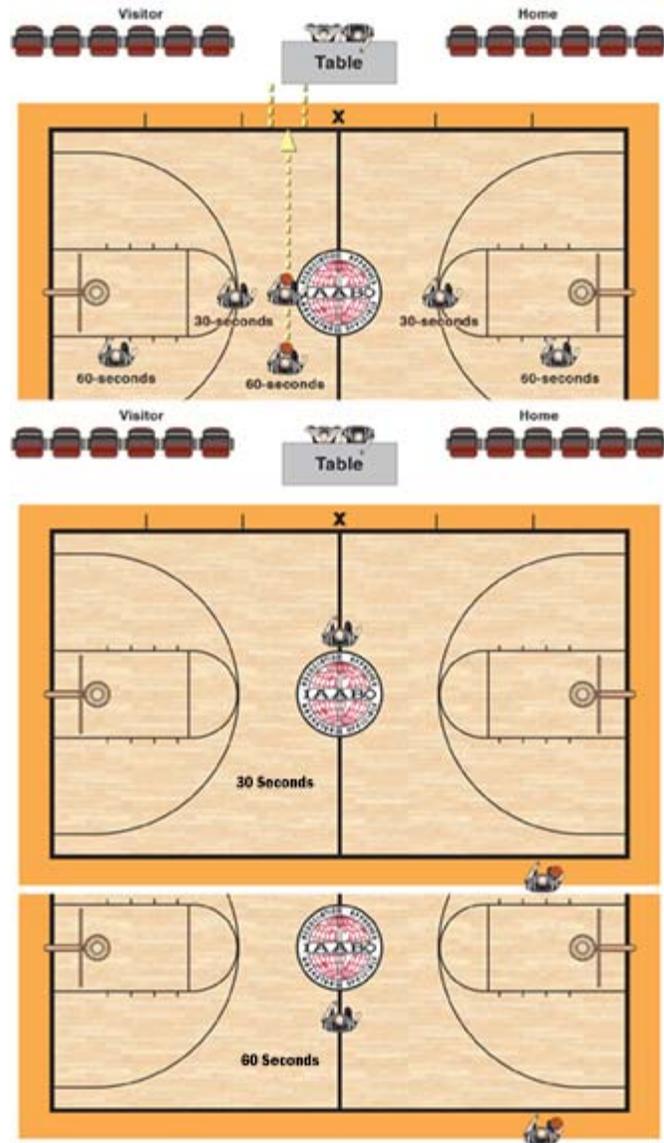
IAABO

Inside the Lines



Time-Out Positioning

(Manual pages 77-82,174-180)



We all agree proper positioning is critical for officials successfully administering the game. We talk about initial starting positions, rotating in three-person crews and moving to get the best angle and look at plays. Positioning is not only important when the ball is live, but during time-outs as well. Time-out periods are not a time to lose concentration, relax and ignore proper mechanics.

Proper positioning during time-outs provides a means of communicating and monitoring the scorer's table, players and bench areas. By using the guidance in the IAABO manual, the crew is in the best position during the dead ball period.

The reporting official should not rush to communicate the time-out to the scorer, and not signal the timer to start the time-out period until both teams are at their respective bench areas. During time-outs, it is our responsibility to be able to communicate with the scorer and timer and monitor incoming substitutes and bench areas. In a crew of two, that is the responsibility of the official positioned on the division line. In a crew of three, the officials located in each half of the court at either the block or the top of the free throw semicircle, depending on the type of time-out, are responsible.

It is also important to communicate where play will resume when the time-out is over to both the teams and our partner(s). The official not monitoring the table and bench areas has this responsibility. If play will be resumed by a throw-in, the official will stand at the throw-in spot using proper ball placement mechanics to indicate direction (Manual page 5). When the designated spot is on the tableside sideline, the administering official shall take a position on the court directly in line with the throw-in spot and their partner(s). While frequently teams will verbally ask where the throw-in will be, standing at the spot results in more clear communication when responding to the question. If play will be resumed by a free throw, the official will stand at the free throw line where the free throw will be administered.

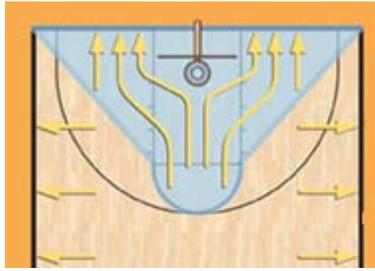
On most occasions, we should be at our positions as prescribed by the manual. Teams use time-outs to discuss situations and make adjustments. We need to take advantage of this opportunity to do the same. In those cases, the crew should position itself where it can still monitor the bench areas while communicating with each other.

As stated previously, don't let your mind wander, relax or ignore proper mechanics during time-outs. We must stay alert, monitor the table and bench areas and communicate how play will be resumed by using the positioning and mechanics outlined in the manual. Finally, don't be afraid to get together to discuss situations, time remaining, review responsibilities and support each other.

Honoring the Correct Throw-in Spot

There are several situations in the game when the ball will be thrown in or inbounded. The ball must be inbounded after most stoppages in play. This includes time-outs, non-shooting fouls, violations, inadvertent whistles, and held-ball situations. But where these throw-ins occur continues to pose a challenge to officials. Most throw-ins should occur nearest the spot of the infraction, but some throw-in spots will be based on ball location. Putting the ball in play in an incorrect spot remains one of the most common misapplications of the rules in the game today. So, how can officials ensure that the throw-in spots are correct in their games?

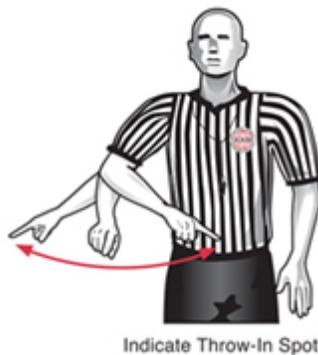
First, we have to understand what constitutes the "nearest spot" and how the rules determine the correct spot to be used for the throw-in.



The diagram above, which is found on page 41 of the IAABO manual, provides officials with a visual for determining what constitutes the nearest spot.

By rule, all non-shooting fouls (other than double and simultaneous fouls), violations, and held-ball situations that occur in the area of free throw lane as well as in the area that extends from the free throw line to the corner where the endline and sideline meet will have the ensuing throw-in on the endline. If the infraction occurs outside this designated area, the throw-in will be on the sideline. These designated areas also apply to situations when time-out is granted to a team in possession of the ball.

The key for officials to ensure accuracy of the throw-in spot is using proper spot of foul and spot of violation procedures (Manual pages 36 & 51). When a non-shooting foul or a violation occurs, the ruling official is required to indicate the throw-in spot using the appropriate signal as shown below.



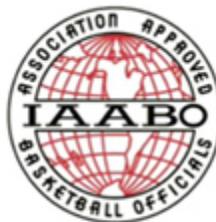
Many officials have not mastered using this very important signal. When the ruling official is also the official who will be administering the throw-in, the spot is generally correct. But when his/her partner is responsible for the throw-in, the partner is often left to wonder where the correct location should be if the ruling official does not indicate the spot after the infraction. There are other times when even though the spot is clearly identified, the non-ruling official is not making eye contact with the ruling official, and consequently, the administering official puts the ball in play in an incorrect spot.

Officials should also guard against the urge to determine the throw-in spot based on the location of the officials. This frequently occurs when the ball is knocked out of bounds on the endline across the lane. In this case, the lead needs to administer the throw-in across the lane which will require his/her

partner(s) to move across the court. Often times you will see the administering official put the ball in an incorrect location so the partners will not have to move. On other occasions, there are throw-ins placed on the sideline, when by rule it should be on the endline. We need to remind ourselves what impact this type of decision has on both teams. Many teams have designed inbound plays, and if we put the ball in an incorrect location, we do impact the effectiveness of both the offense and defense on the ensuing throw-in.

When double or simultaneous fouls occur or if there is an inadvertent whistle when there is no team control (and there is no goal, infraction, nor ending of a period involved), the ensuing throw-in will be determined based on ball location when the ball became dead. (Rule 4-36-2c) For example, if a double foul occurs in the lane area while the ball is being dribbled near the division line, the ensuing throw-in will be near the division line. Determining ball location can be tricky when the ball is in flight when the stoppage occurs. By rule, a ball which is in flight retains the same location as when it was last in contact with a player or the court. (Rule 4-4-3). So in cases such as these, officials will have to determine the correct ball location and put the ball in play in the spot nearest to that location.

Officials need to be diligent and take steps to administer throw-ins at the correct spots as outlined in the rules book and manual. Throw-in spots should be discussed in the pre-game conference. Officials need to “take pride” in putting the ball in play in the correct throw-in spots by applying the rules and using proper procedures. Getting on the same page before the game will go a long way in ensuring throw-in spots will be accurate throughout the game.



Play of the Week

The IAABO Play of the Week will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2018

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Game Tracker Journal

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