



ALBERTA BASKETBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

Exam Overview

This year's exam featured a mixture of questions covering both violations and fouls. Any rule exam is going to have some tougher questions and this year is no exception. The comments below are intended to assist officials to better understand the rules and apply them correctly in game situations. As we enter the second half of the season it is still a good idea to spend some time reviewing these tougher questions and the remainder of the exam to stay sharp and bring your best game to the floor every time out.

11. Yes (Art. 28.1.3) 27% Correct

A3 is dribbling the ball from the back court to the front court. A3 has both feet in his front court while dribbling the ball in the back court. In an attempt to change direction, A3 dribbles the ball behind his back. The ball strikes the back of his leg and bounces into the back court. A1 moves into the back court and picks up the ball. Is this a legal play?

Comment: Article 28.1.3 states "The ball goes into a team's frontcourt when: ... during a **dribble** from backcourt to frontcourt, both feet of the dribbler and the ball are in contact with the frontcourt." When FIBA changed this rule in 2008 it emphasized the fact that both feet **and** the ball must be in **contact** with the frontcourt for the ball to have achieved frontcourt status.

Officials may have confused this scenario with similar questions in the past where A1 passes the ball from the backcourt and the ball strikes a teammate (or an official) in the frontcourt and then returns to the backcourt where A1 picks up the ball. In these scenarios a backcourt violation has occurred.

Question 11 is different as A1 is dribbling and a different standard is used to determine whether the ball has in fact achieved frontcourt status then when a ball is being passed from the backcourt into the frontcourt.

25. No (Art. 42.2.7) 38% Correct

B4 commits an unsportsmanlike foul on dribbler A5. Before the ball becomes live for A5's first free throw, A4 is assessed a technical foul. The officials rule that the two penalties cancel each other. The possession arrow favours Team B. Should play resume with a throw-in by Team B?

Comment: The officials correctly report the fouls and then cancel the penalties as they are of equal severity (2 shots and possession). As Team A had control of the ball when the first foul occurred then the game will be resumed with a throw-in at the spot nearest the original

foul call (with no reset of the 24 second clock). Quite frankly I would have expected officials to do better on this question as this rule has been unchanged for quite a few years now.

44. Yes (Art. 30.1.2) 55% Correct

A1 jumps from his team's front court, intercepts a pass thrown by B1, and lands in control of the ball with both feet simultaneously straddling the mid-court line. While maintaining his straddling position over the mid-court line, A1 dribbles. Is this a violation?

Comment: *A repeat of last year's most difficult question. For review the interception portion of the question is now legal in FIBA.*

*However if a player does not move either foot and dribbles then a backcourt violation occurs. The only way for A1 to make a legal move would be to lift the foot in the backcourt and pivot in such a way that both feet were now in the frontcourt or lift the foot in the backcourt and dribble the ball in the frontcourt. The foot that was originally in the backcourt **must** next make contact with the frontcourt or a backcourt violation will again have occurred.*

26. Yes (Art. 19.2.3) 61% Correct

After 50 seconds have elapsed in a charged time-out, the timekeeper sounds the warning horn. Ten seconds later, the timekeeper sounds the horn to indicate the end of the time-out. B-10 then reports to replace B4. Shall B10 be allowed to enter the game?

Comment: *A disappointing result. Apparently officials are somehow still following the NCAA rules which were discontinued after the 2007 season. In short a player may substitute up until the ball is at the disposal of a free throw shooter or an inbounder.*

12. Yes (Art.'s 40.1/41.1.2/4.1.4) 67 % Correct

During the interval of play between the 1st and 2nd periods, A10, who has not yet played, is charged with a technical foul. Shall the technical foul count as one of the fouls leading to the team penalty in the following period as well as one of the five fouls leading to A10's having to leave the game?

Comment: *Again a disappointing result. "During an interval of play all team members entitled to play are considered to be players." Therefore in this question Team A will start the 2nd period with 1 team foul and A10 will have committed one of his/her five fouls prior to becoming an excluded player.*

32. Yes (Art. 31.1.1) 70% Correct

Does a shot for a field goal end when the ball touches the ring?

Comment: *A shot ends when the ball touches the ring. With one exception at this point any player may touch the ball and the 24 second clock should be reset. The exception to the rule*

involves the sounding of the horn to end a period. If the horn sounds to end a period and the ball touches the ring no player may legally touch the ball.

I'm not sure what the uncertainty is in the question. Perhaps officials are confusing the status of a shot with the act of shooting. The act of shooting ends when the shooter releases the ball and in the case of an airborne shooter when both feet have returned to the floor.

31. Yes (Art.'s 16.1.1/16.1.2/31.2.4) 72% Correct

While the ball is within the basket as a result of a try for goal by A1, A2 touches the rim. The ball goes through the basket. Should the basket count?

Comment: *Article 16.1.2 covers when the ball is considered to be within the basket. The mere touching of the rim by A2 does not cause the ball to enter the basket so the field goal is legally scored. Most officials should have no trouble answering this question correctly.*

22. Yes (Art. 10.3) 73 % Correct

A4 releases a try for goal. The 24-second signal sounds after which B4 deflects the ball while it is still in its upward flight. Does the ball become dead immediately?

Comment: *This is actually one of the trickier rule scenarios. When the 24 second horn sounds and any player touches the ball by rule the ball is dead. Obviously if Team A touched a ball that was in the air after the 24 second horn sounded the officials would recognize that a shot clock violation had occurred.*

If Team B touches a shot after the 24 second horn sounds that is still on its upward flight with a chance to enter the basket. The ball is dead.

This question should not be confused with a shot taken near the end of a 24 second possession, untouched by any player, subsequently misses the ring and possession is immediately gained by Team B. In this case the official should hold their whistle and allow play to continue uninterrupted.

46. Yes (Art. 36.1.4) 74% Correct

Near mid-court, B1 deflects the ball away from dribbler A1. Immediately, while the ball is bouncing away, A1 makes contact on B1 with his elbow to prevent B1 from going after the loose ball. Should this foul be judged unsportsmanlike?

Comment: *Clearly A1 is making no effort to play the ball when contact occurs and an unsportsmanlike foul must be called. This should be called more consistently. Not a particularly difficult question and I would have hoped for a better result.*

4. Yes (Art. 17 Interpretations – Statement 4) 77% Correct

Following the free throws awarded to A1 for an unsportsmanlike foul committed by B1, A2 has the ball out of bounds, straddling the mid-court line for a throw-in. A2 releases the ball onto the court. The ball goes directly out of bounds on the end line in Team A's frontcourt, without touching anyone on the court. Shall the official award Team B a throw-in near the place of the original throw-in and shall Team B be entitled to throw the ball in either their front court or back court?

Comment: *Originally FIBA had stated that the ball should be given to team B in their backcourt to allow them the option to throw the ball into either court. This is why the question says “near the place of the original throw-in”. FIBA has slightly revised this to allow the player to straddle the centre line. As long as Team B has the option to pass the ball into either court the officials have met the spirit and the intent of the rule.*

Concluding comments:

I would be remiss if I didn't try and remind local executives and especially the education officers who supervise the exam of the need to follow the guidelines and procedures set out by the ABOA and CABO for the administration of this exam. I won't mince words here. We base our avocation on a few guiding principles of which **honesty** and **integrity** are at the forefront. We expect that from coaches and players and when it doesn't occur in a game then we should be prepared to blow the whistle and penalize accordingly. Why is it that I receive credible reports of exams being administered in ways that contradict the aforementioned policies and procedures? The results from some boards clearly support these reports. **Honesty? Integrity?** We should hold ourselves to the highest standard possible in all things we do when we represent our local boards, as well as the provincial and national bodies. If you are a member of an executive ask yourself would you allow officials to act inappropriately when they arrive at a school, during a game or after the conclusion of play? Then why did you agree to or tolerate blatant cheating and collusion when it came to administration of this exam? What is the message you send to your members? Is it that cheating is okay if you don't get caught? Is it okay to overlook rules on the floor? Do you or your members constantly ignore floor mechanics and end up guessing on calls that may seriously affect the outcome of the game? Do you send officials to ASAA provincials that aren't really properly trained in the rules and mechanics and hope that “nothing bad happens”? When we start the season with blatant disregard for the exam one can't help but wonder what the end of the season will bring.

If you conducted the exam in accordance with the published procedures or if you wrote the exam without receiving improper help then I thank you. If you in any way participated in circumventing the proper test taking procedures I hope my comments give you pause to think. When you step on to the floor you represent **honesty** and **integrity** and just as importantly the **courage** to do what's right even if it is unpopular. Let's make sure we can say the same thing about our actions away from the floor as well.

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