2026-27 BASKETBALL SHOT CLOCK

STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTIONS & PROTOCOL OVERVIEW

This overview outlines shot clock participation requirements and operating protocols for boys and girls varsity non-conference games using the shot clock by mutual agreement. The shot clock period is 35 seconds, and every reset described here is to 35 seconds.

Use During the 2026–27 Season

- Member schools may use the 35-second shot clock for boys and girls varsity non-conference games when both teams agree before the contest begins.
- Schools must report games using the shot clock to the WIAA office through the WIAA website.
- Schools must complete the post-contest survey for data collection.
- Schools must notify the assigned officials in advance that the shot clock will be used.
- When used, the shot clock applies throughout the game, including overtime periods. Follow applicable NFHS rules and WIAA directions.

Additional Game Provisions

MERCY RULE: Continue using the established parameters. Shot clock use continues when the mercy rule is in effect.

COACHES BOX: 28 feet in length.

Equipment and Installation

Shot clocks must be properly installed and mounted in accordance with applicable NFHS requirements. Contact the WIAA office for direction if equipment is unavailable or improperly installed.

Before a game using the shot clock begins, confirm that both shot clocks function properly. If either clock is not working before the game, contact the WIAA office for direction.

For tournaments or shootouts using multiple gyms, when traditional backboard-mounted clocks are not feasible in an auxiliary gym, clocks must be mounted on the wall behind the basket at or above backboard height, clearly visible and unobstructed.

WIAA Shot Clock Protocols

1. **Rim contact on a pass or deflection.** If the ball hits the rim on a pass or deflection and the offense recovers it, reset the shot clock two 35 seconds in either the frontcourt or backcourt.
2. **Backcourt count.** Officials do not use a visible 10-second count when the shot clock is operating. Use the shot clock to administer the backcourt count. Any official may call the 10-second violation.
3. **Single technical foul.** Set the shot clock to 35 seconds after the official reports the technical foul and before the throw-in at the division line.
4. **Ball knocked out of bounds in the backcourt.** The offense receives a new 10-second period. For example, if the shot clock shows 29 seconds at the throw-in, the 10-second violation occurs when it reaches 19 seconds.
5. **Lodged ball.** If the ball becomes lodged between the rim and backboard and the offense retains possession, reset the shot clock to 35 seconds.
6. **Opening or overtime jump ball out of bounds.** If the ball goes out of bounds from the opening jump ball or an overtime jump before either team gains possession, reset to 35 seconds for either a frontcourt or backcourt throw-in.
7. **Backboard LED lights.** Backboard LED lights must not illuminate when the shot clock horn sounds. They should illuminate only when the game clock reaches 0:00 at the end of a playing period. Submit a special report if the equipment does not meet this requirement.
8. **Alternate sound device.** An air horn, electronic whistle, or another device producing a distinct sound must be available at the scorer's table if the shot clock horn malfunctions.
9. **Distinct horns.** The horn marking the end of a playing period must sound different from the shot clock horn.
10. **Closely guarded count.** In shot clock games, administer the closely guarded count for holding the ball in the frontcourt; do not apply the count to dribbling.
11. **Shot clock off or malfunctioning.** If the shot clock is off because the game clock is 35 seconds or less, or if the shot clock malfunctions, officials must use a visible 10-second backcourt count.