

9. Interruption by the Timekeeper (18:1)

If a timekeeper interrupts the game due to a faulty substitution or illegal entry under Rules 4:2-3, 5-6, the game is restarted with a free-throw for the opponents, normally at the place of the infringement. If, however, the ball was at a more favorable position for the opponents at the time of the interruption, then the free-throw should be taken from that place (*see 13:6, 3rd and 4th paragraphs*).

In the case of such infringements, the timekeeper shall interrupt the game immediately, without regard for the general advantage rules in 13:2 and 14:2. If a clear scoring chance is destroyed because of such an interruption, when it is caused by an infringement on the part of the defending team, then a 7-meter throw shall be awarded in accordance with Rule 14:1a.

7 Intervention by the Timekeeper or a Delegate (18:1)

If the timekeeper or a delegate intervenes, when the game is already interrupted, then the game is restarted with the throw that corresponds to the reason for the interruption.

If the timekeeper or a delegate intervenes, and thereby interrupts the game when the ball is in play, then the following regulations apply:

A Faulty substitution or illegal entry by a player (Rules 4:2-3, 5-6)

The timekeeper (or delegate) must interrupt the game immediately, without regard for the 'advantage' concept under Rules 13:2 and 14:2. If due to such an interruption, due to violation by the defending team, a clear chance of scoring is destroyed, then a 7-meter throw must be awarded in accordance with Rule 14:1a. In all other cases, the game is restarted with a free-throw.

The guilty player is punished in accordance with Rule 16:3a. However, in the case of illegal entry under Rule 4:6, during a clear chance of scoring, then the player is punished in accordance with Rule 16:6b in conjunction with Rule 8:10b.

In the event of other types of infringements that need to be reported to the referees, the timekeeper should generally wait until the next interruption in the game.

If the timekeeper nevertheless interrupts the game, such an intervention cannot lead to a loss of possession. The game will be restarted with a free-throw for the team which had possession at the time of the interruption. If, however, the interruption was caused by an infringement on the part of the defending team, and the referees judge that the premature interruption destroyed a clear chance of scoring for the opponents, then a 7-meter throw shall be awarded in analogy with Rule 14:1b.

As a general principle, infringements observed and reported by the timekeeper/ scorekeeper (except as under 4:2-3, 5-6) do not lead to personal punishments.

B Interruption for other reasons, e.g., unsportsmanlike conduct in the substitution area

a. Intervention by the timekeeper

The timekeeper should wait until the next interruption in the game and then inform the referee.

If nevertheless the timekeeper interrupts the game while the ball is in play, then the game is restarted with a free-throw for the team that was in possession at the time of the interruption. If the interruption is due to a violation by the defending team, and thereby a clear chance of scoring is destroyed, then a 7-meter throw must be awarded in accordance with Rule 14:1b.

(The same applies if the timekeeper interrupts the game due to a request for a team time-out, and the referees refuse the team time-out because the timing is wrong. If a clear chance of scoring is destroyed due to the interruption, then a 7-meter throw must be awarded).

The timekeeper does not have the right to pronounce a punishment against a player or a team official. The same applies to the referees, if they have not themselves observed the violation. In such a case, they can only give an informal caution. If the reported violation falls under Rules 8:6 or 8:10, they must submit a written report.

The provision for awarding a 7-meter throw in accordance with Rule 14:1a, as indicated in the second paragraph above, also applies if a referee or technical delegate (of the IHF or a continental/national federation) interrupts the game for an infringement leading to a verbal caution or a punishment against a player or an official of the defending team, at a moment when the team in possession has a clear chance of scoring.

b. Intervention by a delegate

Technical delegates from the IHF, a continental federation or a national federation, who are on duty in a game, have the right to inform the referees about a possible decision in violation of the rules (except in the case of a referee decision on the basis of an observation of facts) or about a violation of the substitution area regulations.

The delegate may interrupt the game immediately. In this case, the game is restarted with a free-throw for the team that did not commit the violation that led to the interruption.

If the interruption was caused by a violation from the defending team, and the interruption caused a clear scoring chance to be destroyed, then a 7-meter throw in accordance with Rule 14:1a must be awarded.

The referees are obligated to give out personal punishments in accordance with the instructions of the delegate.

The facts related to a violation of Rules 8:6 or 8:10 are to be reported in writing.