



Guide to Operating the Possession Arrow at the Basketball Score Table

1. Understanding the Role of the Possession Arrow

1. **Purpose:** The possession arrow indicates which team will get the ball on the next jump ball.
2. **Responsibility:** Usually, the clock operator manages the possession arrow, but sometimes this task can be handled by the person doing the scorebook.
3. **Referee Communication:** The possession arrow must be visible to the referee to confirm which team has possession on the next jump ball.

2. Setting Up the Possession Arrow

1. **Check the Lights:**
 - The arrow device has lights that indicate possession, but the lights may not be visible from your position.
 - Observe the light direction as you toggle the switch—whichever way you flip the switch will determine which team has the next possession.
2. **Start of the Game:**
 - Each team begins the game shooting at the basket opposite their bench.
 - In the first half, align the arrow toward the basket that each team is shooting at to show who will have the next possession.

3. Tracking Possession During the Game

1. **Initial Possession:**
 - If the white team, for example, gains possession after the jump ball, they will have the first possession.
 - The opposing team (e.g., red team) should be indicated as having the next possession by lighting up the arrow in their basket direction.
2. **Flip the Arrow on Jump Balls:**
 - A jump ball occurs when both teams simultaneously hold the ball and there is no clear possession.
 - Flip the possession arrow to alternate which team will get the ball on the next jump ball.
3. **Updating After Possession Changes:**
 - After each jump ball, wait until the ball is inbounded to flip the arrow.
 - The referee and scorebook will track which team has the next possession.

4. Monitoring and Adjusting

1. **Quarter and Timeout Checks:**
 - Each quarter and during timeouts, referees will check the score, the book, and the possession arrow alignment.
2. **Referee Signals:**
 - Referees may carry a token to track possession and will switch it between pockets for each change.



- If you're off on possession, they may signal you to adjust the arrow. A hand gesture from the referee may indicate it's time to switch the arrow direction.
3. **Error Correction:**
- Don't worry if you miss a flip; referees can assist in correcting the arrow direction.

5. Wrapping Up

1. **Final Checks:**
 - Ensure the possession arrow is correct at the end of each quarter.
2. **Support:**
 - If you have questions or need help during the game, feel free to ask!

Thank you for helping with the basketball season. You're doing a great job, and your work at the score table is essential!