



BASKETBALL

2026-27 NCAA Women's Basketball – 10-Second Backcourt Violation

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In 2026-27, officials will use an updated procedure to determine when to assess a 10-second backcourt violation. This handout explains the procedure and provides examples.

Rule 9-10 states that a team shall not be in continuous control of the ball in its backcourt for 10 consecutive seconds. Some shot clocks, particularly those that display tenths of a second during the final five seconds of the shot-clock period, first display 20 seconds when only 9.1 seconds have elapsed. This resulted in officials assessing a 10-second backcourt violation before the team had maintained continuous control of the ball in its backcourt for 10 seconds.

In 2026-27, to ensure a team has a full 10 seconds to advance the ball from its backcourt to its frontcourt, officials will assess a 10-second backcourt violation after 11 seconds have elapsed on the shot clock.

Scenario 1 (Common Scenario): When a new possession begins with the shot clock at 30 seconds, a 10-second backcourt violation will occur when the shot clock displays 19 seconds, provided the team remains in continuous control of the ball in its backcourt.



Scenario 2 (No Shot-Clock Reset; New 10-Second Count): When a team receives a backcourt throw-in with fewer than 30 seconds on the shot clock and has a full 10 seconds to advance the ball into its frontcourt, a 10-second backcourt violation will occur after 11 seconds have elapsed on the shot clock, provided the team remains in continuous control of the ball in its backcourt.





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Scenario 3 (Game Clock Under a Minute; Shot Clock On): When a new backcourt possession begins with 30 seconds on the shot clock and 59.9 seconds or less on the game clock, officials will use the shot clock to determine when a 10-second backcourt violation occurs. Even though the game clock displays tenths of a second, a violation occurs when the shot clock displays 19, provided the team remains in continuous control of the ball in its backcourt.

1	NEW POSSESSION IN THE BACKCOURT	2	10-SECOND VIOLATION AT 19 ON THE SHOT CLOCK
			
Team A begins a new possession in its backcourt with 50.0 seconds on the game clock and 30 seconds on the shot clock.		A 10-second violation occurs when the shot clock displays 19 if Team A has not advanced the ball into its frontcourt.	
SHOT CLOCK USED TO TIME THE 10-SECOND VIOLATION		AMOUNT OF TIME ON THE GAME CLOCK IS NOT A FACTOR	

Scenario 4 (Game Clock Under 30 Seconds; Shot Clock Off): When the shot clock is off, the game clock is used to determine when a 10-second backcourt violation occurs. Because the game clock displays tenths of a second, officials can determine exactly when 10.0 seconds have elapsed. Therefore, a 10-second backcourt violation will occur after 10.0 seconds have elapsed on the game clock, provided the team remains in continuous control of the ball in its backcourt.

1	NEW POSSESSION IN THE BACKCOURT	2	10-SECOND VIOLATION AT 13.4 ON THE GAME CLOCK
			
Team A begins a new possession in its backcourt with 23.4 seconds on the game clock		A 10-second violation occurs when the game clock displays 13.4 if Team A has not advanced the ball into its frontcourt.	
SHOT CLOCK IS OFF BECAUSE THE GAME CLOCK SHOWS LESS THAN 30 SECONDS		10-SECOND VIOLATION AFTER 10.0 SECONDS HAVE ELAPSED	