

The AP Arrow – Did We Get it Right?

The rhythmic back and forth cadence of the alternating possession (AP) arrow appears to have come to a screeching halt in your game as both head coaches are making strenuous arguments to one of your partners as to why this latest held ball should be awarded to their team.

You join the discussion and quickly begin to process the information flowing to you at a passionate decibel level.

You learn that on the previous AP throw in, Team A's entry pass was kicked by Team B. The official ruled a violation on Team B and administered another spot throw in for Team A.

The throw in was successfully completed, the AP arrow was turned in the direction of Team B's basket and played proceeded uninterrupted until this moment in the closing minutes of a very close game.

Is Team A or Team B entitled to take possession in this scenario?

The **officials correctly determined that Team A should have retained the AP arrow** because Team B's violation for kicking the ball on the entry pass negated the opportunity to complete the AP throw in.

Now the opportunity to complete the AP throw does occur if the throw in team commits a violation, in this case, Team A. Subsequently, Team B would take possession, and would have the AP arrow on the next held ball situation. In addition to a defensive team violation keeping the arrow pointed in the same direction, so would a foul (personal or technical) committed by either team keep the AP arrow from being switched.

Remember there are two scenarios when the AP arrows is not changed:

- ***A DEFENSIVE violation occurs.***
- ***EITHER team (or BOTH teams) commit a foul.***

The team obtaining control of the jump ball to start the game or any overtime session establishes the AP procedure, and the arrow is set towards the opponent's basket. If there is a loose ball scramble for possession off the opening or overtime tip off and the officials are unable to determine who caused the ball to go out of bounds, the center circle jump will be repeated with the two closest players.

Control can also be established by the results of a foul or violation....If Team A commits a foul or a violation during the jump ball; Team B would inbound the ball at the closest spot to the infraction, and the AP arrow would be pointed toward Team A's basket.