

## CORRECTABLE ERRORS – RULE 2-10

The correctable error rule continues to be misunderstood by coaches, players and officials.

There are only **five correctable errors under R2-10 that may be corrected which are:**

- A. Failure to award a merited free throw.
- B. Awarding an unmerited free throw.
- C. Permitting a wrong player to attempt a free throw.
- D. Attempting a free throw at the wrong basket.
- E. Erroneously counting or canceling a score

In order to correct **any** of the errors listed, the error **must** be recognized by an official during the **first dead ball after the clock has started**. Most errors occur while the ball is **dead** so the above criteria would be in effect.

If the error is made while the **clock is running** and the ball dead, it **must** be recognized **before the second live ball**. Example: Counting or not counting a field goal while the clock is running.

Officials and coaches must remember that there are four sequences of a correctable error situation. (1) that an error has been made, (2) the clock has started, (3) the ball becomes dead, (4) the error must be corrected before the ball again becomes live. This means that the official needs to understand when a ball becomes live. The ball becomes live (a) when on a jump ball, the ball leaves the official's hand(s), (b) when on a throw-in, the ball becomes live when the ball is at the disposal of the thrower-in, (c) when on a free throw, the ball is at the disposal of the thrower.

When a possible error has been discovered by a coach, the coach is authorized to go to the table and request the timer to sound the horn at the next dead ball. The officials may also sound their whistle anytime they discover an error under R2-10.

If the error is a free throw by the wrong player, or awarded of an unmerited free throw, the free throw and the activity during it, **other than unsportsmanlike, flagrant, intentional or technical fouls, shall be canceled.**

Points scored, consumed time and additional activity, which may occur prior to the recognition of an error, **shall be nullified**. Errors because of free throw attempts by the wrong player or at the wrong basket shall be corrected by applying R8-1 & 2.

If an error is corrected, **play shall be resumed from the point at which it was interrupted to rectify the error, unless it involves awarding a merited free throw(s) and and there has been no change of team possession since the error was made, in which case play shall resume as any free throw attempt(s).**

Keep in mind that scorekeeping and mathematical **mistakes**, arrow and timing mistakes do not fall under R2-10. Bookkeeping errors may be corrected anytime up until the **approval of the final score**.

Correctable errors can usually be **prevented** by the following officiating practices and proper game administration:

1. Table officials should be responsible, mature adults.
2. Game officials must be certain of their pre-game instructions to the table officials.
3. Table officials must have **proper “one and one” table indicators**.
4. Officials must use **“preventive officiating”** by taking the time in making a proper decision.
5. All information **reported and received from the table** must be done **without haste and clearly** understood by all parties.
6. Only **official National Federation signals shall be used by officials**.
7. Communication and teamwork are excellent preventatives. Make proper use of **“the language of basketball”**.
8. Both head coaches should be present for any conference regarding a correctable error.

Case book plays 2.10.1A thru G and 2.10.2, 2.10.4, 2.10.6A and B cover the correctable error rule. Every official **should study these case book plays**.

**Remember – Don’t Let Them Happen.**

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