

Example:

It is discovered that one (1) of the players on the playing court is not one (1) of the confirmed starting five (5) players. This occurs:

- (a) Before the start of the game.
- (b) After the start of the game.

Interpretation:

- (a) The player shall be replaced without any sanction by one (1) of the five (5) players who were to start the game.
- (b) The error is disregarded and the game continues.

ART. 9 BEGINNING AND END OF A PERIOD**Statement 1**

A game shall not begin unless each team has a minimum of five (5) entitled players on the playing court and ready to play. If fewer than five (5) players are on the playing court at the time the game is to begin, the officials must be sensitive to any unforeseeable circumstance(s) that could explain the delay. If a reasonable explanation is provided for the delay, a technical foul shall not be charged. If, however, no such explanation is provided, a technical foul and/or forfeiture of the game may result upon arrival of further entitled players.

Example:

When the game is scheduled to begin, team A has fewer than five (5) players on the playing court and ready to play.

- (a) The representative of team A is able to provide a reasonable and acceptable explanation for the late arrival of the team A players.
- (b) The representative of team A is unable to provide a reasonable and acceptable explanation for the late arrival of the team A players.

Interpretation:

- (a) The beginning of the game shall be delayed for a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes. If the absent players arrive on the playing court ready to play before fifteen (15) minutes have passed, the game shall begin. If the absent players have not arrived on the playing court ready to play before fifteen (15) minutes have passed, the game may be forfeited to team B and the score recorded as 20:0.
- (b) The beginning of the game shall be delayed for a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes. If the absent players arrive on the playing court ready to play before fifteen (15) minutes have passed, a technical foul may be charged against coach A, recorded as 'B', after which the game shall begin.
If the absent players have not arrived on the playing court ready to play before fifteen (15) minutes have passed, then the game may be forfeited to team B and the score recorded as 20:0. In all cases the referee shall report it on the reverse side of the scoresheet to the organising body of the competition.

Statement 2

Art. 9 clarifies which basket a team is to defend and which basket it is to attack. If by confusion any period begins with both teams attacking/defending the wrong baskets, the situation shall be corrected as soon as it is discovered, without placing either team at a disadvantage. Any points scored, time used, fouls charged, etc. before the stopping of the game remain valid.

Example 1:

After the start of the game, the officials discover that both teams are playing in the wrong direction.