

REFEREE SIGNALS IN BASKETBALL



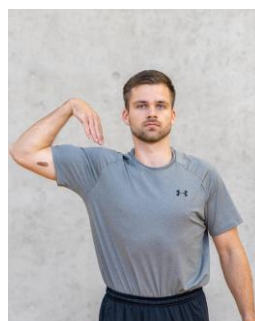
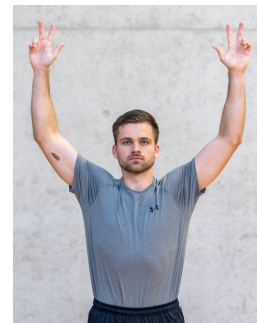
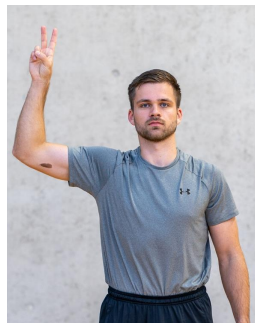
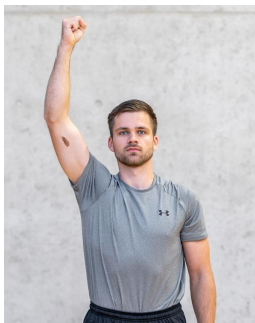
Overview

- **Signals and their meaning¹**
- **Referee signals in basketball**
 - Game clock signals
 - Scoring
 - Substitution and time-out
 - Informative
 - Violations
 - Type of fouls
 - Special fouls
 - Instant replay system
 - Administrating free throws - active official
 - Administrating free throws - passive official
 - Numbers of players
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 - Solution sheet (2-2.2)
- **List of sources**

Signals and their meanings

Basketball is a sport that thrives on fast movements. Compared to other sports, the game time is stopped after each interruption by the referee's whistle. To ensure that the flow of the game is not interrupted for too long, fast and comprehensible communication by means of rules is necessary. For this purpose, contextual hand signals are used in basketball. The most important game events are also logged. Below this, the corresponding number of points and fouls are noted for all player numbers. The extent of the penalty for a foul is communicated by the referee and is firmly prescribed by the rules of FIBA (Fédération Internationale de Basketball). Thus, a player may commit a maximum of five personal fouls before being disqualified from the game. However, if a player commits two technical fouls within one game, the player is also disqualified before reaching the personal foul limit. Therefore, clear communication with both the players and the game's scorekeeper is essential.

- For a better understanding, this article presents the referee signals with their meaning.
- At the end of the article you will also find a self-check with attached solution sheets for the selected rules.



Referee signals in basketball

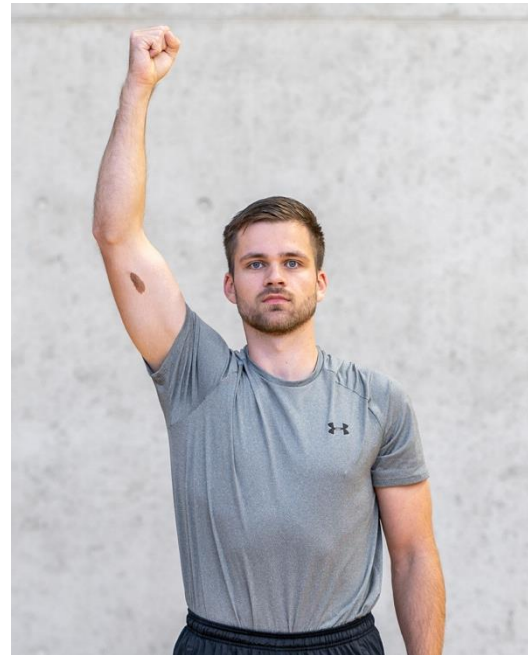
Game clock signals

Stop the clock



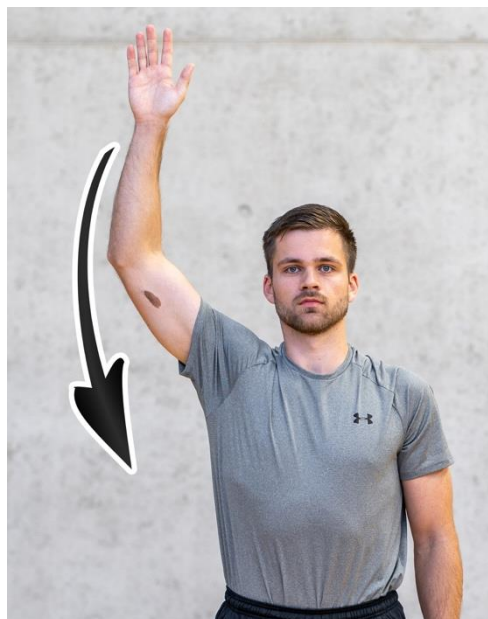
open palm

Stop the clock for foul



one clenched fist

Start the clock



chop with hand

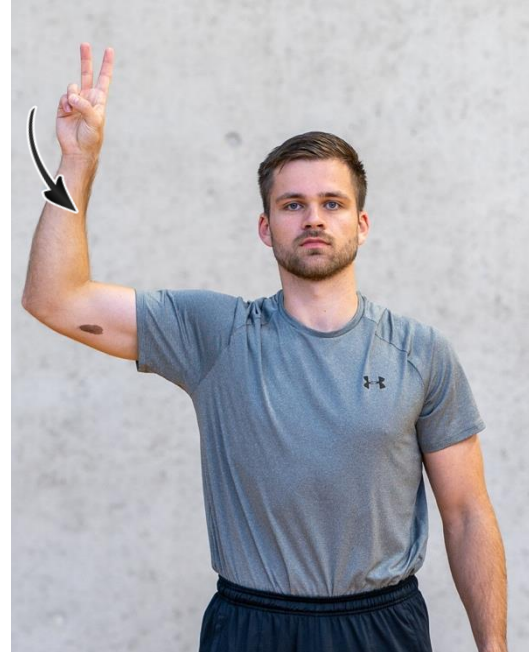
Scoring

1 point



one finger, "flag" from wrist,

2 points



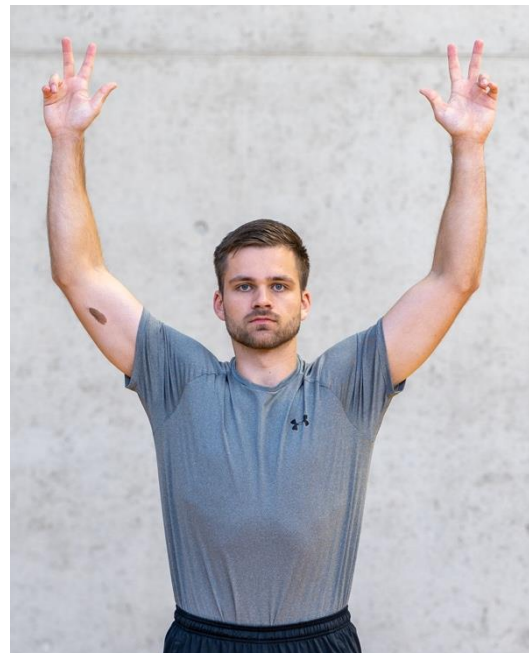
2 fingers, "flag" from wrist

3 points attempt



three fingers extended (one arm)

3 points (successful)



three fingers extended (both arms)

Substitution and time-out

Substitution



cross forearms

Beckoning-in



open palm, wave towards the body

Charged time-out



form T, show index finger

Medial-time-out



**both arms extended horizontally,
closed fist**

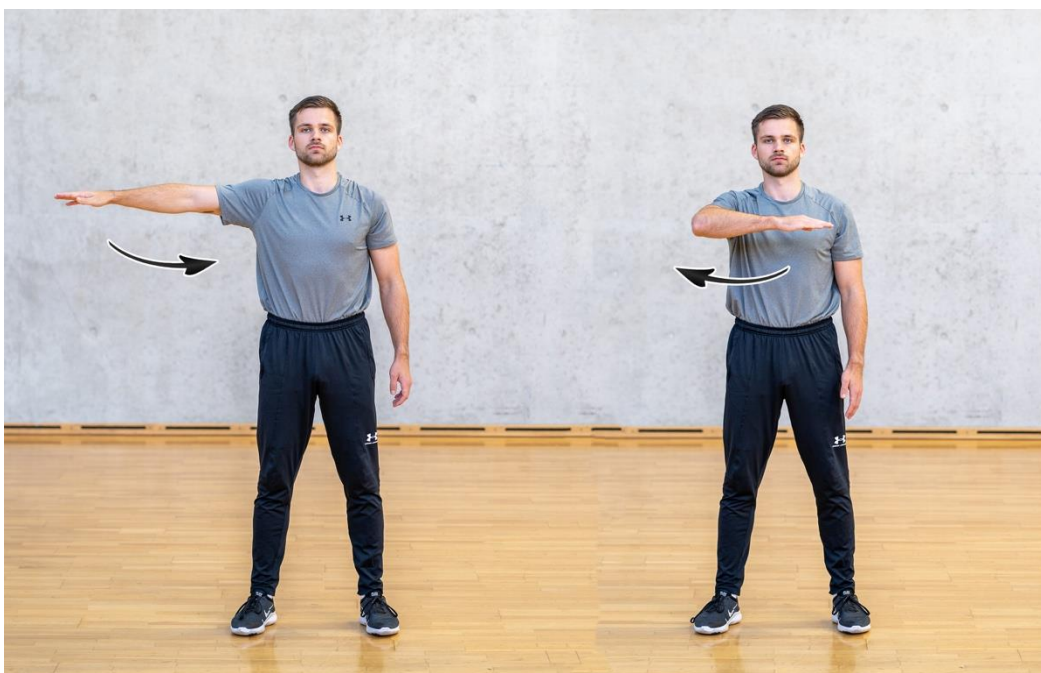
Informative

Cancel score, cancel play



scissor-like movement with arms, once across chest

Visible count



counting while moving the forearm

Informative

Communication



thumb up

Shot-clock reset



rotate hand, extend index finger

Direction of play and/or out-of-bounds



point in direction of play, arm parallel to sidelines

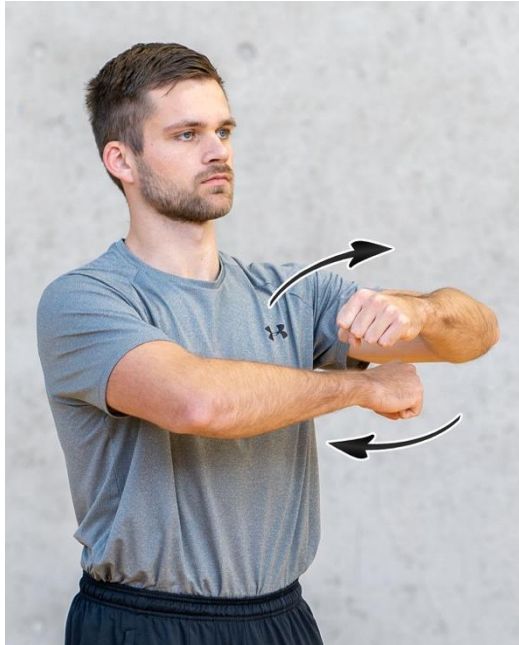
Held ball/jump ball situation



thumbs up, then point in direction of play using the possession arrow

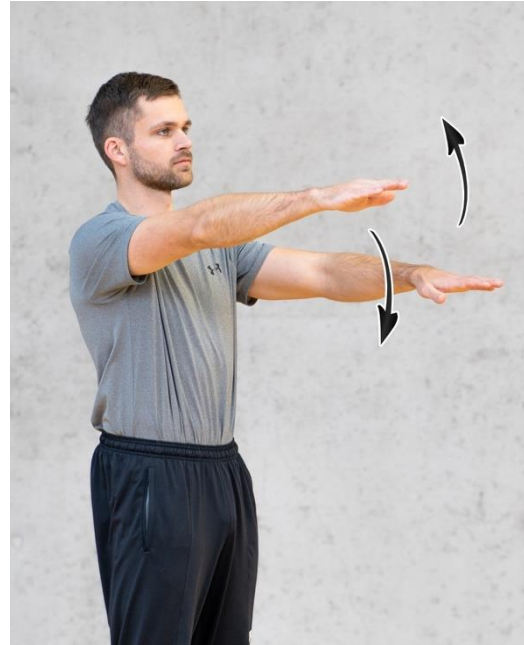
Violations

Travelling



rotate fists

Illegal dribble - double dribbling



patting motion with palm

Illegal dribble - carrying the ball



half rotation with forearm

Violations

3 seconds



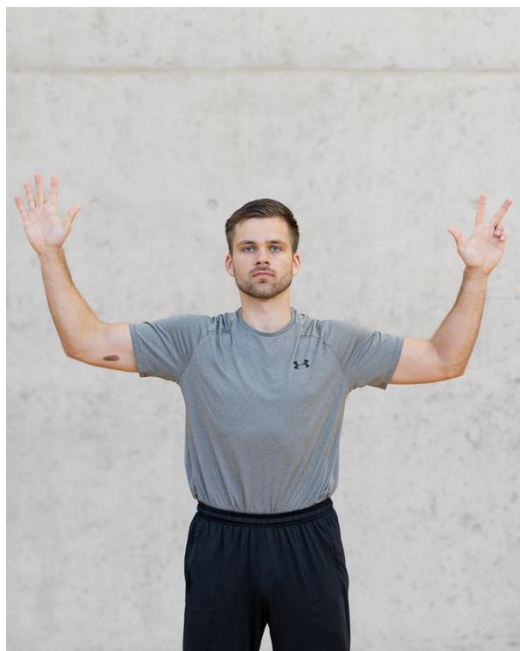
arm extended, show three fingers

5 seconds



show five fingers

8 seconds



show eight fingers

24 seconds



fingers touch shoulder

Violations

Ball returned to backcourt



wave arm in front of body

Goaltending / basket interface



rotate extended index finger over the other hand in circular motion

Deliberate kick ball



point to the foot

Type of fouls

Holding



imitate the contact to the head

Blocking (defense) Illegal screen (offense)



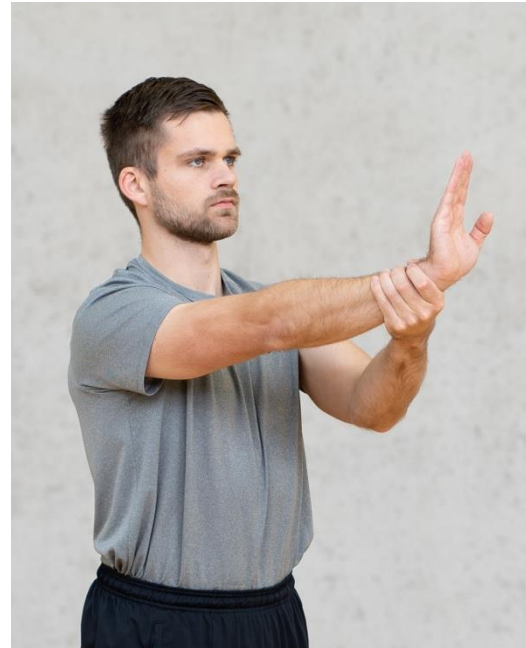
both hand on hips

Pushing / charging without ball



imitate push

Handchecking



grab palm with forward motion

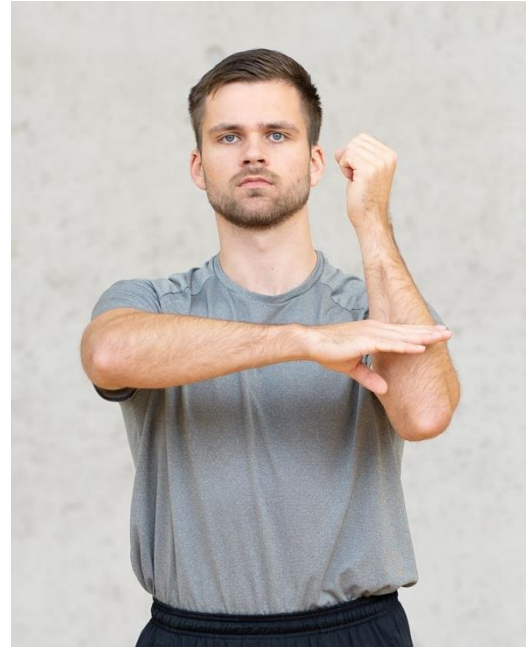
Type of fouls

Illegal use of hands



strike wrist

Illegal contact on the hand



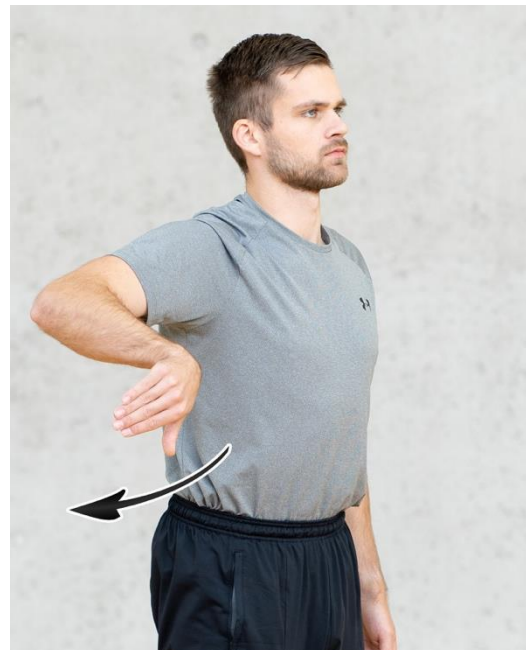
strike the palm towards the other forearm

Charging with the ball



clenched fist hits open palm

Hook up



move the forearm backwards

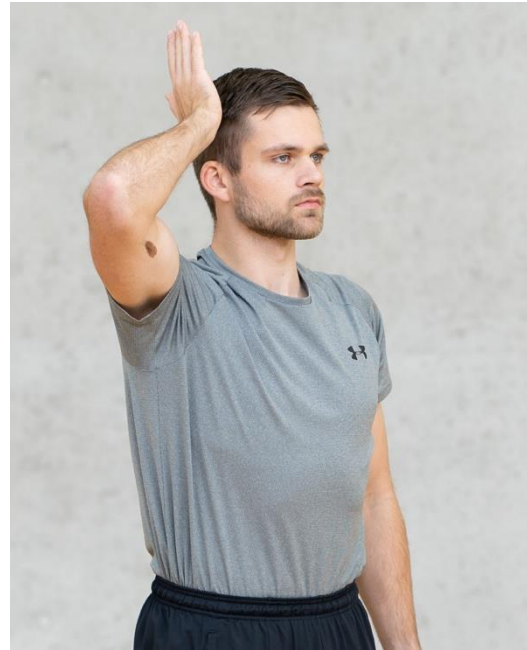
Type of fouls

Cylinder play



both arms move up and down,
hands directed vertically

Hit to head



imitate the contact to head

Excessive swinging of elbow



swing elbow backwards

**Foul by team in control
of the ball**



point clenched fist towards basket
of offending

Type of fouls

Foul in the act of shooting



**one arm with clenched fist, followed by
Indication of the numbers of free throws**

Foul not in the act of shooting



**one arm with clenched fist, followed by
pointing to the floor**

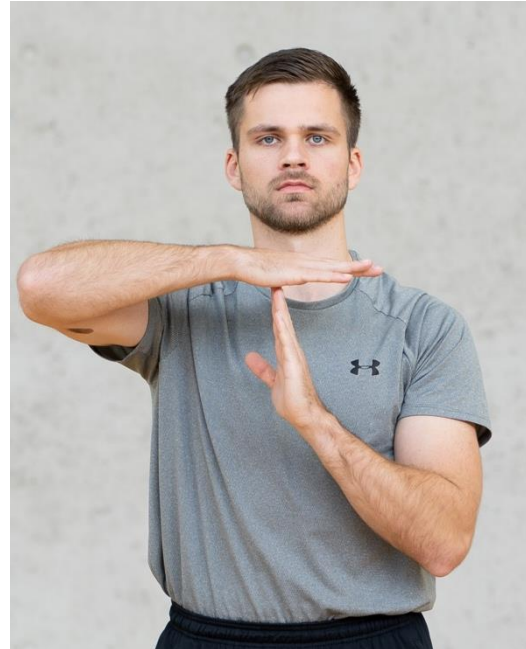
Special fouls

Double foul



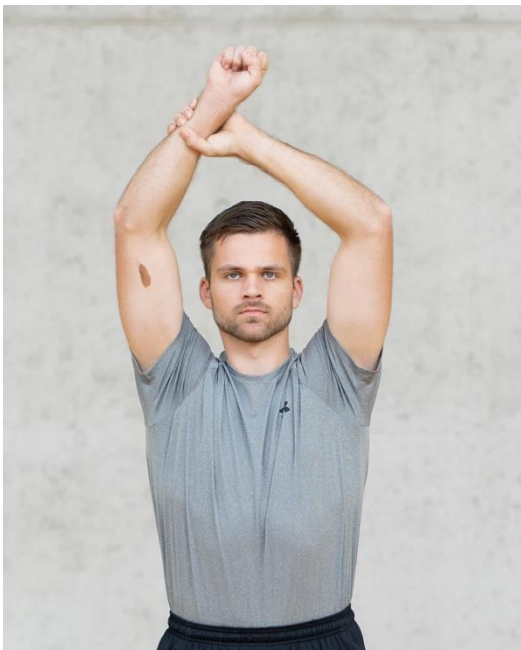
Wave clenched fists on both hands

Technical foul



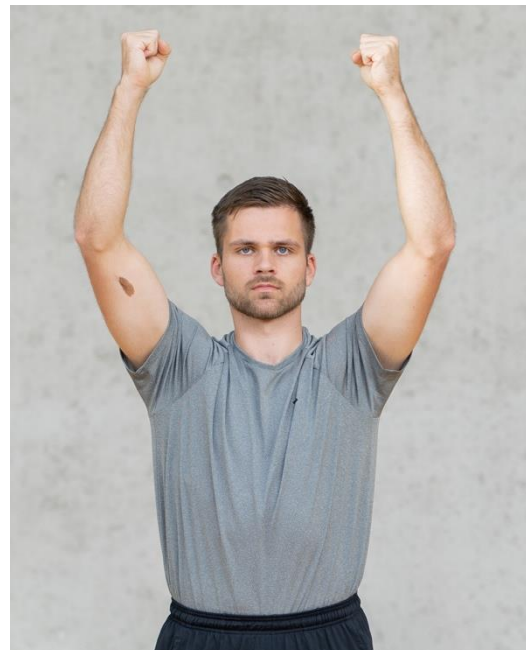
form a t showing palms

Unsportmanlike foul



grasp wrist upward

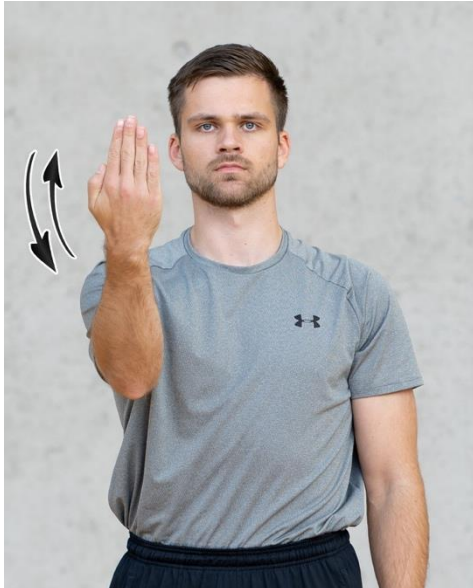
Disqualifying foul



clenched fists on both hands

Special fouls

Fake a foul



**lower and raise forearm twice
(starting at the top)**

**Illegal boundary
line crossing**



wave arm parallel to boundary line

Instant replay system

IRS-usage



circular movement of the hand

Head coach's challenge



draw a rectangle with your index fingers

Administrrating free throws - active official

1 free throw



one finger horizontal

2 free throws



two finger horizontal

3 free throws



three fingers horizontal

Adminisistrating free throws - passive official

1 free throw



index finger

2 free throws



fingers together on both hands

3 free throws



three fingers extended on both hands

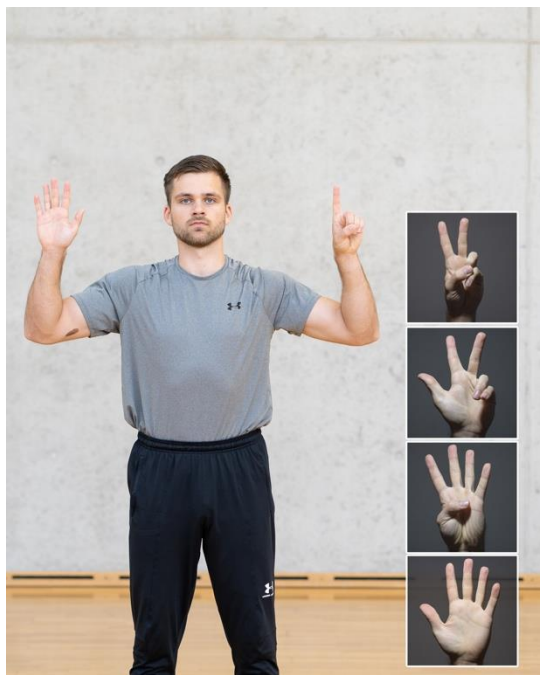
Number of players

Nr. 1-5



right hand shows number 1-5

Nr.5-6



right hand shows number 5,
left hand shows number 1-5

Nr. 11-15



right hand shows clenched fist,
left hand shows number 1-5

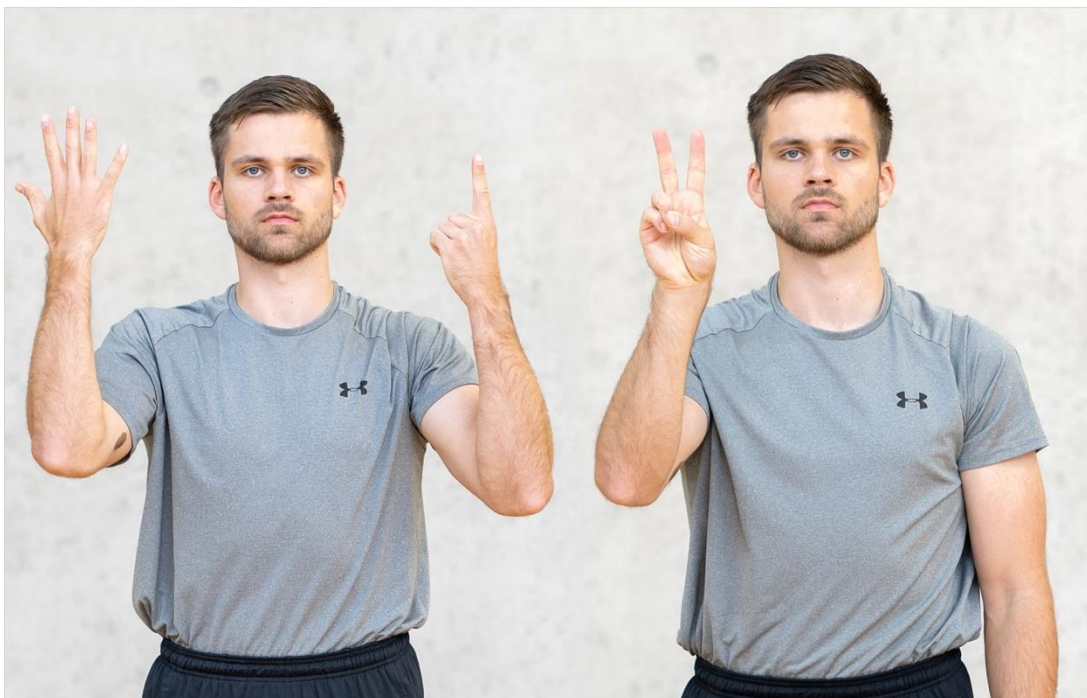
Number of players

Nr. 16



First reverse hand shows number 1 for the tens digit - then open hands show number 6 for the units digit.

Nr. 62



First reverse hands shows number 6 for the decade digit - then open hand shows 2 for the units digit.

Number of players

Nr. 00 and 0



both hands show number 0

right hand shows number 0

Nr. 99


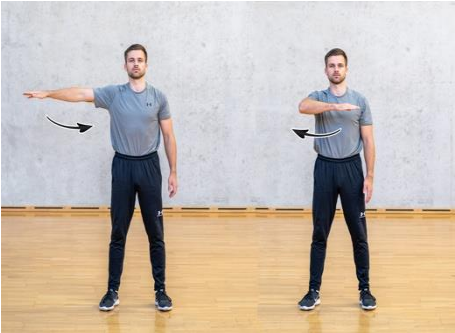






First reverse hands show number 9 for the decade digit -
Then open hands show number 9 for the units digit.



Self-check referee signals

Label the pictures with the corresponding rule.

<p>A</p>  <p>_____</p>	<p>B</p>  <p>_____</p>	<p>C</p>  <p>_____</p>
<p>D</p>  <p>_____</p>	<p>E</p>  <p>_____</p>	<p>F</p>  <p>_____</p>

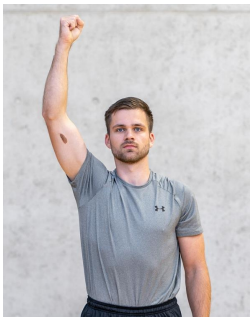


1.1

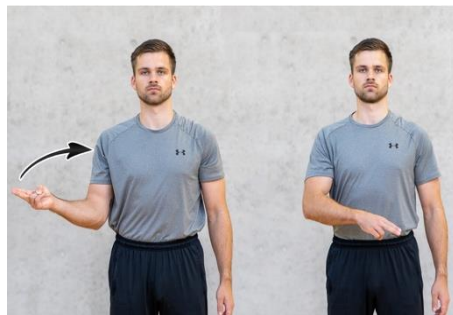
Self-check referee signals

Label the pictures with the corresponding rule.

G



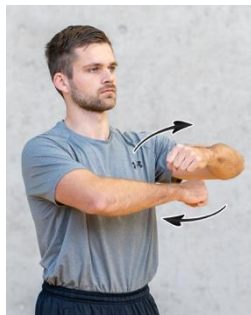
H



I



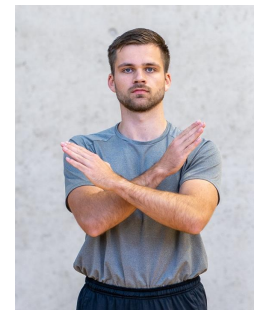
J



K



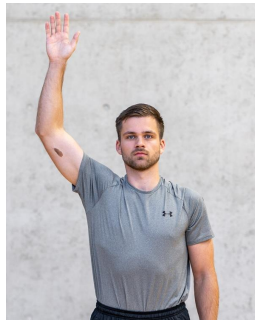
L





Solution sheet

A



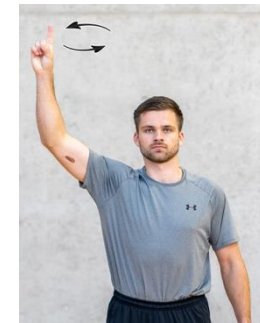
Stop the clock

B



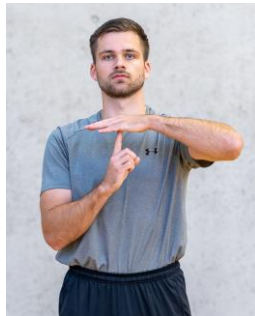
Visible count

C



Shot clock reset

D



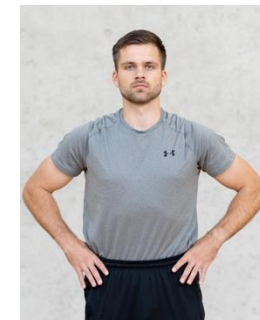
Time-out

E



Cancel score, cancel play

F



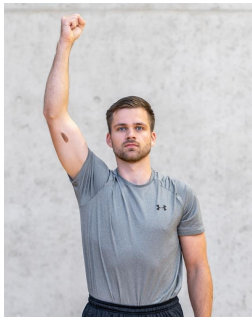
**Blocking (defense),
illegal screen (offense)**



2.1

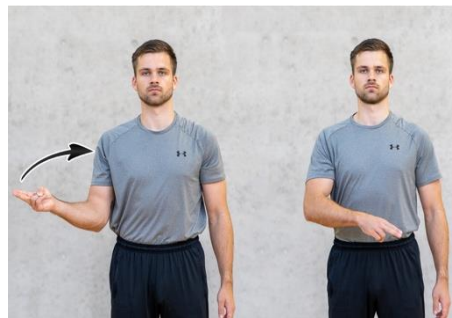
Solution sheet

G



Stop the clock for foul

H



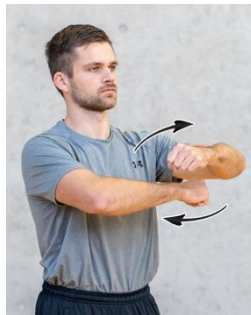
Ball returned to backcourt

I



Held ball / jump ball situation

J



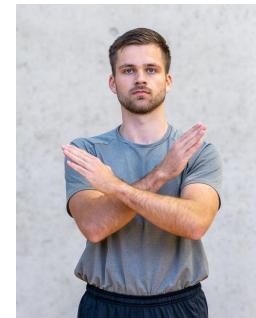
Travelling

K



Illegal dribble - carrying the ball

L



Substitution

List of sources

Literature

Author	Name of literature	Place of Publication	Release date	Publisher
Deutscher Basketballbund e. V.	DBB Offizielle-Basketball-Regeln 2022	Hagen	2022	Onlineprinters GmbH

Photos

Number	Owner
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Originator of the contribution

Author	Advisor	Institution
Jannik Ernst - Author/Translator; Aryan-Lmer Yussof - Translator /Student Teacher	Marlis Minnich	Institut für Sportwissenschaft, Universität Koblenz