



## SHOT CLOCK USE HIGH SCHOOL.....PROS/CONS

It's getting closer. Recently the National Federation of State High School Association, (NFHS) ruled that states which implement the shot clock were NOT to have a spot on the rules committee forfeited, as was previously the case. This is a major step in all 50 states adopting the shot clock.

Utah is the most recent state to adopt the 35 second clock starting in the 22-23 season for both boys and girls. In a survey of 90 Utah schools, 77% were in favor of adding the shot clock.

Nine states currently use the shot clock, and California has used it for several years. Montana, Georgia, and Iowa adding the clock for the 22-23 season, and Minnesota in 23-24.

When I talk to high school players and coaches throughout the country, those in favor of the clock is OVERWHELMING.

Here are some of the Pros and Cons of the argument.....

### ARGUMENTS OPPOSING THE SHOT CLOCK.....

1. **Cost**-It is somewhere between \$3,000 and 5,000 for clock mounted above the backboard. This could be a significant cost for schools with tight budgets, especially smaller, rural schools.
2. **Shot Clock Operator**-Will this be another paid person or a volunteer? What about the lower-level games? This may further strain the resources of some schools.
3. **It's Not the NBA or College**-A lot of traditionalists believe HS hoops is unique and that such a small percentage of players go on to play in college so the pressure to make it more like college is not valid.
4. **Fans**-Some believe that whether or not fans like it is irrelevant....the game is for the players.
5. **Coaching Strategy**-Some coaches believe that using a clock takes away from coaching strategy. This may help lesser talented teams pull off upsets.
6. **Fundamentals**-Some coaches contend that being forced to play "fast" will erode the fundamentals and cause more turnovers and bad shot selection.

### ARGUMENTS FOR THE SHOT CLOCK.....

1. **Stalling**-This will prevent it and make the game more exciting.
2. **Fans**-They will enjoy it more and attendance will increase.
3. **Costs**-There will be additional costs initially, but increased fans attendance will help offset. Poor urban schools have somehow been able to get the funding.
4. **Player Development**-Players will learn to play up-tempo, which will increase their skill development....more possessions/more reps/more improved skill level.
5. **It's for the players**-The VAST majority of players themselves prefer the shot clock.
6. **Demographics**-One study has indicated there is a generational argument....Older coaches are opposed as they have coached that way for years. Younger coaches have grown up seeing the use of the clock and are used to it. If this is true, it is just a matter of time before all states adopt it.
7. **How long should it be?**-30 or 35 seconds is the current length for states using it.

I have advocated for a national shot clock for all 50 states. We see so much interstate competition now, so a consistent shot clock makes sense. To me, the most important people in this debate are the PLAYERS.....they want it. The game is for them. Adults.....let's get this done at the national level.

After that gets done, our next step should be to adopt the international (FIBA) rules for ALL levels other than professional basketball.