

LATE ARRIVING TEAMS

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE VISITING TEAM DOES NOT SHOW UP ON TIME

SITUATION:

The match was scheduled for a 3:30pm start so the official arrived at 3:00pm. After about 20 minutes the visiting team had still not arrived nor called to let the home coach or referee know when they would be arriving. The home coach then went to try and reach the coach to check on their arrival status.

After another five minute wait the referee went and asked the home team start their 7 minutes of warm-up. The visiting team finally arrived at 3:50pm (bus driver got lost) and at that point the referee called the coaches together to discuss how things could be moved along while trying to stay as close to on schedule as possible.

The referee suggested using only one timeout per set and just two minutes between sets to pick up some time and both coaches agreed to that adjustment. The captain's meeting was then conducted and the visiting team immediately began their 7 minutes of warm-up. The visiting coach tried to delay things a bit with unnecessary talking but the referee professionally and appropriately reminded the coach that due to them being late parents and players had already been waiting long enough so it was imperative that his warm-ups start right away so that the match could start as soon as possible.

The end result? They were done and out of the gym by 6:00pm.

It doesn't always work this smoothly. A key is making sure that the home team has already warmed up. There is no problem in letting them stay on the court for extra warm-up while waiting for the visiting team to arrive but once they are present the home team should vacate the court. If the home team wants to continue peppering elsewhere that is fine.

In some instances it may be necessary to try convincing the visiting team to reduce their warm-up by a few minutes although you are more likely to get the JV team coach to reduce their time rather than the varsity team. You just have to be diplomatic and do the best you can. One thing that you must be very careful about is forcing them to cut down the warm-up time. Coaches may claim that a reduction in warm-up time could cause injury and you never want to hear that from them.

Our referee handled this situation about as perfectly as possible.