MSHSL Activity Advisory Committee Proposal - Basketball-shot clock

Committee: Basketball Advisory Committee
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Current Rule/Policy: (State the rule/policy as it appears in the current Rules and Policies Manual. There currently is not a shot clock rule in place for Varsity Basketball play.)

Submit your proposed change to the above-stated rule/policy: Implement the use of a 35 second shot clock for all classes of Boys and Girls Basketball (Varsity play only) for regular and tournament season play.

Identify your rationale for the proposed change: A 2018 Survey of Boys Basketball Coaches in all four classes favored implementation of a shot clock by a 70%-30% margin. A 2017 Survey of Girls Basketball Coaches in all four classes favored implementation of a shot clock by a 64%-36% margin.

B. 8 States currently use the shot clock, including our neighboring states of North Dakota and South Dakota with whom several Minnesota teams compete against on an annual basis.

C. Shot clocks encourage a structured and efficient style of play that will raise the overall quality of the game. It increases strategy and reduces rough play late in the game, and it increases fan interest.

D. The game, especially as you move up in School Classification, has turned into a physical game. Having teams play at a faster pace actually reduces the banging, grinding, etc. that leads to an increase in tension that could spill over into something much more significant. The escalation could possibly lead to more serious injuries (head) and unsportsmanlike acts on the floor between teams. The shot clock eliminates players getting "chippy" as they grind away or even the incessant holding, displacement, etc. due to the importance of cleaner offensive and defensive execution.

E. Teams that have used the Shot Clock report that it leads to less aggressive play and fouling. Example: team that is down by 20+ at half time can still come out and not have to full court press/trap to get back in the game. They don't have to panic and be more aggressive which would lead into more fouls.

F. Many officials are currently familiar and have experience with the use of a shot clock.

G. As new facilities have been built and/or new scoreboards have been added, many schools currently have shot clocks and/or technology in place for shot clocks to be used.

H. To implement the 40 Second play clock rule many schools have purchased play clocks for their scoreboards and/or portable clocks to use on the field. In addition to portable clocks, schools will have the resource of trained individuals to operate the clock.

I. Many schools in our neighboring states use students to operate Shot Clocks during their games. With the vast amount of students interested in and adapt at using technology implementation of the Shot Clock would provide increased opportunity for students to be involved in student activities and community service. It may also lead to increased interest in officiating.

Cite an Example of how the proposed Change would affect this activity:

A. Adopting a shot clock for high school basketball with continuous play, competition and strategy by coaches throughout the game will make the game even more enjoyable for all parties involved.

B. Information received from states and coaches currently using a shot clock indicate that the shot clock greatly enhances the spectator, player and coaching experience of high school basketball in a diversity of ways. Included but not limited to; Spectators gaining a great awareness of how the shot clock made the spectator experience more enjoyable. As a shot clock is winding down it creates an extra level of awareness as to what the offense is going to run to get a good shot and what the defense may do to stop that good shot. Those situations are similar to the end of a half and the end of a close game in current high school competitions without a shot clock. The shot clock creates extra interest and intrigue throughout the course of the game. Without a current shot clock many games are over at the 5:00 mark of the second half if one team is leading by 6 points or more, unless the losing team decides to foul constantly in
hopes of the winning team missing those shots. Stalling, fouls, free throws and timeouts become the norm. By utilizing the shot clock, possessions will change minimally every 35 seconds lending itself to continuous play until the final buzzer sounds.

C. Teams have a tendency to play intense defense for 35 seconds in their attempt to regain possession of the basketball. On the offensive end teams maximize control of the ball for only 35 seconds and use special plays if and when the shot clock winds down to 10 seconds.

D. Implementation of a shot clock will reduce the need to foul late in games and thereby reduce rough play, excessive contact, etc.

E. Boys and Girls when asked their reaction to playing both offense and defense with a shot clock Have continually responded “it is just fun”. “The tempo of the game is much slower without a shot clock”.

How does your proposal impact:

a. the tournament administration: Use of a shot clock operator.
b. the change in competition time needed to accommodate your recommendation: No Change
c. the number of competitors: No Change
d. the facilities needed to accommodate your recommendation: State Tournament sites already have shot clocks in place for tournament play. High Schools without shot clocks would have to purchase clocks- backboard, wall or floor- (if they currently do not have them).
e. the number of awards: No change
f. other items which should be considered regarding the above-stated proposal:

A. The MSHSL could follow the lead of the North Dakota and South Dakota Activities Associations in providing online training for shot clock operators.

B. Example of a Vendor Proposal to assist schools: Daktronics is committed to helping with the perceived challenges of cost, installation and operation as follows:

1. Daktronics will offer an equipment package discounted at 10% off list price.
2. Daktronics Sports Marketing, a division of Daktronics, can establish a program designed to help Minnesota High Schools create and sell sponsorship packages to cover the cost of the implementation of Daktronics shot clocks. Daktronics will offer technical support to help schools with the installation process.
3. Daktronics can offer education and training sessions for operators to understand how shot clock rules affect game time operation of the equipment.