



# MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL

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## **Heather Pino, Principal**

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December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Dear Colleen & Members of the NJSIAA Advisory Committee,

On behalf of Montgomery High School, Christian Brothers Academy and the Executive Committee of the NJ Basketball Coaches Association (NJBCA), I am reaching out to formally request the adoption of a 35 Second Shot Clock for Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball.

We are looking for mandatory use of the Shot Clock to be used in all boys and girls games including the State Tournament at the Varsity level only. We would like for member schools to be encouraged to use it at the younger levels to develop players and coaches when they are promoted to the varsity level, but it will not be required.

### **Reason for Proposal:**

There are 32 states that have adopted a high school basketball shot clock. New Jersey has arguably the best high school basketball product in the United States. Every level of basketball from USA Basketball, All NCAA Divisions and Professional Leagues both in the USA (NBA, WNBA) and around the World (FIBA) have adopted a shot clock.

NFHS Basketball Rules Committee. The implementation of the 35-second shot clock was approved by state adoption for the 2022-23 season. This presents an opportunity for New Jersey to follow many other states towards progressive initiatives that positively improve the quality of play.

In addition we feel the implementation of the shot clock will have the following positive and long lasting effects on NJ high school basketball:

**1.) Aligns New Jersey with National Standards:** Universal alignment of basketball rules across the State of New Jersey amongst amateur levels. College and High School Basketball in the state would mirror each other with the same fundamental principles. This would produce a fluid structural system that is clearly identifiable. Thirty-two (32) states have already implemented the shot clock including several nearby or bordering states and others are proposing to move to implementing a shot clock in the near future. Adopting a shot clock would help New Jersey stay competitive and showcase the high level of talent our state consistently produces.

**2.) Promotes Better Pace and Flow:** A shot clock eliminates stalling and keeps the game moving, creating more possessions, more action, and a more exciting experience for players and fans alike.

**3.) Builds Essential Life Skills:** Competing with a shot clock enhances critical life competencies: communication, leadership, decision-making under pressure, and resilience. These transferable skills extend beyond the hardwood, helping prepare young men and women for success in college, careers, and community life. Players learn to execute more efficiently and make smarter decisions under time pressure

**4.) Referees Will Benefit and Improve:** Referees support the implementation of a shot clock. It simplifies their responsibilities and minimizes subjective calls such as the 5-second closely guarded rule, which often leads to inconsistent enforcement and unnecessary confrontations. With a shot clock in place, officials can focus more on the flow of the game, improving accuracy and game management while fostering a better playing environment.

**5.) Prepares Players for the Next Level:** College basketball uses a shot clock, and players who compete out of state or in national showcases are already accustomed to it. By not using one here, we put our athletes at a disadvantage when adjusting to faster-paced, time-managed play.

**Implementation Year:** 2027-2028 School Year

Approval now will give more than ample time for School Districts to budget for expenses. Working with NJ State approved vendors we are confident to get an economical cost for implementing shot clocks into gyms across the state.

In addition, if the NJSIAA agrees and we move forward with this proposal at this point it will give member schools more than ample time for Shot Clock Operators to be trained. Operating a shot clock is a minimal learning curve. It involves managing a single button for resets—a task that can be taught in minutes. School staff, volunteers, or student managers can easily be trained to handle this task if that is the choice of the district. The complexity of implementation has been overstated; the reality is far simpler. We have met with assignors from across the state who believe that this is not only a beneficial rule improvement but would be able to provide training and use either novice officials or seasoned officials who are no longer active to operate the shot clock, they can assign shot clock operators if a school so chooses like they do for football.

Thanks so much for your consideration and I look forward to speaking about this proposal in more depth on Wednesday, December 10th.

Sincerely,

Kris Grundy – Athletic Director  
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