

4-5s Guidelines:

In the 4-5s, our primary goal is to make sure the kids are safe and having fun. The way the game is reffed in this age group aims to keep the game going. The following guidelines should help the game run smoothly:

- Instead of inbounding the ball after a stoppage/made basket, we will just hand the ball to a kid and allow them to keep playing.
- Pretty much the only time we will stop the game for out of bounds is if the ball hits a wall, person/chair on the sideline, or goes into one of the corners. In those cases, the ref should hand the ball to a kid and allow them to continue playing.
- On a made basket, we will have the kids start dribbling from the foul line rather than the baseline to shorten the distance they have to cover.
- On a change in possession, we will allow the dribbler to go once all the kids are heading to the frontcourt (they don't have to wait for everyone to get set, since they usually dribble pretty slowly anyway).
- Try to minimize the amount of time players are on the floor trying to get a ball. If a player is on the ground in an exposed position, blow the whistle and pause the game so they can get up. On a loose ball, blow the whistle as soon as there is a clear recovery and tell the players where to go.

To sum this all up, the two biggest keys are to stop the game when players are unsafe, and keep the game going in all other cases. The less time spent on telling the kids what to do and the more time spent on playing basketball, the more they will learn.