

If a player disregards the ball, faces an opponent, and shifts his position as the opponent shifts, such player is primarily responsible for any contact that ensues, unless other factors are involved.

The expression "unless other factors are involved" in the foregoing statements, refers to deliberate pushing, charging or holding by the player who is being screened. This player must make a reasonable effort to avoid contact and any deliberate act on his part which causes contact should be penalized.

It is legal for one or more players to run down the court close to a teammate who has the ball, with the apparent intention of preventing opponents from approaching the player with the ball. If, however, they run into an opponent who has taken a position in their path, charging or blocking occurs, and in any case of contact on such a play, the greater responsibility is on the team in possession.

It is legal for a player to extend his arms or elbows in taking a defensive position, but the arms or elbows should be lowered when an opponent attempts to go by, otherwise blocking or holding by the defensive player usually occurs.

The "Center-Pivot Play"

This play has been restricted by limiting to three seconds the time a player may remain in his own free throw lane while the ball is in play and in possession or control of his team.

The pivoter should not be allowed to shoulder or hip his opponent out of position, nor to interfere with the latter's freedom of motion by the use of extended elbows or arms, after he has thrown the ball. On the other hand, the guard should not be allowed to interfere with the pivoter's freedom of motion by use of the arms, knees or other part of the body.

The Dribble

Rule 15, Section 9, contains a statement that emphasizes the responsibility of the dribbler in connection with the fouls resulting from the dribble. If the dribbler's path is blocked, he is expected to pass or shoot; that is, he ought not to try to dribble by an opponent unless there is a reasonable chance of getting by without contact. This is not intended to free the defensive player from responsibility; it is the duty of both players to avoid contact, but more attention should be directed to the dribbler's responsibility. In attempting to stop a dribble, the defensive player must play the ball.

Held Ball

Some officials call held ball to forestall fouls. That is, they see a player about to charge into, or hold an opponent who has the ball, and they prevent the foul by blowing the whistle and declaring held ball. This is unjust to the player who has gained possession, and it encourages rough play. Some officials do this chiefly in connection with "guarding from the rear," claiming that their method lessens whistle-blowing. This is not true, however, for in the long run this kind of officiating leads to a rougher game and more fouls. The sections of the country which call "guarding from the rear" strictly are getting a cleaner, more open type of game.

"In the Act of Throwing for Goal"

A player is in the act of throwing for goal when he has the ball and, in the judgment of the official, is throwing, or attempting to throw, for goal. It is not essential that the ball leave the player's hands; for instance, a player's arms may be held by an opponent so that he cannot shoot, yet he may be making every attempt to do so. He is thus deprived of his opportunity to score and is entitled to two free throws as compensation.

Moreover, the act of shooting continues after the ball has left the player's hands until he regains his equilibrium and is no longer in a defenseless position. On a jump ball neither player has possession of the ball at the instant it is tapped, and therefore neither can be considered in the act of shooting even though one player may tap the ball toward, or into the basket. Consequently a multiple throw cannot ensue under these conditions.