

The 25 MOST Misunderstood Rules in High School Basketball

1. There is no 3-second count between the release of a shot and the control of a rebound, at which time a new count starts.
2. A player who is not a dribbler in control can keep (i.e., tap) a ball inbounds, go out of bounds, and return inbounds and play the ball!
3. There is no such thing as "over the back". There must be contact resulting in advantage/disadvantage. Do not put a tall player at a disadvantage merely for being tall!
4. "Reaching" is not a foul. There must be contact and the player with the ball must have been placed at a disadvantage.
5. A player can always recover his/her fumbled ball; a fumble is not a dribble, and any steps taken during recovery are not traveling, regardless of progress made and/or advantage gained! (Running while fumbling is not traveling!)
6. It is not possible for a player to travel while dribbling.
7. A high dribble is always legal provided the dribbler's hand stays on top of the ball, and the ball does not come to rest in the dribblers' hand.
8. A "kicked" ball must be intentional, and contact must be at the knee or below.
9. It is perfectly legal for a player to rebound his/her own air ball, provided the official deemed the shot a legitimate shot.
10. It is a jump ball (alternating possession) when the ball lodges on or in the basket support, except during a throw-in or any free throw. These are violations.
11. Striking the ball handler or shooter on his/her hand, while holding the ball, is not a foul- no matter how noisy or how much it hurts!
12. A defender does not have to "give the dribbler a step". As long as legal guarding position has been established, it is up to the dribbler to avoid contact.
13. The sides, top, and bottom of a rectangular backboard are IN BOUNDS.
14. Jumpers may tap the ball simultaneously; may tap the ball twice; and when a legally tapped ball touches the floor, a player other than a non-jumper or (believe it or not) a backboard, the jump ball has ended, and either jumper may recover it!
15. A 10 second count continues when the defense deflects or bats the ball.
16. A "moving screen" isn't a violation unless there is contact. (If contact occurs, it's a "BLOCK", *which is a foul.*)
17. Any contact foul during a live ball is personal, not technical!
18. Basketball is NOT a non-contact sport. Incidental contact does occur, and contact which does not create an advantage/disadvantage may be ignored.
19. Any unsportsmanlike contact during a dead ball is a technical foul!
20. A defensive player does not have to be stationary to take a charge.... he or she simply must have established a legal guarding position.
21. An intentional foul is always penalized with 2 free throws, except on a missed 3-point shot, which is awarded 3 free throws.
22. When an airborne shooter commits a player control foul, his/her successful try for goal cannot be allowed, regardless of whether the try was released before or after the foul!
23. Lifting the pivot foot DOES NOT constitute a travel unless the ball handler puts the pivot foot back on the floor prior to beginning a dribble, passing, or shooting the ball!
24. If bench personnel leave the confines of the bench during a fight, the offenders are ejected from the game but only ONE technical foul is administered regardless of the number of offenders (also charged indirectly to the coach).

25. **Basket Interference** occurs when: a player touches the ball or basket (net included) when the ball is ON or within the basket; touches the ball when it is touching the cylinder having the ring as its lower base; touches the ball *outside* the cylinder while reaching through the basket from below. **Goal Tending** occurs when: a player touches the ball during a try or tap while it is in its *downward flight entirely above the basket ring level and has the possibility of entering the basket in flight*; **or** an opponent of the free thrower touches the ball outside the cylinder during a free throw attempt.

Composed by: Mark Lancaster (2003)