



Pennsylvania Interscholastic
Athletic Association, Inc.

BASKETBALL BULLETIN I

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RULES, REVISIONS, AND INTERPRETATIONS

PIAA Statewide Rules

Interpreter: Joe Catanzaro



Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Rule 10-1-3 states that any mechanical device or any electronic transmission device at courtside for coaching purposes is illegal. There is a statement in there concerning statistics, however, which makes iPads (computers) legal as long as they are used for that purpose. We, as officials cannot monitor a device to determine that it is only being used for a single purpose. We are going to assume that coaches will adhere to that specific use if they have an iPad in the coaching area. If it is brought to our attention that it is not being used for that purpose only, then a team technical may be enforced.

UNDERSHIRT/COMPRESSION SLEEVE

There is a company manufacturing what they are calling an undershirt/compression sleeve combination for only one arm. By rule, these types of equipment are **NOT** legal. A long sleeved undershirt may be worn, but both sleeves must be the same length on any individual player and must be the same color as the torso of the shirt with no logos. It still provides some of the properties that they are suggesting, warmth and tension on the arm which a tight long sleeved undershirt would provide.

Compression sleeves may be worn for health reasons but they are not part of the undershirt. They may have a logo on them which meets the size requirement (2¼) square inches and must meet the color requirements, white, black, beige or any solid school color. All players wearing a compression sleeve must wear the same solid color.

THROW-IN FOUL

There seems to be some discussion and confusion concerning the thrower-in being fouled by the defender. There is no change in the rule; it has always been an **intentional foul**. There has been a clarification of the rule which states that even if the thrower's hands/arms are beyond the plane when the foul occurs, it is still an **intentional foul** on the defender. The official does not have to split hairs as to whether the thrower was beyond the plane or not; it doesn't make any difference.

Some officials are reading into this by stating that the thrower-in may extend through the plane in an attempt to draw an intentional foul or create the contact himself/herself. If the contact is initiated by the thrower, we are not going to penalize the defender. It may be a no call situation or if it is severe enough, we must penalize the thrower. Remember the "principle of verticality," a player is entitled to any spot on the floor as long as he gets there first and stays within his/her vertical plane. If someone invades that space and contact ensues, severe enough to create a foul situation, that person is responsible for the contact.

It has been extremely rare that the thrower extend his/her hands and arms through the plane purposely when closely guarded by a defender to draw a foul. Too many bad things can happen to the offense with that kind of tactic. The defender can tie up the ball for an (AP) throw-in if that particular throw-in was not an (AP) throw-in, can slap the ball out of the thrower's hands and it is a free ball or the defender if strong enough and quick enough can pull the ball out of the thrower's hands and drive to his/her basket and score. The odds are greater that bad things can happen if a team tries to exploit that clarification.

LENGTH OF QUARTERS

Games involving only students below the ninth grade shall be played in six-minute quarters with intermissions of one minute after the first and third quarters and 10 minutes between halves. Extra periods, if needed, shall be 3-minutes.

Organizations sponsoring games involving teams which combine ninth-grade students with students in the eight and seventh grades, may play those games in quarters of eight minutes. Extra periods, if needed, shall be four minutes if played in eight minute quarters.

LEGAL USE OF HANDS AND ARMS

It is legal to extend the arms vertically above the shoulders and need not be lowered to avoid contact with an opponent when the action of the opponent causes contact. This legal use of the arms and hands usually occurs when guarding the player making a throw-in, the player with the ball in pressing tactics and a player with the ball who is maneuvering to try for goal by jumping, etc.

It is legal use of hands to reach to block or slap the ball controlled by a dribbler or a player throwing for goal or a player holding it and accidentally hitting the hand of the opponent when it is in contact with the ball.

It is legal to hold the hands and arms in front of the face or body for protection and to absorb force from an imminent charge by an opponent. This same protective use of the arms and hands occurs when a player who has set a screen outside the opponent's visual field is about to be run into by the player being screened. The action, however, should be a recoil action rather than a pushing action.

SITUATION #1: A1 who is driving for a goal, goes airborne and makes contact with B1's arms who was stationary and in a proper guarding position with his/her arms straight up in the air within his/her vertical plane.

Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations

RULING: Player control foul on A1 if contact is sufficient to call a foul.

COMMENT: If contact is slight, pass on the call. Offensive player who caused the contact should not be rewarded for causing a foul.

SITUATION #2: A2 goes airborne on a try for goal and with the non-shooting hand moves the arms of B2 out of the way who is in a proper guarding position with his/her arms straight up in the air within his/her vertical plane and scores a goal.

RULING: No basket, player-control foul on A2.

COMMENT: This is usually not hard contact but it penalizes the defensive player and gives a tremendous advantage to the offense.

SITUATION #3: A3 is holding the ball and is closely guarded by B3. B3 reaches out to bat the ball away from A3 and accidentally hits the hand of A3 while A3 is holding the ball. A3 retains the ball or the ball is knocked loose from his/her hand.

RULING: No foul, play on.

COMMENT: If a defensive player accidentally strikes the hand of a player while the ball is in the hand of the offensive player, there is no foul. However, if there is contact above the hand, it is a foul.

SITUATION #4: A4 is driving down the lane on a try for a goal. A4 leaves the floor to release the ball and crashes into B4 before returning to the floor. B4 was in the proper guarding position before A4 went airborne. B4 put his/her arms in front of his/her chest in a recoil position to absorb the contact and turned his/her body slightly to avoid taking the contact straight in the torso.

RULING: Player-control foul on A4.

COMMENT: Once a defensive player establishes proper position, he/she may turn to avoid straight on contact in an attempt to lessen the blow from the collision.

SITUATION #5: A5 goes airborne to attempt a field goal try. He/she releases the ball and then crashes into B5 before returning to the floor. B5 moved into the landing area before A5 went airborne. The try is successful.

RULING: No basket, player-control foul on A5.

COMMENT: Good anticipation by B5. He/she moved into the path of A5 and established a proper defensive position before A5 went airborne. Even though the ball was released before the contact ensued, the score cannot count and it is a player control foul.

ILLEGAL USE OF HANDS AND ARMS

It is not legal to use hands and arms or hips and shoulders to force his/her way through a screen or to hold the screener and then to push him/her aside in order to maintain a guarding position relative to his/her opponent.

It is not legal to use hands on an opponent which in any way inhibits the freedom of movement of the opponent or acts as an aid to a player in starting or stopping.

It is not legal to extend the arms fully or partially in a position other than vertical so that the freedom of movement of an opponent is hindered when contact with the arms occurs. The extension of the elbows when the hands are on the hips or when the hands are held near the chest or when the arms are held more or less horizontally are examples of the illegal positions used.

It is not legal to use the hand and/or forearm to prevent an opponent from attacking the ball during a dribble or when throwing for a goal.

ILLEGAL USE OF HANDS AND ARMS (cont'd)

It is not legal to swing arms and elbows excessively. This occurs when:

- a) Arms and elbows are swung about while using the shoulders as pivots, and the speed of the extended arms and elbows is in excess of the rest of the body as it rotates on the hips or on the pivot foot.
- b) The aggressiveness with which the arms and elbows are swung could cause injury to another player if contacted.

Using this description as a basis, an official will promptly and unhesitatingly rule such action with arms and elbows a violation. It is not legal to lock arms or grasp a teammate(s) in an effort to restrict movement of an opponent.

SITUATION #1: A2 sets a screen for A1 on the side of B1. B1 pushes A2 with a forearm in an effort to stay with A1.

RULING: Foul on B1.

COMMENT: A2 was in the visual field of B1. B1 should have avoided contact with A2.

SITUATION #2: A3 sets a screen behind B2. B2 takes 1 and ½ normal steps and collides with A3. A3 is knocked backward a short distance with the initial contact but after the initial contact B2 pushes right through A3 to continue guarding his opponent.

RULING: Foul on B2.

COMMENT: If B2 would have moved to the right or left of A3 after the initial contact, the play would have been legal and no foul would have occurred as long as the initial contact was incidental since the screen was not in the visual view of B2.

SITUATION #3: A4 sets a screen for A3 at the side of B3. B3 sees the screen and tries to move around A4. A4 throws his/her hip to the left as B3 is moving around him/her and contacts B3.

RULING: Team-control foul on A4.

COMMENT: The screener must be stationary and his/her body must remain in his/her vertical plane. Moving the hip or extending the arms or elbows beyond the vertical plane is a foul if there is contact.

SITUATION #4: A5 is dribbling the ball from his/her backcourt and is being closely guarded by B5. A4 moves in the path of B5 to set a screen more than two steps behind the visual field of B5. A4 is stationary and has her arms on his/her chest with the elbows protruding beyond his/her vertical plane. B5 collides hard with A4's elbow and falls to the floor.

RULING: Team-control foul on A4.

COMMENT: Arms and elbows must be within the vertical plane of the screener and must be used in a fashion to absorb the collision only. They cannot be used to inflict pain on the player being screened by extending them beyond the vertical plane or thrusting them forward on the player being screened.

SITUATION #5: A1 rebounds off the opponent's basket and comes down with the ball swinging his arms and elbows violently with opponents near him/her. He/she contacts one opponent across the chest very hard.

RULING: Intentional foul on A1.

COMMENT: Excessive swinging of arms and elbows is a violation if no contact is made. However, if contact is made, it has to be at least an intentional foul. It may be a flagrant foul, but it has to be at least an intentional foul.