

Calling Foul

PERSONAL FOULS

Personal fouls include any type of illegal physical contact.

PERSONAL FOUL PENALTIES

If a player is shooting, while being fouled, then he/she gets two free throws. Three free throws are awarded if the player is fouled, while shooting a three-point goal, and the shot is missed. If a player is fouled, while shooting a three-point shot and makes it anyway, he/she is awarded one free throw. Thus, he/she could score four points on the play.

INBOUNDS

If fouled while not shooting, the ball is given to the team on which the foul was committed. It gets the ball at the nearest side or baseline, out of bounds, and has five seconds to pass the ball onto the court.

ONE & ONE

If the team committing the foul has seven or more fouls, then the player who was fouled is awarded one free throw. If he/she makes the first shot, then he/she is awarded another free throw.

TEN OR MORE FOULS

If the team committing the foul has 10 or more fouls, then the fouled player receives two free throws.

CHARGING

An offensive foul that is committed when a player pushes or runs over a defensive player. The ball is given to the team on which the foul was committed.

BLOCKING

Blocking is illegal personal contact resulting from a defender not establishing position in time to prevent an opponent's drive to the basket.

FLAGRANT FOUL

Violent contact with an opponent that includes hitting, kicking and punching. This type of foul results in free throws, plus the offense retaining possession of the ball after the free throws.

INTENTIONAL FOUL

When a player makes physical contact with another player with no reasonable effort to steal the ball. It is a judgment call for the officials.

TECHNICAL FOUL

A player or a coach can commit this type of foul. It does not involve player contact or the ball; rather, it relates to the 'manners' of the game. Foul language, obscenity, obscene gestures, and even arguing can be considered a technical foul, as can technical details regarding filling in the scorebook improperly or dunking during warm-ups.

Violations

WALKING/TRAVELING

Taking more than 'a step and a half' without dribbling the ball is traveling. Moving a pivot foot, once a player has stopped dribbling, is also traveling.

DOUBLE DRIBBLE

Dribbling the ball with both hands on the ball at the same time or picking up the dribble and then dribbling again is a double dribble.

HELD BALL

Occasionally, two or more opposing players will gain possession of the ball at the same time. In order to avoid a prolonged and/or violent tussle, the referee stops the action and awards the ball to one team or the other on a rotating basis.

BACKCOURT VIOLATION

Once the offense has brought the ball across the midcourt line, they cannot go back across the line during possession. If they do, the ball is awarded to the other team to pass inbounds.

GOALTENDING

If a defensive player interferes with a shot, while it's on the way down toward the basket, while it's on the way up toward the basket after having touched the backboard, or while it's in the cylinder above the rim, it's goaltending and the shot counts. If committed by an offensive player, it's a violation and the ball is awarded to the opposing team for a throw-in.

TIME RESTRICTIONS

A player passing the ball inbounds has five seconds to pass the ball. If he/she does not, then the ball is awarded to the other team. Other time restrictions include the rule that a player cannot have the ball for more than five seconds when being closely guarded and, in some states and levels, shot-clock restrictions requiring a team to attempt a shot within a given time frame.