

Illegal or Incidental Contact and Calling Fouls

At its most basic the rules of contact are put in place so one team does not gain an advantage over another team. A closer look at illegal versus incidental contact tells us that there are fouls that are automatic and must be called, and sometimes calling fouls requires a more philosophical approach to officiating. For comparison purposes incidental contact is defined as contact of a minor nature which occurs when a player is performing normal offensive and defensive acts and which do not noticeably affect the position or movement of the player who is contacted.

First, a look at absolutes in officiating contact. The following types of contact require little judgment and are to be called when observed.

- Two hands on the ball handler.
- Placing a hand on the ball handler, for a second time.
- Placing and maintaining a hand on the ball handler.
- An arm-bar is extended and displaces an opponent.
- A leg or knee is used in the rear of a post player to hold or displace.
- An offense player backs down and displaces a defender once the defender has established legal guarding position.

Most fouls require judgment. When judging whether contact should be called it is important to referee the defense. Officials often use the philosophy of RBSQ. Did the defender interrupt the offensive player's rhythm, balance, speed or quickness. If the answer is yes, then a foul should be called. If you do not call a foul then the offense player is put at a disadvantage. No one wants a game that is "over called," but if officials use the philosophy of RBSQ it will help keep the game from becoming too physical.

Thoughts:

- If you have a player on the floor from contact you **possibly** need to call a foul. If you have two players on the floor from contact you **probably** have a foul that needs to be called.
- You will most likely take more heat for what you don't call than for what you do call.

Have a great end of the season and let's finish strong.

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