Officiating the Basics of Legal Defenders

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What is Guarding?

Guarding is an act to place the body in the path of an offensive opponent.
It all starts with LGP

Obtaining Legal Guarding Position:
Player must have both feet on the floor inbounds;
Front of the player’s torso must be facing the opponent.
A defender may move to maintain a Legal Guarding Position in different ways.

Some examples are:
  Vertically
  Backwards
  Obliquely
Maintaining LGP

LGP is maintained when:

a. The guard may have one or both feet on the playing court or be airborne, provided he/she has inbound status.
b. The guard is not required to continue facing the opponent.
c. The guard may move laterally or obliquely to maintain position, provided it is not toward the opponent when contact occurs.
d. The guard may raise hands or jump within his/her own vertical plane.
e. The guard may turn or duck to absorb the shock of imminent contact.
Defenders become illegal

A defender will lose Legal Guarding Position when:

a. The ballhandler-dribbler gets his/her head and shoulders past the torso of the defender and contact occurs.
b. The defender extends an arm, shoulder, hip or leg into the path of an opponent.
c. The defender steps forward into the BHD and creates contacts before re-establishing LGP.
Defenders become illegal

A defender will lose Legal Guarding Position when:

d. The defender steps sideways into the path of the BHD and does not provide sufficient time and space.

e. The defender moves into the path of an airborne shooter.
LGP vs. Shooter
Was LGP Established?
LGP Moving Backward
LGP Moving Obliquely
Verticity
What about Contact?

Basketball is not a non-contact sport
The different types of contact

- Incidental (legal contact)
- Marginal (may be illegal)
- Contact which warrants a foul (illegal)
Incidental Contact Concept

Contact which may result when opponents are in equally favorable positions to perform normal defensive or offensive movements, should not be considered illegal, even though contact may be severe
Incidental Contact Example
More Incidental Contact
Defenders may not...

Create illegal contact which disrupts the player’s rhythm, speed, balance or quickness.
Disruption of RSBQ
Illegal Contact Examples

A personal foul must be called when illegal contact occurs on a player holding or dribbling the ball.
Automatic Fouls

The following acts constitute a foul when committed against a ball handler/dribbler:

★ Placing two hands on the player.
★ Placing an extended arm bar on the player.
★ Placing and keeping a hand on the player.
★ Contacting the player more than once with the same hand or alternating hands.
Illegal Hand Checking
Displacement

All players are entitled to a spot on the floor if they get there legally, whether on defense or offense – with or without the ball.

Players that displace a player who is entitled to a legal spot on the floor, should be charged with a personal foul.
Displacement on a Rebound
Freedom of Movement

A player shall not extend their arms so that freedom of movement of an opponent is hindered when contact occurs.

The disruption of RSBQ also applies to players without the ball who are trying to get to a new spot on the floor.
Freedom of Movement

The ability of players to move freely around the court and to each position without experiencing any illegal contact.

Illegal contact includes re-routing, impeding, chucking, holding or any other illegal contact.
FOM / RSBQ
Is there a foul on this play?
Post Play

When a player displaces an opponent from an established position by pushing or “backing them in”, it is a foul.

When a player use their hands, forearms or elbows to prevent an opponent from maintaining a legal position, it is a foul.
Illegal Post Play Examples

❖ Hooking by the offensive player.
❖ Pushing, holding or slapping an opponent.
❖ Displacing an opponent by using a leg or knee to the rear of an opponent.
❖ Displacing an opponent by backing them down.
Officiating Post Play

❖ The lead official is mostly responsible for post play.
❖ Each player has the right to a position on the floor.
❖ The offense does not get any special consideration.
❖ Don’t let rough post play ruin your game.
Example: Rough Post Play
Example: Rough Post Play
Example: Rough Post Play
Now Don’t Get Fooled
Quick Video Review
Quick Summary

❖ Establish and Maintain LGP
❖ Understand the principle of verticality
❖ Know the three types of contact
❖ A disruption of RSBQ is illegal
❖ FOM is allowed for all legal players on the floor
❖ Displacing a legal player is always illegal
Always look for these Keys

😊 Disrupt
😊 Displace
😊 Impede
Have a Great Season!