

23 Most Misunderstood Rules in High School Basketball

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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 shall not step out of bounds under the player's own volition and become the first player to touch the ball after returning to the court to avoid a violation. (Rule 9-3-3)
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. **Comment: See #4 below. The phrase "over the back" does not occur in the rules books.**
4. "Reaching" is not a foul. There must be contact and the player with the ball must have been placed at a disadvantage. **Comment: See #3 above The only statement in the rule book about reaching, says reaching is legal.**
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!) **Comment: You can fumble a pass, recover it with both hands, then legally begin a dribble. This is not a double dribble. If the player bats the ball to the floor, picks the ball up, then begins to dribble, you must judge if that was a "controlled bat." IF it was a "controlling bat," you have a double dribble.**
6. It is not possible for a player to travel while dribbling. **Comment: Basketball Fundamental #6. Page 81 of the Rule Book.**
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. **Comment: See #1.... The key is whether or not the ball is at rest in the hand. Ugly play & an ugly dribble are not illegal.**
8. A "kicked" ball must be intentional, and contact must be any part of the leg. **Comment: MUST be intentional, or it is not a "kick."**
9. It is legal for a player to rebound his/her own air ball, provided the official deemed the shot a legitimate shot.
10. It is impossible to travel, double dribble or carry while taking the ball out for a throw in. I have seen officials tell athletes they can't move on a throw-in. Why? This is not a rule. You have limitations but you can move. **Comment: They must stay over the spot in a lateral manner. Rule 4-42-6 ----- The spot is 3 feet wide and has no restrictions on depth.**

Video: [Misconception of Traveling and Lane Violations](#)

11. A ball cannot travel over the top of the back board, however, it can travel behind the backboard. **Comment: The ball can pass through the poles, wires, standards, etc, provided that it does not touch anything.**
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. The person with the ball should expect to be guarded. **Comment: Legal guarding position is the key. Time and distance are not an issue when guarding someone with the ball. Rule 4-23-4.**

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! **Comment: Rule 4-28-3**
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.) **Comment Rule 4-40**
17. Any contact foul during a live ball is personal, not technical! **Comment: The contact can be flagrant, but never 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. Contact on the shooter should be called. **Comment: Did that contact belong to the shooter? If the shooter run/jumps into good defense, there is no foul on the defense. If the shooter displaces the defense, it is a player-control foul (sometimes called a "charge").**
19. Any un-sportsman like contact during a dead ball is a technical foul! **Comment: See #17 All dead ball fouls are automatic technicals.**
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. The defense can move backward and sideways.
21. An intentional foul is always penalized with two free throws, except on a missed 3-point shot, which is awarded 3 free throws. **Comment: Rule 4-19-3**
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! **Comment: Rule 4-1**
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 passing, or shooting the ball! The pivot foot cannot be lifted before the dribble is started.