

Consistently Recurring Plays

In an effort to establish consistency in calling plays that frequently occur throughout a game and season it makes sense to formulate and implement guidelines on how officials should rule when those plays or situations occur.

While the rules clearly define legal and illegal contact, officials have to make rulings based on judgment and the result of the contact. Officials should use the "Freedom of Movement" principle when determining the result of contact. If the Rhythm, Speed, Balance and Quickness (RSBQ) of a player is compromised the contact is illegal and should be called. This concept is a part the points of emphasis (POE) described in the 2013-2014 NFHS Basketball Rules Book.

Freedom Movement

Whenever a player's Speed, Balance, Quickness or Agility are affected by contact, the contact is illegal. NFHS' officiating guidelines state:

- The illegal use of hands, arms or body (offense or defense) that slows, prevents, impedes the progress or displaces an opposing player due to the contact, is a foul and must be called.
- Tactics using the hands, arms or body that permit any player (offense or defense) to "control" (hold, impede, push, divert, slow or prevent) the movement of an opposing player is a foul.
- When an offensive player uses the hands or body to push off for position or spacing to get open or receive a pass, or to move the ball via pass or dribble, it is a foul.

While these guidelines provide officials with a basis to use in making decisions on whether contact is illegal or illegal, NFHS-Rule 10-7-12 requires officials to rule the contact listed below always a foul that must be called the same in all games at all levels of play on both the perimeter and in the post. They are:

- Placing two hands on a player with the ball.
- Placing an extended arm bar (forearm) on a player with the ball.
- Placing or keeping a hand on a player with the ball.
- Contacting the player with the ball more than once with the same hand or alternating hands.

Colorado has directed officials that tripping the dribbler when both the offensive and defensive player are moving is also a foul regardless of whether it is intentional or accidental.

By enforcing rule 10-7-12 as written and making tripping the dribbler an automatic defensive foul, there is no judgement required by officials on these types of plays which should assure statewide consistency in these contact situations.