

THE 25 MOST MISUNDERSTOOD RULES IN HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

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 who is not a dribbler in control can keep (tap) a ball inbounds, go out of bounds, and **return** inbounds and play the ball.
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!
4. “**Reaching**” is not a foul. There must be **contact** and the player with the ball must have been placed at a disadvantage.
5. A player may 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!**
6. It is **not possible** for a player to travel while dribbling.
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 dribbler’s hand.
8. A “**kicked**” ball must be ruled intentional to be ruled a violation.
9. It is legal for a player to **rebound/catch** his/her own air ball, provided the official deems the shot a legitimate try.
10. It is a jump ball (AP Arrow) when the ball lodges on or in the basket support. If it happens during a throw-in or free throw, violation.
11. Striking the ball handler or shooter on the **hand**, while holding the ball, **is not a foul – no matter how noisy or how much it hurts!** The hand is **part of the ball**.
12. A defender does not have to “give the dribbler a step” as long as a legal guarding position has been obtained and then it is up to the dribbler to avoid contact.
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 the legally tapped ball touches the floor, the jumper may recover the ball.
15. A 10-second backcourt count continues even when the defense deflects or bats the ball.
16. A “moving screen” **is not a foul unless there is contact**. If contact occurs, it is a **blocking** foul.
17. Any contact foul during a live ball must be ruled a personal foul.
18. Any unsportsmanlike contact during a **dead ball** must be ruled a technical foul.
19. Basketball is **not** a non-contact sport. Incidental contact often does occur and contact which does not create an advantage/disadvantage situation may be ignored. R2-27.
20. A defensive player does not have to be **stationary** when “taking a charge” if they have obtained a legal guarding position initially.
21. An intentional foul is **always** penalized with 2- free throws, except on a missed 3-point attempt, which is awarded with 3- free throws.

22. When an **airborne shooter** commits a player control foul, the successful goal is disallowed, regardless of whether the try was released before or after the foul.
23. Lifting the pivot foot **does not** constitute traveling unless the ball handler places the pivot foot back to the floor prior to beginning a dribble, passing or shooting the ball.
24. Basketball interference occurs when: a player touches the ball or basket(net included) when the ball is **on or within** the basket; touches the ball when it is touching the cylinder having the ring as its lower base; touching the ball outside the cylinder while reaching through the basket from below.
25. Goal tending occurs when: a player touches the ball during a try or tap while on its downward flight entirely above the basket ring level and has a chance of entering the basket in flight or an opponent of the free thrower touches the ball outside the cylinder during a free throw attempt.

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