

Good morning! Hope your game went well last evening!

We have discussed screening somewhat in the past month.....take a look at the clip [here](#) and you make the call.....run the clip to the end, the screen is replayed there.

Know what you have? Legal screen? Illegal screen? Before we get there, we talked about end of game officiating recently and having the guts enough to make a call when warranted. In THIS clip, the officials (both L and C) had the guts enough to NOT make(up) a call. The officials here did not anticipate the whistle, they saw the entire play.....a legal block.

OK, back to the screen near the 28-foot line.....take a look at rule 4-40 below:

**ART. 1**

A screen is legal action by a player who, without causing contact, delays or prevents an opponent from reaching a desired position.

**ART. 2**

To establish a legal screening position:

- a. The screener may face any direction.
- b. Time and distance are relevant.
- c. The screener must be stationary, except when both the screener and opponent are moving in the same path and the same direction.
- d. The screener must stay within his/her vertical plane with a stance approximately shoulder width apart.

**ART. 3**

When screening a stationary opponent from the front or side (within the visual field), the screener may be anywhere short of contact.

**ART. 4**

When screening a stationary opponent from behind (outside the visual field), the screener must allow the opponent one normal step backward without contact.

**ART. 5**

When screening a moving opponent, the screener must allow the opponent time and distance to avoid contact by stopping or changing direction. The speed of the player to be screened will determine where the screener may take his/her stationary position. The position will vary and may be one to two normal steps or strides from the opponent.

**ART. 6**

When screening an opponent who is moving in the same path and direction as the screener, the player behind is responsible if contact is made because the player in front slows up or stops and the player behind overruns his/her opponent.

**ART. 7**

A player who is screened within his/her visual field is expected to avoid contact by going around the screener. In cases of screens outside the visual field, the opponent may make inadvertent contact with the screener and if the opponent is running rapidly, the contact may be severe. Such a case is to be ruled as incidental contact provided the opponent stops or attempts to stop on contact and moves around the screen, and provided the screener is not displaced if he/she has the ball.

**ART. 8**

A player may not use the arms, hands, hips or shoulders to force his/her way through a screen or to hold the screener and then push the screener aside in order to maintain a guarding position on an opponent.

Notice that the rule has several important qualities for a legal screen.....

- 1) Did the screener legally set the screen? (Article 2)
- 2) Did the screener allow time and distance for the player being screened to avoid it? (Articles 1 & 7)
- 3) Did the screened player force his way through the screen? (Article 8)

Whatta ya got if you are the trail now? Foul? Legal?

OK, was the screen legally set? It APPEARS in the limited amount of film that the screener DID set up stationary and within his vertical stance. He also appears to give time and distance to the player being screened, so no issue there. Did the screened player force his way through the screen? Nope, that didn't happen. He did stop his forward motion due to the contact, then started again after collecting himself.

Legal? Foul? PERSONALLY I have a legal screen with severe contact. The issue I have is that white's teammate didn't call the screen out and thus the contact became severe. Even though he was screened, he did not 'push through' the screen which would have been a foul on white. The screener seems to have set the screen legally as well. In my humble opinion, this is the only place we could have had a foul.....an illegal screen on black, *if in the judgment of the trail official that the screener did not allow time and distance for the screened player to avoid the screen.*

This is a play that most fans and benches will go crazy about, but we have to know the rule and be able to explain what happened on the play to a coach.

We need to see the entire screen and what is happening in our own primary and not get caught watching the 'exciting' stuff going on at the hoop! On this particular play, T is well into the back court but SEEMS to be looking at the screen and its result.

KNOW what it takes for a screen to be legal and what the player being screened may do as well. When we KNOW these, we are more confident in our calls and can then explain the play/call to a coach. Remember also that basketball is a CONTACT sport!

Have a great game tonight!

Tim