

Good morning! We are winding down with the lake effect snow here in NW PA but the eastern part of the state is preparing for Jonas!

Defender responsibilities on a jump shot.....what may defender do legally? What we would LIKE to see is a defender jumping vertical in most cases. When a defender jumps vertically, he/she has done nothing wrong, so no foul on him/her. The problem arises when the defender leaves his/her feet and is NOT vertical. Think about the following in regards to a jump shot.....the shooter jumps to shoot then the defender jumps to try to block the shot.....several scenarios here.

Does the jump shooter have a right to come down as if no defender were there? YES, *if the defender does not jump vertically and instead jumps towards the shooter*. In this case, it is the same as if the ball handler (shooter in this case) and defender were on the floor. The defender may maintain LGP that had been established, thus may move sideways, backwards or vertically. The responsibility for contact when the defender does this lies on the ball handler/shooter.

What happens if the defender leaves the floor and is moving *towards* the airborne shooter? Now the defender has now put him/herself in a bad situation. If contact is made before both return to the floor, it is almost certain that the foul is on the defense.

How about the jump shooter who pump fakes the defender into the air, the defender jumps *vertically* then the shooter jumps forward into the defender in an attempt to draw a foul making torso to torso contact? This play is actually very black and white.....what did the defender do wrong? NOTHING! This is NOT a foul on the defender, yet the play is one of those that LOOKS ugly and NOBODY seems to complain when the defender is whistled for a foul. This is NOT a foul on the defender.....it is most likely a no-call....*possibly* an offensive foul.....at any rate, since the defender remained vertical and the only contact is torso to torso, he/she cannot have committed the foul.

Take a look at the clips from yesterday by clicking [here](#) and today's [here](#). *Remember to referee the defense*. We need to be able to give an explanation to ourselves at the least as to what the defender did wrong.

Have a great game today and officiate the defense!

Tim