

Good morning!

Hope you had a great weekend! March 1 and we are still in the regular season in many areas! Some districts finish up the regular season (for the most part) this week and some have already begun playoffs. What a whirlwind season. THANK YOU for helping to pull it off this far!

A held ball.....by definition is:

SECTION 25 HELD BALL
A held ball occurs when:
ART. 1 . . . Opponents have their hands so firmly on the ball that control cannot be obtained without undue roughness.
ART. 2 . . . An opponent places his/her hand(s) on the ball and prevents an airborne player from throwing the ball or releasing it on a try or tap for field goal.

Take a look at the play [here](#). This clip was NOT used to discuss contact/foul/no foul. This clip is being used to discuss a held ball on a shot. In this clip, the defender keeps his hands on the ball the whole way to the floor for the shooter. Held ball for sure!

What if the defender gets a hand or hands on the ball as the shooter goes airborne and takes his/her hands off part-way through the airborne shooter's motion and before the shooter returns to the floor? Take a look at the definition of a held ball again. Article 2 supports a held ball. Pretty sure that *most* times when an airborne shooter attempts a shot but cannot release it due to a defender getting a hand on it will result in a held ball.

What if the shooter goes airborne, a defender gets his/her hand on the ball, it comes free and the shooter 'catches' it in the air and returns to the floor? LEGAL! This is technically a blocked shot in this case.

One thought to keep in mind about potential held ball situations is that if a held ball is NOT called and the result is a violation (like a player pulls the ball away and travels), it is NOT too late to call a held ball. If the held ball situation *causes* the violation, go with a held ball! We do not want a violation to result from a situation we could have called a held ball.

A second thought is something taught at camps – suck on the whistle a split second when a held ball is possible – the stronger player usually will pull it free. This saves many held ball whistles. That being said, it does lead to the occasional violation as in the thought above, but it is NOT too late to call the held ball in place of the violation. Sometimes held balls disrupt the flow of a game and sucking on the whistle a split second keeps it moving.

Just some thoughts about held balls to ponder!

Have a great game tonight, stay well and safe travels!

Tim