

Good morning! If the regular season is not done in your neck of the woods, another day or so and it will be.....one one hand I ask 'Where did the season go?' and on the other say 'what a long season it's been'.....

Today's tip....watch and make the call on this play [here](#).

What do you have? Foul on black 14 or not? If we officiate the defense, this play is easier.....here are the key parts of the guarding rule we need to know.....

#### ART. 1

Guarding is the act of legally placing the body in the path of an offensive opponent. There is no minimum distance required between the guard and opponent, but the maximum is 6 feet when closely guarded. Every player is entitled to a spot on the playing court provided such player gets there first without illegally contacting an opponent. A player who extends an arm, shoulder, hip or leg into the path of an opponent is not considered to have a legal position if contact occurs.

#### ART. 2

To obtain an initial legal guarding position:

- a. The guard must have both feet touching the playing court.
- b. The front of the guard's torso must be facing the opponent.

#### ART. 3

After the initial legal guarding position is obtained:

- a. The guard may have one or both feet on the playing court or be airborne, provided he/she has inbound status.
- b. The guard is not required to continue facing the opponent.
- c. The guard may move laterally or obliquely to maintain position, provided it is not toward the opponent

So I will ask that question we need to always have up front when we officiate....."**WHAT did the defender do wrong?**" Answer: **NOTHING!!!!**

Officiate the defense and play-calling is easier! Is this a play the coach of the offense would go goofy on? Probably would want a foul for sure (and Jim Boeheim would whine about it for sure ☺) but we need to be able to give an explanation.....'coach, the defender had LGP before your player went into the air and then the defender jumped vertical and maintained LGP'. The coach does not have to (and probably will not) agree with you, but you gave him the rule and what you saw.

Even though this play is many times called a foul, it doesn't make that the right thing to do! Officiate the defense!!! KNOW the guarding rule!!!!

Have a great game tonight!

Tim