

Good morning!

Verticality. The definition is at 4-45 as follows:

## **RULE 4 - SECTION 45 VERTICALITY**

Verticality applies to a legal position. Following are the basic components of the principle of verticality:

**ART. 1 . . .** Legal guarding position must be obtained initially and movement thereafter must be legal.

**ART. 2 . . .** From this position, the defender may rise or jump vertically and occupy the space within his/her vertical plane.

**ART. 3 . . .** The hands and arms of the defender may be raised within his/her vertical plane while on the floor or in the air.

**ART. 4 . . .** The defender should not be penalized for leaving the floor – vertically or having his/her hands and arms extended within his/her vertical plane.

**ART. 5 . . .** The offensive player whether on the floor or airborne, may not “clear out” or cause contact within the defender’s vertical plane, which is a foul.

**ART. 6 . . .** The defender may not “belly up” or use the lower part of the body or arms to cause contact outside his/her vertical plane, which is a foul.

**ART. 7 . . .** The player with the ball is to be given no more protection or consideration than the defender in judging which player has violated the rules.

So as a defender, articles 1, 2, 3 and 4 are crucial when officiating a defender’s verticality. Take a look at a verticality play [here](#).

Did the defender obtain initial LGP? YES!

Did the defender jump vertically and stay within his vertical plane? NO!

The defender here jumped *towards* the shooter. This would indicate a foul on the defender? Now, is it a shooting foul? I say YES! I would ask ‘what else was white 2 doing besides shooting?’ White 2 had gathered the ball (ended his dribble) and ‘started the habitual throwing (shooting) motion.’ We MUST be able to explain our ruling to both coaches....so make sure you are not making something up!

As a side note, I LOVE how the C opposite comes with a sense of urgency to the foul to make sure nothing further happens. This is preventative officiating!

Wednesday Extra: This is from the New Year’s edition of Craig’s Call (Craig Bradley, the D-3 rules interpreter) and it is too valuable to not share - THANKS Craig!

## FIGHT COVERAGE

We have had at least three fights/ potential fights before Christmas. Hopefully, everyone got some nice presents so that this foolishness will stop. Regardless, we need to be better prepared when mayhem breaks out. While officials have done a good job getting in to help deescalate emotions, in every situation bench personnel entered the court without consequence. Our first consideration is always player and official safety. Our second consideration is liability elimination. These goals are not accomplished when we allow bench personnel to enter the court, taunt, and engage with impunity.

### Fundamentals:

Recognize heated body language, and address it verbally.

Penalize intentional/hard contact and go to the victim.

If two players go chest to chest, blow a whistle REPEATEDLY and only the NEAREST OFFICIAL get between them as best you can.

If punches fly, get out. Coaches and teammates can separate the combatants.

**\*\*Off official(s) can blow a whistle, observe from a distance and attempt to monitor/control benches.**

Send teams to their benches, discuss what you saw as a crew, penalize and play on.



Wednesday Bonus: Make it a resolution to read a back-to-back set of pages in the case book, *in addition* to 'Just get one' new official!

Have a great game tonight!

Tim