

Good morning!

SECTION 45 VERTICALITY

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

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

ART. 2 . . . From this position, the defender may rise or jump vertically and occupy the space within the defender's vertical plane.

ART. 3 . . . The hands and arms of the defender may be raised within the defender's 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 hands and arms extended within the defender's 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 the defender's 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.

Verticality...something we normally see in the post. Take a look at a clip of a verticality decision [here](#).

- 1) Does the white establish legal guarding position? YES
- 2) Does the defender jump vertically, not forward towards the shooter? YES
- 3) Does the defender keep his arms in his own vertical plane? YES

Thus, the defender was legal and did NOT commit a foul. Contact is the offensive player's responsibility and if he 'clears out' or goes 'to and through' the defender, then he has committed an offensive foul. He does not go 'to and through' the defender, so we have no foul and play on!

Verticality should be pre-game conference topic! Add it if it currently isn't!

Tuesday extra: Make eye contact with the official scorer! Sometimes that scorer is not sitting right beside the timer. They have the striped shirt so *that we can easily identify him/her!*

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and relax a bit the next couple weeks!