

Good morning!

Hope you had a great weekend, safely made it through the weather and your team won it's playoff game (well, maybe not the Browns!).

CLOSELY GUARDED.....Rule 4.10 is:

A closely guarded situation occurs when a player in control of the ball in his/her team's frontcourt, is continuously guarded by any opponent who is within six feet of the player who is holding or dribbling the ball. The distance shall be measured from the forward foot/feet of the defender to the forward foot/feet of the ball handler. A closely guarded count shall be terminated when the offensive player in control of the ball gets his/her head and shoulders past the defensive player.

I was given the advice early in my career, from one of my mentors, that if you 'lay the ball handler down' and he/she would touch the feet of the defender, it is closely guarded. SIX FEET! That is a relatively big distance on the basketball floor. SIX FEET is also the radius of the jump circle.....the distance from the free throw line to the top of the key. THAT is a big distance!

Closely guarded under NFHS rules happen ANY TIME that the defender is within SIX FEET, not just while dribbling (as other rules sets use). When the SIX FEET becomes *more* than SIX FEET, we stop the count and start over when it regains SIX FEET or less. If the ball handler is closely guarded while holding the ball, then dribbling the ball, the holding the ball, the ball handler may actually be closely guarded for 12 consecutive seconds since we start a new count when the ball status changes. In addition, the count continues when the closely guarded changes from one defender to another and the SIX FEET maximum is maintained! This is verified in case play 9.10.1 Situation B. Rule 9.10 are violations when closely guarded. Take a look at both rule 9.10 and the case plays today!

Here are a few clips....look at them for closely guarded situations and if the count is happening, SHOULD IT BE....and if there is NO count, should there BE ONE?

[Play 1](#)

[Play 2](#)

[Play 3](#)

There are times that a ball handler's teammate should be responsible to let him/her know there is a count (similar to letting a teammate know a blind screen is coming). We should not be verbally counting to aid the ball handler, we give a good, visible, horizontal count.

Make it a point this week to be attentive to your closely guarded count and it yours is accurate!

Monday Extra: Just another reminder.... sigh....the striped shirt MUST be work by the official scorers at ALL levels, not just varsity! If you work a game where the official scorer is not or will not wear the striped shirt, your chapter rules interpreter and assigner should be notified immediately after the game so the AD can be contacted.

Monday Bonus: 'Get Just One' is going strong in many areas! Even getting a new official in ANY sport is fantastic! I am hearing great stories and we are now up to 11 new Jr officials in D-10 since the start of the school year!

Have a great game tonight!

Tim