

Good morning and Happy New Year! I hope you had a fantastic holiday season!

Slapping the backboard is misunderstood by most coaches, many spectators and some officials. Here is the best description of slapping the backboard from case play 10-4-4.

CONTACTING THE BACKBOARD

10.4.4 SITUATION: A1 tries for a goal, and (a) B1 jumps and attempts to block the shot but instead slaps or strikes the backboard and the ball goes into the basket; or (b) B1 vibrates the ring as a result of pulling on the net and the ball does not enter the basket. **RULING:** In (a) legal and the goal counts; and (b) a technical foul is charged to B1 and there is no goal. **COMMENT:** The purpose of the rule is to penalize intentional contact with the backboard while a shot or try for goal is involved or placing a hand on the backboard to gain an advantage. A player who strikes either backboard so forcefully it cannot be ignored because it is an attempt to draw attention to the player, or a means of venting frustration may be assessed a technical foul pursuant to Rule 10-4-4.

So with this in mind, take a look at a couple clips [here](#) and [here](#). These were both from the same game and the coach for white asked the officials ‘why isn’t slapping the backboard something?’

As it is very clear in the case play, blocking or attempting to block a shot is NOT ‘anything’ other than at least a legit attempt to block the shot and at most a great hustle play with a blocked shot resulting. The technical foul is given for an unsporting play OR to draw attention to the player.

Monday extra: MAKE SURE to contact your partner(s) at least 2 days prior to your game together (or whatever time frame your assignor requires) AND make sure to arrive an hour prior to the scheduled tip time. Even when the varsity crew rides together, getting there plenty early is important – it puts the AD at ease and allows us, as officials, to get in a good frame of mind to prepare for the game by watching some of the JV game. With the addition of new and Jr officials, we need to be there to give them information, even if they do not have questions to ask....if we remember back to our first games, it certainly can be overwhelming!

Have a great start to 2023!

Tim