

## 23 Most Misunderstood Rules in High School Basketball

Reprinted from the NFHS website

1. There is no 3-second count between the release of a shot and the control of a rebound, at which time a new count starts.
2. A player can go out of bounds, and return inbounds and be the first to touch the ball.
3. There is no such thing as “over the back”. There must be contact resulting in advantage/disadvantage. Do not put a tall player at a disadvantage merely for being tall. **Comment: See #4 below. The phrase "over the back" does not occur in the rules books.**
4. “Reaching” is not a foul. There must be contact and the player with the ball must have been placed at a disadvantage. **Comment: See #3 above. The only statement in the rule book about reaching, says reaching is legal.**
5. A player can always recover his/her fumbled ball; a fumble is not a dribble, and any steps taken during recovery are not traveling, regardless of progress made and/or advantage gained! (Running while fumbling is not traveling!) **Comment: You can fumble a pass, recover it with both hands, then legally begin a dribble. This is not a double dribble. If the player bats the ball to the floor, picks the ball up, then begins to dribble, you must judge if that was a "controlled bat." IF it was a "controlling bat," you have a double dribble.**
6. It is not possible for a player to travel while dribbling. **Comment: Basketball Fundamental #6. Page 73 of the Rule Book.**
7. A high dribble is always legal provided the dribbler's hand stays on top of the ball, and the ball does not come to rest in the dribblers' hand. **Comment: See #1.... The key is whether or not the ball is at rest in the hand. Ugly play & an ugly dribble are not illegal.**
8. A “kicked” ball must be intentional, and contact must be any part of the leg. **Comment: MUST be intentional, or it is not a "kick."**
9. It is legal for a player to rebound his/her own air ball, provided the official deemed the shot a legitimate shot. **Comment: Case Book 4.44-B describes this play exactly.**
10. It is impossible to travel, double dribble or carry while taking the ball out for a throw in. I have seen officials tell athletes they can't move on a throw-in. Why? This is not a rule. You have limitations but you can move. **Comment: They must stay over the spot in a lateral manner. Rule 4-42-6 ---- The spot is 3 feet wide and has no restrictions on depth.**

### **Video:** [Misconception of Traveling and Lane Violations](#)

11. A ball cannot travel over the top of the back board, however, it can travel behind the backboard. **Comment: The ball can pass through the poles, wires, standards, etc, provided that it does not touch anything.**
12. A defender does not have to “give the dribbler a step”. As long as legal guarding position has been established, it is up to the dribbler to avoid contact. The person with the ball should expect to be guarded. **Comment: Legal guarding position is the key. Time and distance are not an issue when guarding someone with the ball. Rule 4-23-4.**

13. The sides, top, and bottom of a rectangular backboard are IN BOUNDS.

14. Jumpers may tap the ball simultaneously; may tap the ball twice; and when a legally tapped ball touches the floor, a player other than a non-jumper or (believe it or not) a backboard, the jump ball has ended, and either jumper may recover it! **Comment: Rule 4-28-3**

15. A 10 second count continues when the defense deflects or bats the ball.

16. A "moving screen" isn't a violation unless there is contact. (If contact occurs, it's a "BLOCK", which is a foul.) **Comment Rule 4-40**

17. Any contact foul during a live ball is personal, not technical! **Comment: The contact can be flagrant, but never technical.**

18. Basketball is NOT a non-contact sport. Incidental contact does occur, and contact which does not create an advantage/disadvantage may be ignored. Contact on the shooter should be called. **Comment: Did that contact belong to the shooter? If the shooter run/jumps into good defense, there is no foul on the defense. If the shooter displaces the defense, it is a player-control foul (sometimes called a "charge").**

19. Any un-sportsman like contact during a dead ball is a technical foul! **Comment: See #17 All dead ball fouls are automatic technicals.**

20. A defensive player does not have to be stationary to take a charge.... he or she simply must have established a legal guarding position. The defense can move backward and sideways.

21. An intentional foul is always penalized with 2 free throws, except on a missed 3-point shot, which is awarded 3 free throws. **Comment: Rule 4-19-3**

22. When an airborne shooter commits a player control foul, his/her successful try for goal cannot be allowed, regardless of whether the try was released before or after the foul! **Comment: Rule 4-1**

23. Lifting the pivot foot **does not** constitute a travel unless the ball handler puts the pivot foot back on the floor prior to beginning a passing, or shooting the ball! The pivot foot cannot be lifted before the dribble is started.