

Keys to Refereeing the Defense/Point of Contact

Practice Perfect to Dictate your Angle - do not let players dictate your angle

Position Adjust to be in position to see defender before offensive player catches a pass

You must constantly train yourself to "Referee the Defense" and find the "Point of Contact" by the defender. Practice this while:

- Refereeing
- Watching your games on videotape
- Watching a game live
- Watching a game on tv

Examples of how to not get surprised by defender and see "Point of Contact" - these may sound elementary but are not easy to master

1. Offensive player clearly beats primary defender driving to the basket. Immediately find the secondary defender coming to help and find the defender's "Point of Contact" (hand, hip, body).
 - Curl Plays – Lead, Trail, Slot
 - Verticality Plays at the Basket
 - Lane Line Drives
 - Drives Down the Middle of the Lane
 - Diagonal Drives to the Basket
2. As drives move away from you at the Trail or Center position - Stay connected to the play and help your Lead official with multiple or secondary defenders converging to help the Lead and find the "Point of Contact" - cadence of your whistle is important - this will also help when players are in or near the Restricted Area
3. Fast break with defenders chasing the play - especially running from Center to Center - find the chasing defender and be aware of the defender attempting to block the shot, goaltending or a hard foul. Especially when a big defender is chasing a guard
4. Defenders attempting to block a shot (especially a jump shot) - find the defender's hand to determine if the defender's "Point of Contact" is the ball, wrist or elbow. IT WORKS!
5. Rebounding - not necessarily a defender, but find the backside rebounder who can cause a problem and "Point of Contact". Find this player when the shot is in the air - Do Your Work Early!