

Goaltending and Basket Interference:

When a defender illegally blocks or attempts to block a shot attempt from going in, it is called goaltending and the shot attempt counts as a basket whether or not it went in. When an offensive player illegally assists a shot attempt into the basket, it is called basket interference and the basket is disallowed.

There are several types of violations involving players touching the ball on a shot attempt. When a player shoots the ball, no player (offense or defense) may touch the ball:

1. After it reaches its apex (its highest point) and is on a downward flight toward the basket with a reasonable chance to go in. (Exception: a defensive player may block a slam dunk attempt when it is on its way down toward the basket since the ball is not considered “in flight”);
2. After it hits the backboard and is headed toward the basket, whether going up or down, with a reasonable chance to go in;
3. When it is in contact with the backboard, i.e., a player may not “trap” the ball (a batted ball against the backboard is not a trapped ball);
4. Once it has touched the rim and is either using the rim as its base or has bounced off the rim and is in the imaginary cylinder above the rim. (Note, a ball that is rolling off the rim may be touched, even if it is still in contact with the rim because it has no chance to go in); and
5. Generally, touch or vibrate the rim, backboard or net in a way that affects a shot attempt.