

Block/Charge

An on-ball, block/charge situation occurs when contact is made between a defensive player and offensive player who is moving in a particular direction or trying to change directions. The defender is permitted to establish his legal guarding position in the path of the dribbler regardless of his speed and distance. But to get into a legal position, the defender needs to establish himself in the path of the offensive player *before* contact is made (thus "beating him to the spot"). On a drive to the basket, a defender must be at the spot before the offensive player starts his upward shooting motion.

- Outside the Lower Defensive Box: When a player receives the ball outside the lower defensive box, the defensive player must allow the offensive player the space to stop and/or change directions (or land, stop and/or change directions, if he is in the air).
- Inside the Lower Defensive Box: The defensive player may establish a legal guarding position in the path of the offensive player who received a pass inside the lower defensive box, regardless of speed or distance, by beating him to the spot. However, he must always allow an airborne offensive player the space to land.

A secondary defensive player cannot be in a legal guarding position, even if stationary, inside the "Restricted Area" if the offensive player receives the ball outside the lower defensive box -- unless he jumps vertically in an attempt to defend the shot. He may establish a legal guarding position inside the Restricted Area if the offensive player received the ball inside the lower defensive box or he is the primary defender.

If the defender does not get into a legal guarding position outside the Restricted Area before contact occurs, it is a blocking foul on the defender. If he gets to a legal guarding position before contact occurs, it is an offensive foul.

Of course there are exceptions, such as when an offensive player leads with a foot or knee.