

Flagrant Fouls

There are two types of Flagrant Fouls, which may be assessed during live play or during dead ball situations immediately following a play:

- Flagrant Foul 1 (FF1) is unnecessary contact committed by a player against an opponent.
- Flagrant Foul 2 (FF2) is unnecessary and excessive contact committed by a player against an opponent.

Both fouls carry a penalty of two free throws and the team that was fouled retains possession. A FF2 also results in the ejection of the player committing the foul (a player who commits two flagrant foul penalty 1s in the same game is also ejected).

Since the 2012-13 season, referees call a flagrant foul on the floor without designating FF1 or FF2, and then they review the play on instant replay. During the review, they determine if the contact was a FF2, FF1, common foul or technical foul (e.g., in the case when the contact was not flagrant, but occurred in a dead ball situation).

In conducting their review, referees consider the following:

1. The severity of the contact;
2. Whether or not the player was making a legitimate basketball play (e.g., whether a player is making a legitimate effort to block a shot; note, however, that a foul committed during a block attempt can still be considered flagrant if other criteria are present, such as recklessness and hard contact to the head);
3. Whether, on a foul committed with a player's arm or hand, the fouling player wound up and/or followed through after making contact;
4. The potential for injury resulting from contact (e.g., a blow to the head and a foul committed while a player is in a vulnerable position);
5. The severity of any injury suffered by the offended player; and
6. The outcome of the contact (e.g., whether it led to an altercation).

In an effort to address the problem of repeat offenders, players that are assessed a flagrant foul also receive "points" (one point for a FF1 and two points for a FF2). Points are tallied by the league office and when a player reaches certain point levels, he is

suspended. Because of these implications, the league office also reviews all flagrant fouls and hard fouls after the game and may “upgrade” or “downgrade” the contact accordingly or take other action if the contact is severe enough (additional fine and/or suspension).