

Points of Emphasis:

1. **Legal Guarding Position.** Legal guarding position, both establishing and maintaining a legal guarding position, as written in Rule 4-3, will be emphasized this season. Teaching legal guarding tactics helps to create an understanding of what is legal and what is truly illegal defense. Knowing what is permissible, by rule, creates a knowledge base for what is illegal, which in turn effects how guarding is learned, taught, and adjudicated. Common misconceptions about guarding can be eliminated when the guarding rule is understood. In addition, understanding legal guarding techniques provide a basis for determining displacement and other illegal contact, as well as helping to prevent good defense from being penalized.

2. **Displacement.** Displacement, as it was written in the 2007 Rules Book, will remain a point of emphasis with little or no changes. Post play, contact on the ball handler/dribbler, rebounding, cutting and screening will remain areas of concern.

3. **Traveling.** A distinct advantage is gained when a player is permitted to travel. Changing a pivot foot, repositioning or replanting, illegal moves in the post and illegal jump stops were emphasized in last year's clinics and will continue to be important areas of focus for this year.

4. **Unsporting Behavior.** Unsporting behavior by coaches, bench personnel and players is still an area of concern. There were improvements last year in bench decorum; primarily due to education and an emphasis regarding what is permissible by coaches and bench personnel in the bench area. Adhering to the rules regarding the coaching box and the behavior of coaches and bench personnel remains an important point of emphasis. In addition to bench decorum, the committee chose to add an emphasis pertaining to unsporting behavior by players. The rules committee is becoming increasingly concerned about unsporting player behavior that is intended to taunt an opponent. Taunting can be defined as a sarcastic challenge or insult. Players are permitted to celebrate but are not permitted to do so when the act is directed at an opponent in an effort to insult, tease, mock or provoke the opponent.