

Calling the Block/Charge, Getting it Right

Video Examples

This video provides 10 excellent plays on block/charge: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxOAMMB6Sjg>

All answers below are from John Adams, NCAA-M Coordinator of Officials from 2008-2015.

Even though this video is produced by the NCAA-M, all of these situations identical under NFHS rules.

Play One Answer: BLOCK --- "Once the dribbler left the ground to pass or shoot, the only thing that defender could have done was turn to protect himself. He cannot move. On this play, the dribbler leaves the ground and the defender slides to his left to force contact, and he erroneously draws a charge."

Play Two Answer: CHARGE --- "The defender is not doing one thing wrong. He establishes legal guarding position and he moves backwards to maintain it. In this situation, where the dribbler does not leave his feet, the defender is allowed to move laterally or away from the guy he's guarding. He just can't move up and into him. He has both feet on the floor and he's facing the dribbler, and he gets run over for his trouble."

Play Three Answer: CHARGE --- "Again, Gutierrez did nothing wrong. He's a legal defender who gets run over. The fact that he's moving has nothing to do with it. He establishes position and then moves legally to maintain it. He has an imaginary semi-circle around him to work with, as long as he does move into the dribbler."

Play Four Answer: CHARGE --- "Crowder is moving legally to maintain guarding position. The guy hits him dead square in the chest and knocks him to the ground."

Play Five Answer: CHARGE --- "It's almost the exact same play. The Harvard kid establishes legal guarding position and moves legally to maintain it. It does not matter that he's still moving at the point of contact."

Play Six Answer: CHARGE --- "My teaching point here was that when a defender is close to that restricted area arc, we want to get a good look at him and make sure he wasn't inside it. The dribbler left his feet, so there is higher threshold here. The defender has to freeze except to protect himself from a collision."

Play Seven Answer: BLOCK --- "This is exactly what you can't do. The Kansas player moved up and into the player he was guarding and created the contact. If he had just stood there, it would have been an easy charge call."

Play Eight Answer: BLOCK --- "The defender moved after the Syracuse player left the floor. He only slides a foot or two, but it's enough."

Play Nine Answer: BLOCK --- "The defender illegally moves up and absorbs contact. What's interesting there is that on an offensive rebound, the defender that's guarding the man with the ball automatically becomes the primary defender. So he can take a charge even if he's inside the circle. He may have been the secondary defender when the first shot was released, but once there is an offensive rebound, the play resets."

Play 10 Answer: BLOCK --- "Dieng clearly moves after Kidd-Gilchrist leaves the floor. You only see that from the overhead replay, which is why this is such a tough call. At the point Kidd-Gilchrist leaves his feet, Dieng is supposed to be frozen."