

Each week during the winter season all SYC Basketball officials will receive a "best practices email" focusing on various areas of basketball officiating. All of the articles are posted on the SYC Website for reference @ <https://www.sycva.com/refbestpractices>

Let's talk the backboard and out of bounds this week.

Did you know there are two different shapes of backboards (rectangular and fan-shaped)? It's important to know the difference between the two.

The Basketball Rules Book tells us what the rules are, but, doesn't get into the "what if" game scenarios. That's where the Case Book comes in. The Case Book reviews plays and situations and elaborates on what the rules mean, and how they should be applied in a game.

Rule 7-1-2, Out of Bounds, Player – Ball, says:

The ball is out of bounds:

a. When it touches or is touched by:

1. A player who is out of bounds.
2. Any other person, the floor, or any object on or outside a boundary.
3. The supports or back of the backboard.
4. The ceiling, overhead equipment or supports.

b. When it passes over a rectangular backboard.

The corresponding Case Book play (below) specifically addresses the difference between a fan-shaped and rectangular backboard.

7.1.2 SITUATION A: The ball strikes the side edge or top edge of the backboard or passes over the top of the backboard and the ball: (a) came from a throw-in from behind the plane of the backboard; or (b) from a pass or try from the front or back of the plane of the backboard. The ball does not touch any supporting brace.

RULING: If a fan-shaped backboard is being used in (a) and in (b), the ball remains live. If a rectangular backboard is used in (a), the ball remains live after touching the side edge, but it is a violation if it passes directly over the backboard. In (b), the ball remains live if it touches a side edge or the top edge if it rebounds and comes down in front of the backboard. The ball becomes dead if it passes over the top of a rectangular backboard regardless of the action which causes it to pass over or whether it comes from the front or back of the plane.

BOTTOM LINE: If a ball goes over a rectangular backboard, from either direction, front or back, it immediately becomes dead. BLOW YOUR WHISTLE. However, that is NOT the case with a fan-shaped backboard (which are usually in elementary schools or smaller gyms). In that case, it remains live until it hits the ground - which may, or may not, be out of bounds (note, there's not much room on a fan-shaped backboard, and it is most likely to hit the support).

Know the difference. Pay attention and handle your business!

See you on the court!

Rob

- Rob Grunewald, National Federation High School, Certified Basketball Official

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