Restricted Area/Secondary Defender Plays

**A. Rule.** The floor marking of the restricted-area is required for all varsity North Dakota high school basketball.

A secondary defender cannot establish initial legal guarding position in the restricted area for the purpose of drawing a player control foul/charge when defending a player who is in control of the ball (i.e. dribbling or shooting) or who has released the ball for a pass or try. When illegal contact occurs within the restricted area, such contact shall be called a blocking foul, unless the contact is a flagrant foul.

**Exceptions:** When the offensive player leads with a foot or unnatural knee or wards off with the arm OR when a player in control of the ball stops continuous movement toward the basket then initiates illegal contact with a secondary defender in the restricted area, this is a player-control foul.

A secondary defender is considered to be in the restricted area when any part of either foot is in or above this area.

**Secondary Defender - Definition**

Art. 1.
A secondary defender is a teammate who has helped a primary defender after that player has been beaten by an opponent because he/she failed to establish
or maintain a guarding position. A defensive player is beaten when the offensive player’s head and shoulders get past the defender.

Art. 2.
A secondary defender is a teammate who double teams a low post player.

Art. 3.
After an offensive rebound, there are no secondary defenders when the rebounder makes an immediate move to the basket.

Art. 4.
In an outnumbering fast-break situation, any defensive player(s) initially shall be a secondary defender.

**B. Mechanics.** When a player drives to the basket and past the area of dual responsibility, the L now has primary coverage for this play, especially since it involves a secondary defender. The T and C will have secondary responsibility.

Signaling Sequence. When a blocking foul occurs because the secondary defender was located in the restricted area, the official has two signaling sequences that can be utilized.

Fist in the air, point to the restricted area, signal block OR signal block, point to the restricted area.

**Help Each Other Out.** It is encouraged and recommended that the T and C provide help (if necessary) on such calls. If the non-calling officials can provide definitive
information to the calling official (i.e., defender was legally positioned outside of the restricted area), the L will then determine if the call shall be switched.

If the ruling is switched, the calling official should put air back in the whistle and emphatically signal the change.

If a non-calling official provides information, the calling official has the option to remain with the call that was originally made on the court.

Note: If the foul called on the court is a blocking foul regardless of where the player was positioned, the calling official should not point to the restricted area when signaling the foul. That will alert the partners that a blocking foul is being called without reference to the restricted area.

Swing Pass-Quick Drive. It is entirely possible that a quick swing pass and instantaneous drive to the basket from the C’s side of the floor will necessitate a call by the C official if the L hasn’t had the opportunity to pick up that action. It is imperative that the officials recognize that a double whistle is potentially possible in that situation. Give the “stop the clock” signal, but if at all possible, DO NOT give an immediate preliminary signal.

In addition, if the block/charge play does not involve a secondary defender, do not point to the restricted access when making a blocking call since it does not apply.

Reminder: If the block/charge play involves a secondary defender, the L is the primary on the play. T and C are secondary when the action involves a secondary defender. The L has the best chance to watch the secondary defender’s positioning.