

ART. 30 BALL RETURNED TO THE BACKCOURT

Statement 1

While airborne, a player retains the same status relative to the floor as where he was last touching the floor before jumping into the air. However, when an airborne player jumps from his frontcourt and gains control of the ball while still airborne, he is the first player on his team to establish team control.

If his momentum then returns him to his backcourt, he is helpless to avoid not returning also with the ball to the backcourt. Therefore if an airborne player establishes a new team control, that player's position relative to the frontcourt/backcourt will not be determined until the player has returned with both feet to the floor.

Example 1:

A4 in his backcourt attempts a fast break pass to A5 in the frontcourt. B3 jumps from the team B frontcourt, catches the ball while airborne and lands

- (a) With both feet in his backcourt.
- (b) Straddling the centre line.
- (c) Straddling the centre line and then dribbles or passes the ball to his backcourt.

Interpretation:

No violation has occurred. B3 established the first team B control of the ball while airborne and his position relative to frontcourt/backcourt was not determined until both his feet returned to the floor. In all cases B3 is legally in his backcourt.

Example 2:

On the jump ball between A4 and B4 that begins the first period, the ball has been legally tapped when A5 jumps from his frontcourt, catches the ball while airborne and lands

- (a) With both feet in his backcourt.
- (b) Straddling the centre line.
- (c) Straddling the centre line and then dribbles or passes the ball to his backcourt.

Interpretation:

No violation has occurred. A5 establishes the first team A control of the ball while airborne. In all cases A5 is legally in his backcourt.

Example 3:

Thrower-in A4 in his frontcourt attempts a pass to A3. A3 jumps from his backcourt, catches the ball while airborne and lands

- (a) With both feet in his backcourt.
- (b) Straddling the centre line.
- (c) Straddling the centre line and then dribbles or passes the ball to his backcourt.

Interpretation:

Team A violation. Thrower-in A4 has established the team A control of the ball in the frontcourt before A3 caught the ball while airborne and landed in his backcourt. In all cases A3 has illegally returned the ball to the backcourt.

Example 4:

A4 in his backcourt attempts a pass to A5 in his frontcourt. B4 jumps from his frontcourt, catches the ball while airborne and before he lands in his backcourt he passes the ball to B5 in his backcourt.

Interpretation:

Team B violation for illegally returning the ball to the backcourt.