

Calling the Block/Charge, Getting it Right

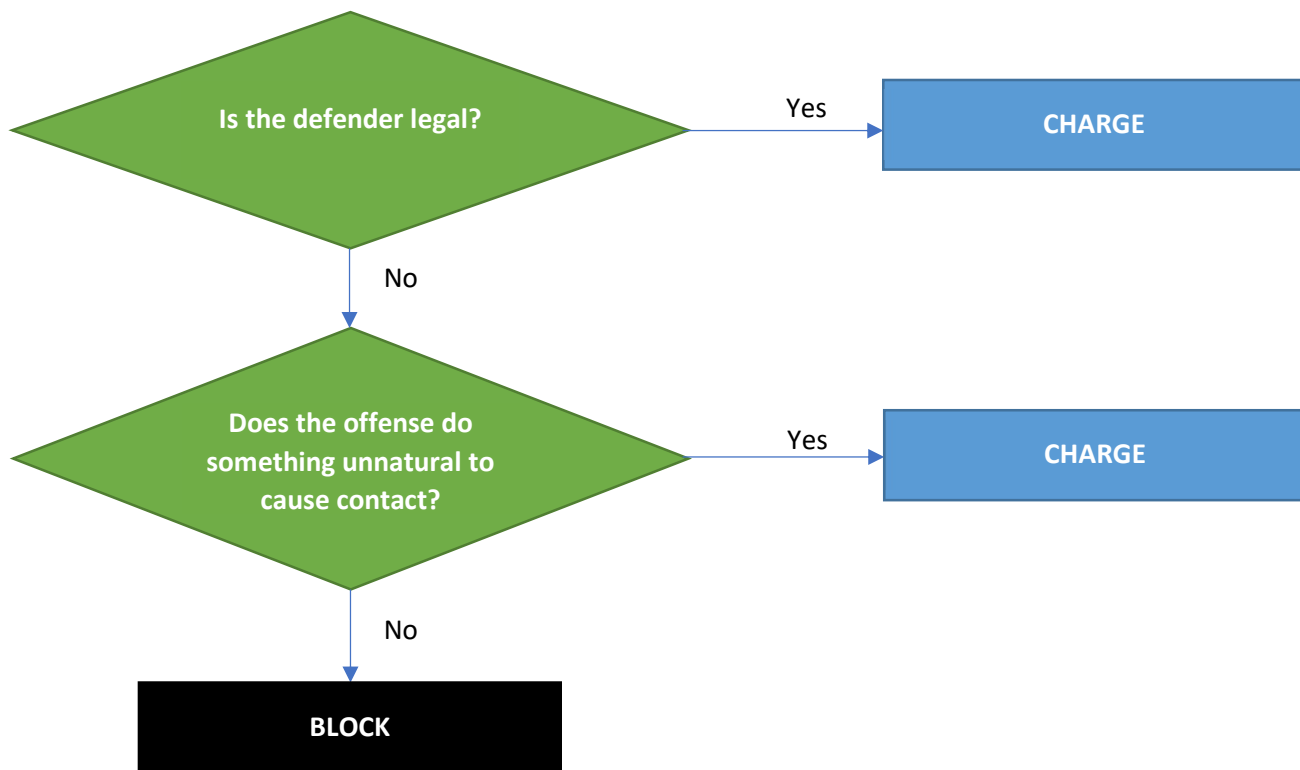
What do officials, coaches, players, fans want? Consistency! However, unless we all start from the same understanding of the rules, it is unlikely we will ever see consistency. One area where there seems to be a lot of inconsistency is with block/charge calls and the understanding of Legal Guarding Position (LGP).

Block / Charge is an NFHS Point of Emphasis this year. They have covered it here:

<https://nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/basketball-points-of-emphasis-2020-21/>.

Part 1: How to Approach the Block / Charge

Referee the defense with 80% of your attention and you will know all you need to know. Then, when contact is sufficient for a foul (*not all contact is a foul*), answer these questions to determine the call...



The same thing as the diagram but in words:

- Is the defender legal (either has LGP or does not need LGP)?
 - Yes?
 - It can only be an offensive foul....Charge
 - No?
 - Does the offensive player do something unnatural to create contact?
 - Yes?
 - Offensive foul...Charge
 - No?
 - Defensive foul...Block