

## Coaches Corner 10

### When to Foul

Often in close games of basketball from the most junior all the way to the NBL you will hear spectators, coaches and team mates. Calling out for the defender to foul the opposition. The basic premise being it is better to commit the foul than allow the opposition to maintain and dictate play when the game is tight. So; by committing the foul you get to stop the clock, reset and have a fresh try at regaining possession.

So when is the best time to try and deliberately foul? In my opinion, never.

My personal feeling is that if a team deliberately or blatantly fouls the opposition simply in an effort to stop the clock it is poor sportsmanship and should be penalised with what used to be termed an 'unsportsmanlike foul'.

So what is the alternative?

In a situation where the opposition cannot be allowed to control the ball, i.e. play out time when they hold a slender lead. The instruction needs to be to attack the ball at all costs. To go back to tight man on man defence and for whoever is the on ball defender to make a 100% effort to steal the ball or force an untidy pass. In giving these instructions to my players I will tell them, "if you commit a foul in attempting the steal it doesn't matter". 'That fouls at this stage are unimportant', but certainly not call for them to deliberately foul.

It is also far better for players to chase a positive outcome (a steal or an intercept), rather than a negative one.

And remember

Good coaching always beats good luck