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| Basketball Extra Hang Nail |

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| **Goaltending is different from basket interference and officials are generally comfortable with goaltending decisions (on the downward flight). However, basket-interference decisions can get fuzzier — especially when it involves contact with the basket.** |
| Basketball Photo |
| 1**Basket.** At the basic level we need to know what defines the “basket.” That would be the ring (a.k.a. the rim), its flange and braces, and the net.  |
| 2**Ball.** Contact cannot occur with the ball while the ball is on (red) or within the basket. Nor can contact occur with the ball while the ball is in the imaginary cylinder above the ring (yellow). Such contact would be basket interference.  |
| 3**Net.** Contact cannot occur with the net while the ball is on or within the basket. Such contact should be ruled basket interference.  |
| 4**Ring.** Contact cannot occur with the ring (including the basket flanges or braces) while the ball is on or within the basket. Nor can a player pull down a movable ring that causes the ring to contact the ball before the ring returns to its original position. Doing so is a basket-interference violation.  |
| 5**Exception.** A player who is already legally in contact with the ball can continue through the imaginary cylinder or touch the basket without penalty. This exception allows dunking/stuffing to be a legal act.  |
| 6**OvD.** The basket-interference rules apply to both the offense and defense. No basket can be scored when an offensive player commits basket interference. Conversely when a defender commits basket interference, the offense is awarded points based on the value of the try (one, two or three as appropriate).  |
| 7**Outside.** The ball cannot be contacted outside the cylinder while reaching through the basket from below. In the photo, if the offensive player were to shoot the ball and the defender’s hand remained where it was, the officials would have a decision to make. If the defender’s hand continues to rise through the basket and contacts the ball, basket interference would occur with two points be awarded to the offense. At the current moment in time, the defender has not committed an illegal act by merely contacting the net and ring — something further would have to occur. For example, if the defender’s hand remained in contact with the ring while the ball was in the red area or if as the defender returned to the floor and the hand pulled the net while the ball was on or within the basket (yellow area).  |
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