



FIBA

We Are Basketball



IMPROVE YOUR...

REFEREEING THE HELP DEFENDER

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IMPROVE YOUR... REFEREEING THE HELP DEFENDER

This handbook shows you how to referee the Help Defender using FIBA principles. It gives you the tools to be consistent and accurate in 3-Person Officiating (3PO).

Before reading this doc, you should be aware of the content of the following Improve Your... handbook:

- [Improve Your... Timing of the Whistle](#)

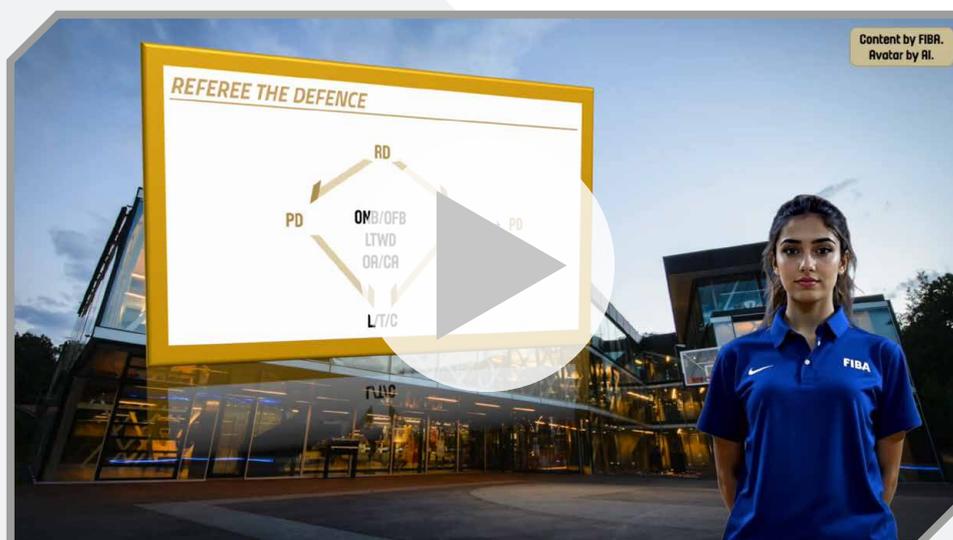
CORE PRINCIPLE: **PLAYER RESPONSIBILITY AND TRANSITION**

A fundamental aspect of 3PO is that each referee maintains primary responsibility for a specific player from the start of a play. This applies to both the Primary Defender and, critically, the Help Defenders.

- **Initial Focus:** Each referee is given a Primary Defender (Refereeing-wise) and tracks their actions on your primary area of responsibilities (AOR).
- **Transition to Help:** When the Primary Defender (in basketball) is beaten, the Help Defender becomes the 'Primary Defender' (in refereeing).
- **Referee Responsibility:** The referee who has the Help Defender for the 'longest time' (LTWD) has primary responsibility for refereeing their actions. This ensures a complete view of the play's development (start-develop-finish), not just a momentary snapshot.

Techniques:

- **Maintain Focus:** Even when the action shifts, continue to observe the Help Defender's movements.
- **Anticipate Plays:** Develop the ability to anticipate potential Help Defender actions.
- **Use Peripheral Vision:** Utilize peripheral vision to monitor the overall play while focusing on the Help Defender.
- **Communicate with Partners:** Maintain clear communication with fellow referees to ensure synchronized coverage, start it at the Pre-Game Conference (PGC).



| Abbreviation | Meaning |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| RD | Referee the Defence |
| PD (BB or REF) | Primary Defender (BB = in basketball, REF= in refereeing) |
| HD (BB or REF) | Help Defender (BB = in basketball, REF= in refereeing) |
| ONB | On-ball |
| OFB | Off-ball |
| OA | Open Angle |
| CA | Closed Angle |
| LTWD | Longest Time with the Defender |
| L | Lead Referee |
| T | Trail Referee |
| C | Centre Referee |

A referee's primary task is to referee the defenders in their area of primary responsibility. While these are often "Help Defenders" from a basketball point of view, they can become Primary Defenders when the player with the ball moves towards a referee's area of primary responsibility. This is because the referee has the clearest and longest view of the defender's actions, including any potential contact.

To make a quality decision, ensure you have the Longest Time with the Defender (LTWD), maintain an Open Angle (OA), and clearly see the Point of Contact (POC).

See the whole play.



PRIMARY DEFENDER ON-BALL

Content by FIBA.
Avatar by AI.

PRIMARY DEFENDER ON-BALL

START-DEVELOP-FINISH (PICK UP)

Primary Defender > Primary Coverage > Longest with Defender > Open Angle (Pick Up) > Call / PW / No Call

REFEREE DEFENCE

Secondary Coverage > Primary Defender > Pick Up the Defender > Open Angle (Pick Up) > Call / PW / No Call

from START or DEVELOP

HELP DEFENDER

Content by FIBA.
Avatar by AI.

HELP DEFENDER

START-DEVELOP-FINISH (PICK UP)

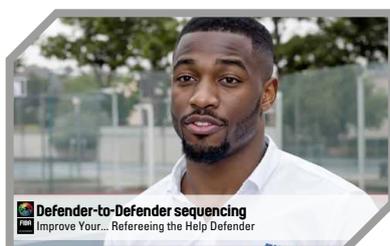
Help Defender > Primary Coverage > Longest with Defender > Open Angle (Pick Up) > Call / PW / No Call

REFEREE DEFENCE

Secondary Coverage > Help Defender > Pick Up the Defender > Open Angle (Pick Up) > Call / PW / No Call

from START or DEVELOP

TIPS & TRICKS



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