

**BASKETBALL NEW ZEALAND**

# **LEVEL 1 REFEREE**

**MODULE 5**

# **POSITIONING AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

**Learner Materials**



**BASKETBALL  
New Zealand**

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Copies of the full manuals are available on the BBNZ website:  
[nz.basketball/get-involved/officials/education-resources-rules](https://nz.basketball/get-involved/officials/education-resources-rules)








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# 1.2 GLOSSARY AND SYMBOLS

*Basic terms you have to know before studying the material:*

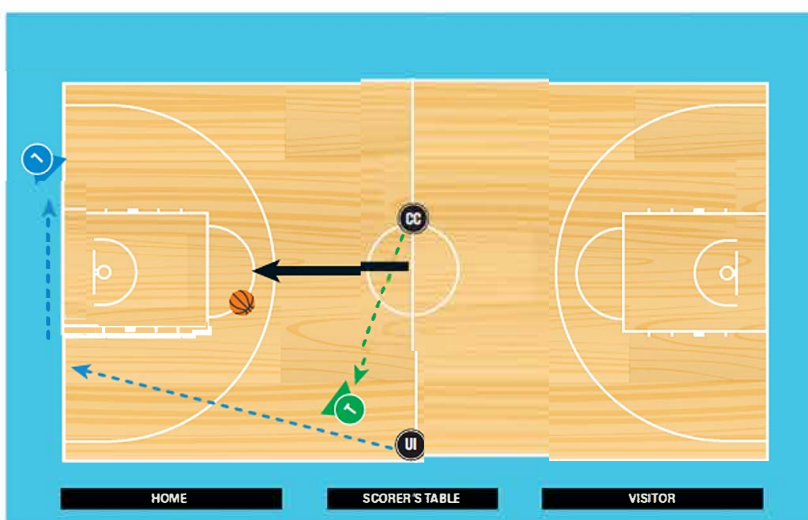
	<b>LEAD REFEREE</b>	<p>The referee who leads the play up the court, in blue colour on diagrams. He can be called "Lead" or "L". The base of the triangle represents the facing direction of the Lead official.</p>
	<b>TRAIL REFEREE</b>	<p>The referee who stays behind the play, in green colour on diagrams. He can be called "Trail" or "T". The base of the triangle represents the facing direction of the Trail official.</p>
	<b>CREW-CHIEF</b>	<p>Crew-chief</p>
	<b>UMPIRE 1</b>	<p>Umpire 1</p>
	<b>DIRECTION OF THE PLAY</b>	<p>Direction of the play</p>
	<b>DIRECTION OF THE LEAD REFEREE</b>	<p>Direction of the Lead referee</p>
	<b>DIRECTION OF THE TRAIL REFEREE</b>	<p>Direction of the Trail referee</p>

<b>OBR</b>	Official Basketball Rules
<b>O BRI</b>	Official Basketball Rules Interpretations
<b>IOT</b>	Individual Officiating Techniques: technical aspects of individual refereeing and how to referee the play using proper techniques
<b>ACTIVE REFEREE</b>	The referee who hands the ball to a foul shooter or a player for a throw-in, or to administer the jump ball to start the game
<b>PASSIVE REFEREE</b>	The referee who is not administering the free throw or a throw-in, or not tossing the ball during the jump ball in the start of the game
<b>2 PO (2 PERSONS OFFICIATING)</b>	An officiating concept where two officials are working on the game. The officials are Crew Chief and Umpire and they are working during the game in Lead and Trail position
<b>BALL SIDE</b>	This refers to the position of the ball. When the playing court is divided by an imaginary line extending from basket to basket, the side of the playing court on which the ball is located is called the "ball side"
<b>OPPOSITE SIDE</b>	This refers to the side of the playing court which is furthest away from the scorer's table
<b>TABLE SIDE</b>	This refers to the side of the playing court which is on the scorer's table side
<b>PRIMARY COVERAGE</b>	Area of responsibility and actions that the referee has to be able to cover always
<b>ACTION AREA</b>	Action area may involve players with or without ball. Knowledge on various play situations (pick & roll, post-ups, rebounding) will help referees identify action areas in their primary
<b>MECHANICS</b>	The technical aspects of refereeing i.e. how referees move, coverage, signals, administration of foul shots, jump ball situations, throw-ins etc

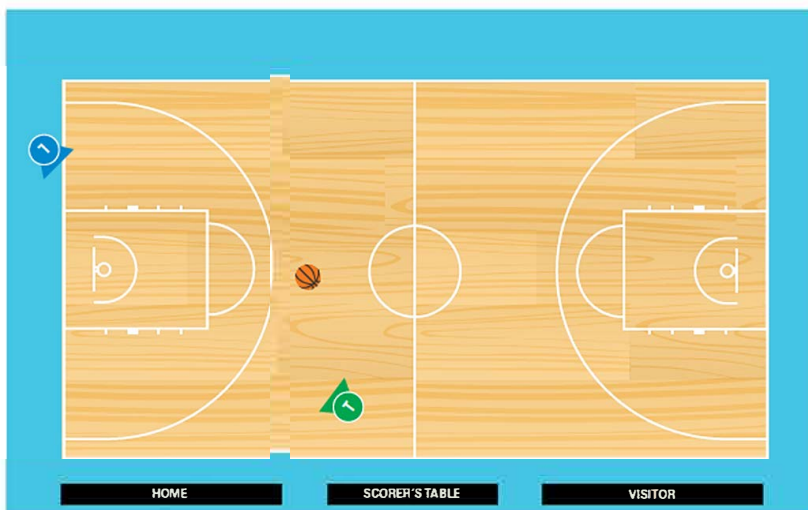
### POSITION AFTER THE INITIAL JUMP BALL

The umpire runs in the direction of play towards the end-line and remains in front of the play. This is Lead.

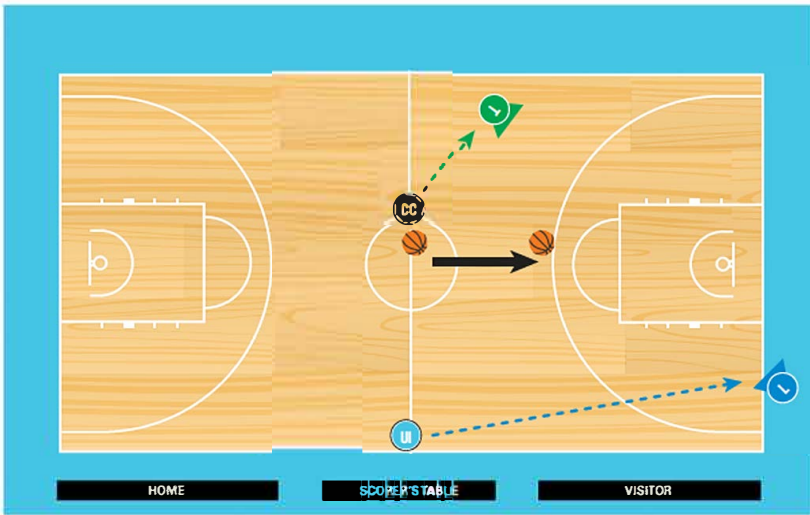
The referee tossing the ball follows the direction of the ball and remains behind the play. This is Trail.



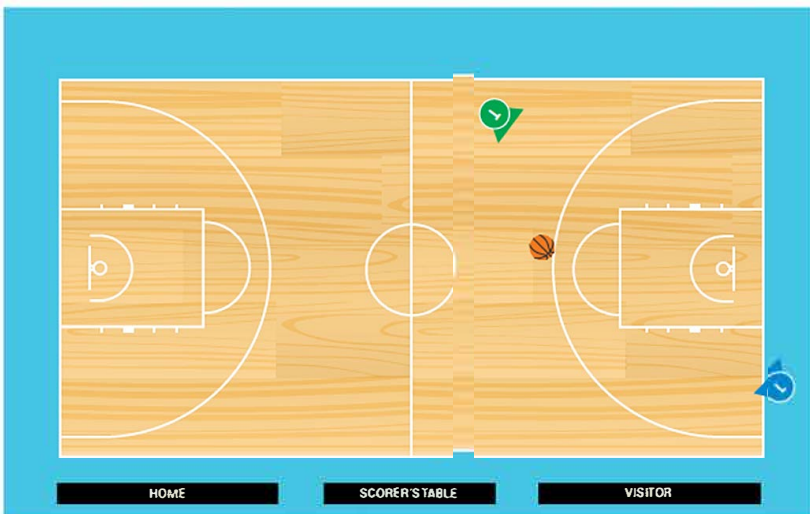
D7 - Ball goes left after jump ball



D8 - Position after jump ball / left side



D9 - Ball goes right after jump ball



D10 - Position after jump ball / right side

## 5.4 2PO COURT COVERAGE

Both officials should know where the ball is at all times. This does not mean that both officials are responsible for decisions around the ball at all times.

The eyes of the official should be constantly roving, trying to cover the whole floor, always knowing where all ten players are located. However, they must always be aware of their primary Areas of Responsibility.

One official must be looking at the action near the ball and the other official looking at the action away from the ball.

### PRINCIPLES

***Go where you need to go to see what you need to see:***

- When the ball moves, the officials must always adjust so you can see the defender
- Box-in, that is, keep all the players sandwiched between the two officials
- Look for the space between opponents, maintaining an appropriate distance from the play. This will help to have a wider angle of vision on the play and improve court coverage
- Maintain a stationary position when making decisions. This requires moving into the right position as quickly as possible to see the space between opponents in a contest.

***Stop, observe and decide***

### DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES ON THE PLAYING COURT

***The Trail's primary responsibilities are:***

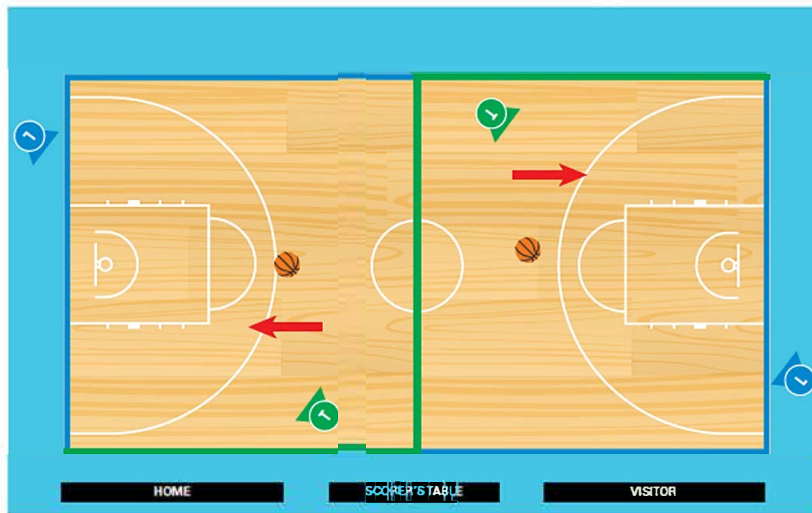
- Two-point and three-point field goal attempts, including judging whether time has expired at the end of playing time for a quarter or extra quarter or a shot clock violation has occurred.
- Goaltending and interference
- Ball-returned-to-back-court violations
- His left-sideline and the centre line (see D93)

***The Lead's primary responsibilities are:***

- Pivot/post play
- Play under the basket
- Drive to the basket on lead's side of the playing court
- Endline and his left sideline (see D93)

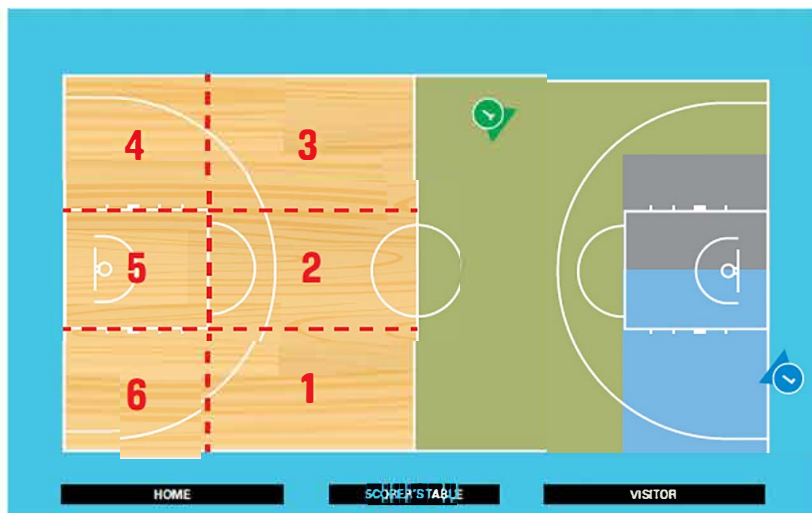


## LINES' COVERAGE BY THE REFEREES



D93 - Please note that the boundary lines are not part of the playing court and that the centre line is part of the backcourt.

## DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

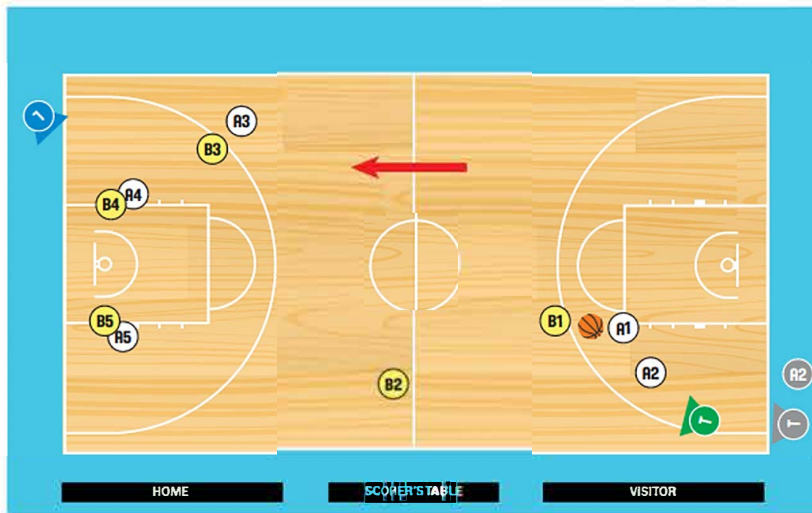


Modern officiating requires the two (2) officials to work in cooperation with each other, one (1) official taking responsibility for on-the-ball and the other for off-the-ball coverage.

In order to achieve proper coverage, the two (2) officials should seek to obtain the best possible position to judge the play, using the system of mechanics contained in this manual as a guideline.

To simplify this, each half of the playing court has been divided into rectangles, numbered 1 to 6 (Left, left side)

On the right side of the court are the areas of the court that the officials have to cover (green by the Trail, blue by the Lead, and grey by both)

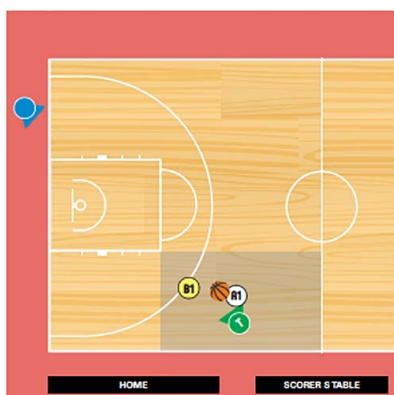
**BOXING-IN**

95 - The Trail should always remain behind the play whereas the Lead should be in front of the players; but running while looking at them. The aim is to keep the players between the two referees, which is called the "boxing-in" principle.

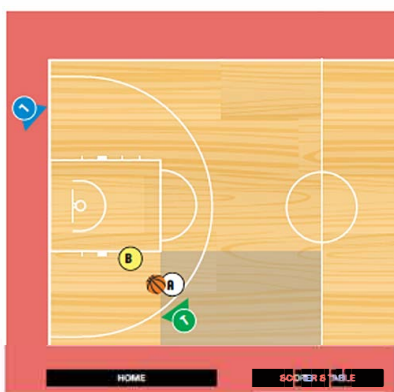
# 6.1 2PO / COURT COVERAGE

## 6.1.1 2PO / COVERAGE, POSITIONING AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### RECTANGLE 1



D14

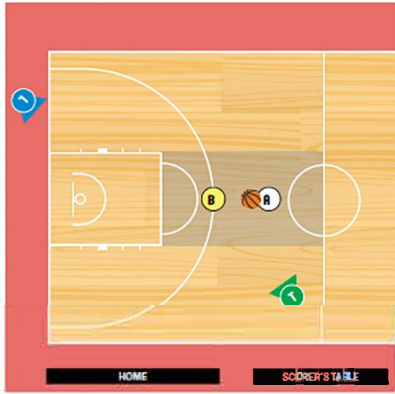


D15

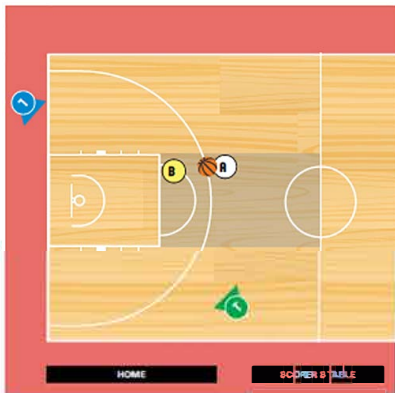
In D14 and D15, the ball is in rectangle 1. The Trail is responsible for watching the play around the ball, particularly the player dribbling, shooting or passing the ball and the defensive player or players guarding him. **When the ball is in this rectangle, the Trail has primary responsibility for on-the-ball coverage.**

The Lead positions himself so that the ten players are between him and his partner. His main responsibility is the play away from the ball. He should pay particular attention to any possible illegal screens or rough post play.

## RECTANGLE 2



D16

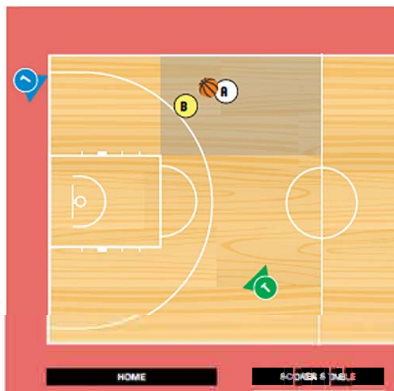


D17

In D16 and D17, the ball is in rectangle 2. The Trail again is primarily responsible for the play around the ball.

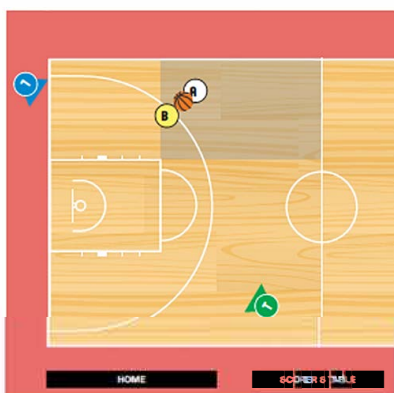
Lead has primary responsibility for off-the-ball coverage. By keeping his hips open at approximately 45° to the play and approximately 1 metre from the endline, he will be able to anticipate any possible movement of the ball towards the basket and have a view of the players away from the ball.

## RECTANGLE 3



D18

In D18, the ball is in rectangle 3 near the three-point line. In most cases the ball will penetrate into rectangles 4 or 5 on a shot, pass or dribble. To anticipate the action, the Trail must anticipate a move toward his left to cover the play away from the ball.

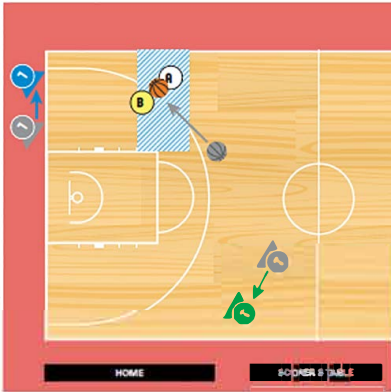


D19

In D19, the ball is rectangle 3, to the Trail's far right. Again, he has primary responsibility for on-the-ball coverage. He does not have primary responsibility for out-of-bounds decisions at the sideline or rectangle 3, but he may sometimes be required to assist his partner.

He will sometimes need help from the Lead to cover three-point field goal attempts, especially when the defensive player blocks his angle of vision. If a three-point field goal attempt is taken by a player straddling the free throw line extended (rectangle 3 and 4), the Trail shall take responsibility for the attempt.

## RECTANGLE 3

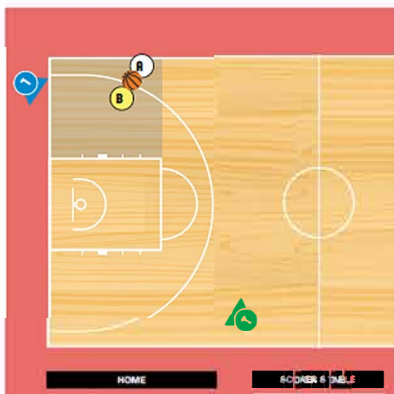


D20

When the ball is in rectangle 3, the Lead again takes off-the-ball coverage. He should always know where the ball is to give help, when necessary, to his partner on a three-point field attempt. There is generally no need to move beyond the three-point line to his left. He needs to adjust to a wide position, approximately in-line with the widest view. With the ball in rectangle 3, the Lead pays particular attention to the players in the low post area.

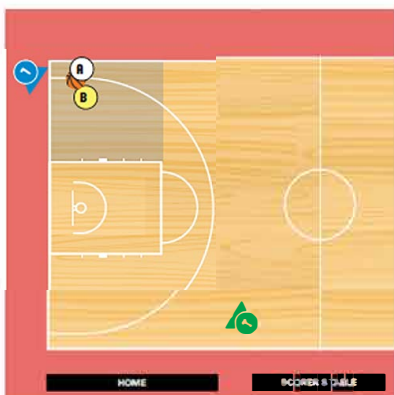
When the ball is located in low rectangle 3 (hatched area in D20), referees should agree during the pre-game conference on how they can communicate to decide who takes on-ball coverage and when. When the Lead takes on-ball coverage, then the Trail should move towards his left in order to cover the play away from the ball.

## RECTANGLE 4



D21

In D21 and D22, the ball is in rectangle 4. The Trail does not have responsibility for the ball and the play around it. When the play is this rectangle, it is his primary responsibility to watch situations away from the ball. His main responsibility is the low post area on the weak side, paying careful attention to possible illegal screening situations and rough play in the low-post.

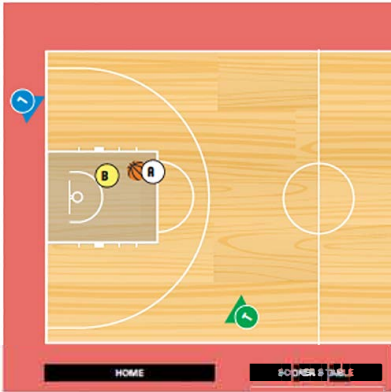


D22

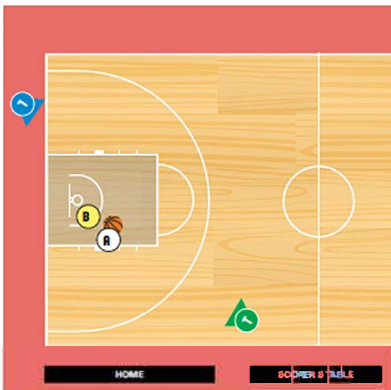
The Lead now positions himself with hips open to the play. He is responsible for play immediately around the ball. From this position, he will still be able to make decisions when the ball goes out-of-bounds near the sideline to his left. He will also be able to indicate to his partner when a three-point field goal is attempted from this area.



## RECTANGLE 5



D23



D24

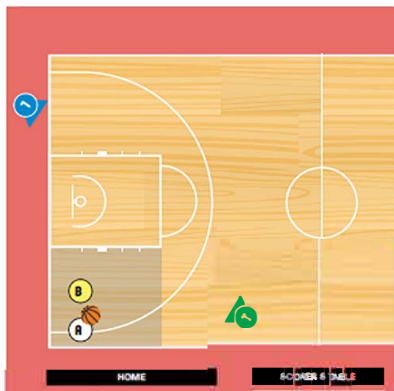
When the ball moves into the restricted area, rectangle 5 (D23 and D24), it is the only occasion on which both officials will be looking at the play around the ball, especially in shooting situations. The Trail also has to be especially vigilant on rebounding situations, paying particular attention to the perimeter players who may be trying to obtain the ball from an unfavourable position.

The Lead official watches the play directly around the ball. He should focus on the defensive player in all shooting or one-on-one situations ("referee the defence") but also be aware of the offensive player's actions.

As the Lead is the closest to the play, he is in the best possible position to make decisions on all contact situations involving the shooter and the defensive player guarding him. It is not his duty to watch the flight of the ball. The Lead should not indicate goaltending or interference violations, and generally not violations related to the ball striking the backboard support structures. These are the responsibility of the Trail.



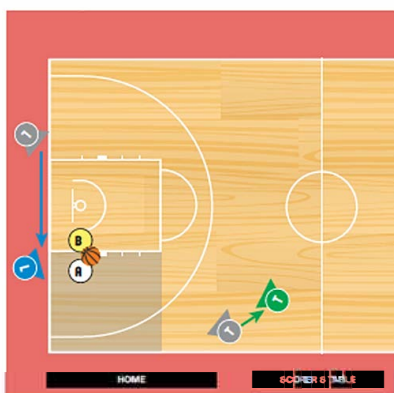
## RECTANGLE 6



D25

In D25, the ball is now in the three-point field goal area. The Trail is primarily responsible for the ball and the play around it, especially when a shot for a field goal is attempted.

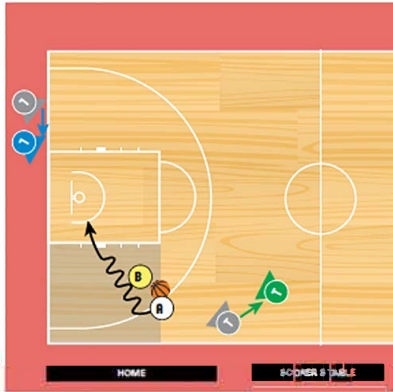
When the ball is wide in rectangle 6 (D25), the Lead has the primary task for off-the-ball coverage. In particular, he watches the low post areas as well as all other players away from the ball, especially those involved in screening situations.



D26

When the ball is close to the low post in rectangle 6, the Lead may move across to cover the play around the ball, maintaining an open angle to observe as many players as possible. This is particularly the case when there is an active low post play with the ball. The Lead should position himself to see as many players as possible, in addition to the low post. If this occurs, the Trail will need to step diagonally upwards to provide help with weak side activity, particularly on the elbows and deep corner of rectangle 4.

## RECTANGLE 6



D27

In D27, the ball is in rectangle 6, without post play. Trail is primarily responsible for the ball. If the dribbler drives to the basket, especially along the endline, the Trail will stay with the play until the end and the lead will position himself to assist with this play.

**Practical tip:** When there is a drive on the left side and when the Lead has not crossed, he should adjust his position and maintain an open angle and Trail shall make a cross-step to his right, which means to simply take 1-2 steps opposite the direction of the players (across their path behind them) to gain or maintain an open look as well.

### GENERAL TIPS FOR OFFICIATING:

#### Trail

- Switching from on-ball to off-ball coverage: When switching (i.e. ball has gone from rectangle 3 to 4 for trail), sometimes there is a tendency for officials to immediately turn away and "show they are working off-ball". For proper off-ball coverage, identify the next action area that requires attention. Sometimes that will be adjacent area to the ball.
- Look to box in the players (physically/visually). Adjust your head and eyes first and let your feet follow.

- Move onto the floor as needed, including when moving up the floor in transition, to maintain angle and spacing needed to officiate play if it moves to far side of the court
- Stay engaged with the play and adjust the position to officiate the rebounding contest (either move left, right, forward, backward, as needed) after the shot

#### Lead

- Adjust your position to maintain an open angle
- Also adjust the position to officiate the rebounding contest after the shot

## 6.1.2 2PO / THREE-POINT ATTEMPTS

In principle Trail is responsible for signalling all 3-point attempts and all successful 3-point field goals. Below you will find some practical cases and their procedure:

If an attempt is from rectangle 1,2 or 6 (green area below):

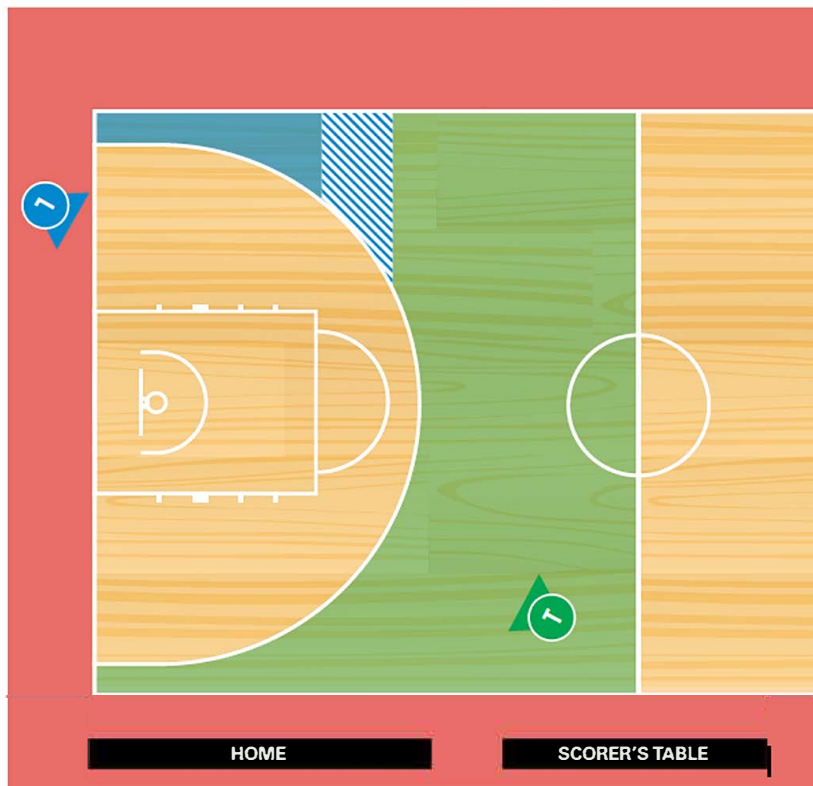
- Trail signals 3-point attempt
- If basket is successful, the Trail signals the valid basket

If an attempt is from low rectangle 3 (hatched area below):

- Trail signals normally the initial attempt signal but Lead can give help if there is doubt
- If basket is successful, only Trail signals the valid basket

If an attempt is from Lead's side below the free throw line extended (rectangle 4 - blue area below):

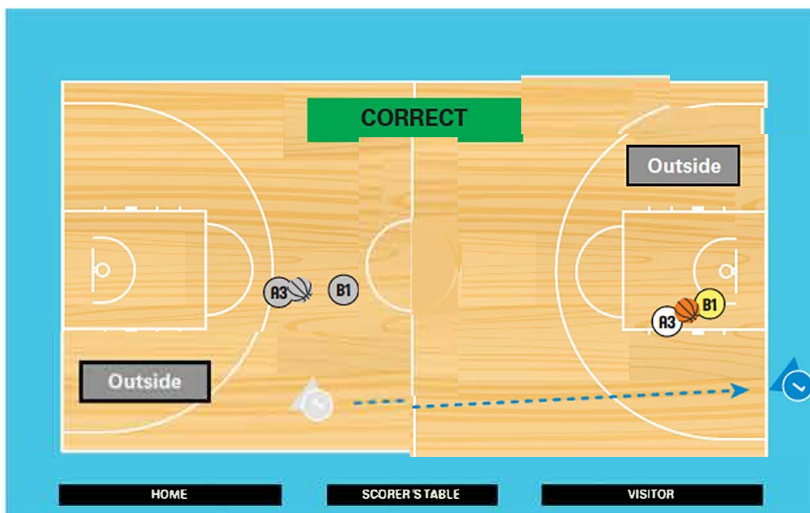
- Lead signals 3-point attempt
- Trail mirrors the signal
- If basket is successful, only Trail signals the valid basket



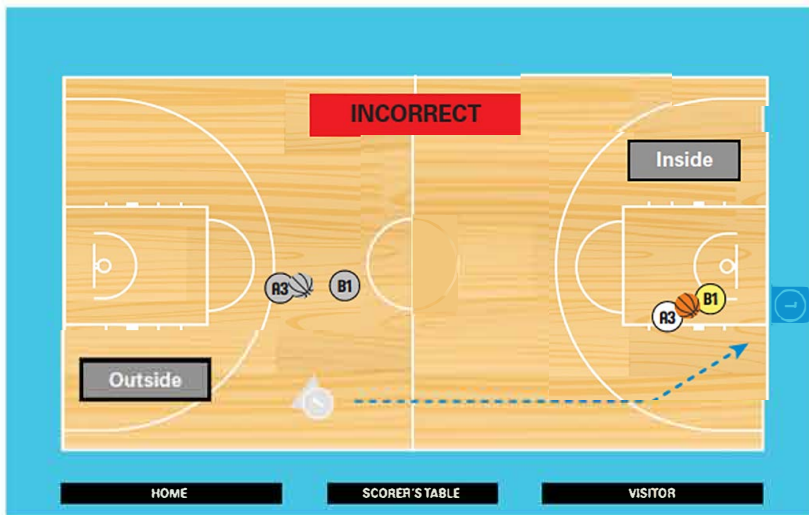
D28

## 5.5.2 LEAD POSITION AND TRANSITION

- During transition, the new Lead should arrive to the endline in four seconds or less, and should be in a position ready to referee. The new Lead should also be in good position to referee the play throughout transition down the floor. This is only possible when the following correct techniques are applied:
  - a) Stay with the previous play before the new transition – namely, wait until the ball has entered the basket in the case of a successful shot for goal or when a defensive player has gained control of a rebound;
  - b) After turning with a power step, be sure to face the court all the time (when done properly, the referee should also be able to pick-up the game clock);
  - c) Start transition with full speed and maintain it until arriving at the endline;
  - d) Face the court during the entire transition (actively looking for next play to come and refereeing defence);
  - e) Run straight to the endline to set-up position (keeping the same distance from the play all the way) – “out-side/out-side” angle;
  - f) Stop on the endline with “one-two” count (step) in a stationary position and be ready to referee the play when it starts.



D103 - Lead moves correctly with straight line to the endline.



D104 - Lead curves incorrectly close to the basket and maintaining the same distance from the play – speed and play are coming at Lead.

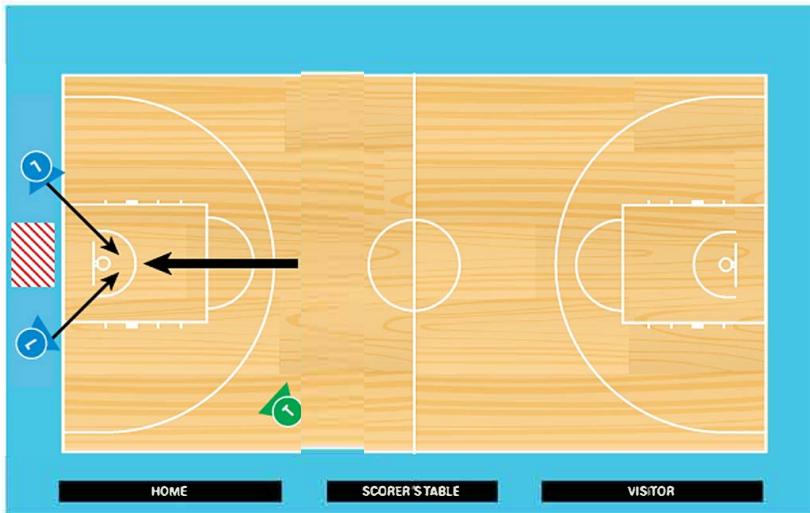
- Lead works on the endline in a 45° angle facing the basket. Position should be not more than 1 metre deep from the endline and normally outside the paint. The Lead's working area is from three-point line to the lane line of the key.
- The normal set-up point for Lead is between the lane line of the key and the three-point line. The Lead should move on the endline according to the movement of the ball, ensuring they have position on the edge of the play. The Lead should work off-the court.

If the ball is located on the Trail's side and close to the low post, with a likelihood of post play on this side, the Lead may move across to officiate the post play near the ball. He shall cross by walking (not running), and without stopping or remaining directly behind the basket (hatched area on D105), whilst maintaining an open angle.

#### THE PROTOCOL TO ADOPT IS:

1. Ball and post same side as Trail.
2. Ball is below free-throw line extended.
3. Lead may cross, scanning the paint.
4. Lead to maintain an open angle
5. Lead may return to his normal position when the post has dissolved, or the ball has gone across Rectangle 2.





### LEAD WORKING AREA

D105 - Lead working area is between 3 point line and edge of the board. To find out if you have the correct position is to check that you will see the front of the rim.



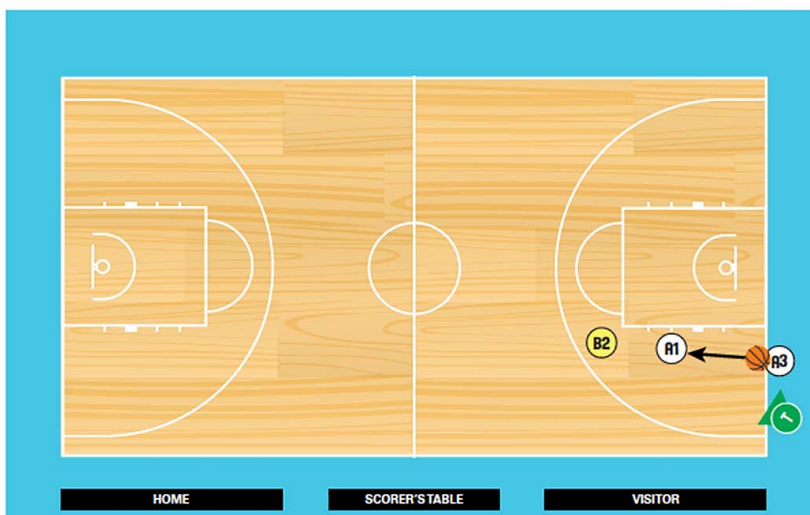
D106 - Lead angle 1.



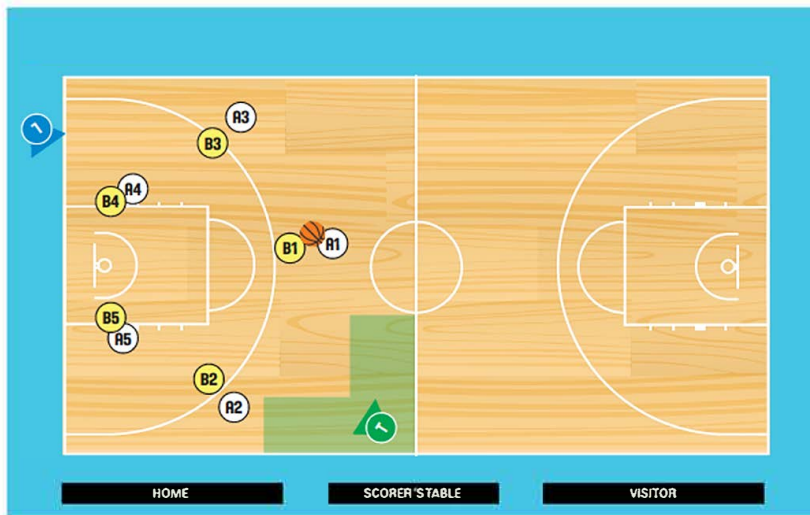
D107 - Lead angle 2.

## 5.5.3 TRAIL POSITION AND TRANSITION

- During transition, the new Trail should always trail the play (behind the play – not in line or in front of the play). This way the Trail is able to easily control the clocks and analyse the next possible plays to come. This is only possible when the following correct techniques are implemented:
  - a) Wait behind the endline until the ball is either passed to a teammate on the court after a valid basket and the thrower-in has advanced on to the court (the new Trail should wait to have a minimum of 3 metres distance from the ball before they step on to the court);
  - b) Always maintain a proper distance behind the play – 2-3 steps (no yo-yo running);
  - c) Be the last to arrive in the front court and have a 45° angle facing the basket (all players should be between straight arms extended = right/left side sideline & left/right side centre line).



**108 - New Trail applies correct techniques by waiting behind the endline that ball is passed to the teammate after the basket and the thrower-in has advanced to the court.**



### TRAIL WORKING AREA

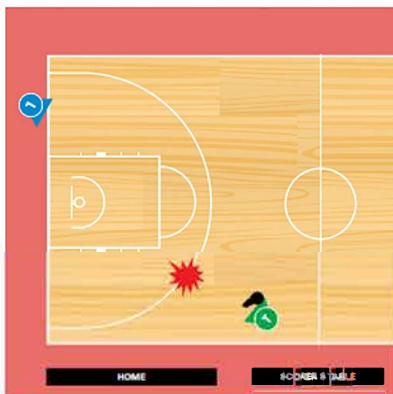
109 - Trail working area is one step on the left of the bench area line and to the limit of the centre circle. The Trail should be able to control a wide area if they are keeping a proper distance from the players with an active mindset to analyse the next movements of the players. Trail normally works on the court.



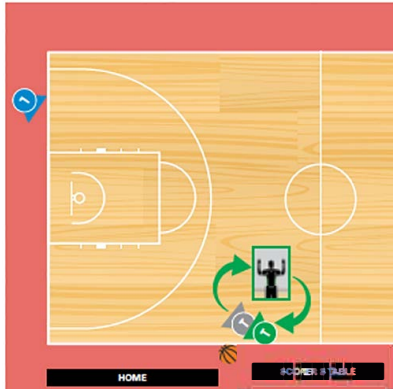
## 6.1.3 2PO / SWITCHING AFTER FOULS

Principle: the calling official generally remains the Trail or becomes the new Trail.

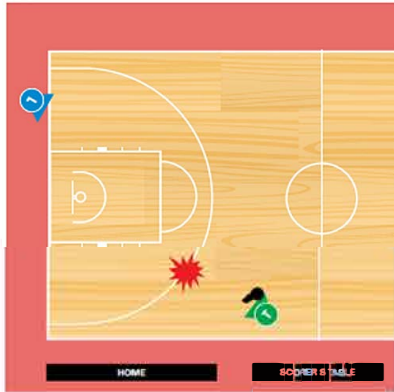
### 1A - TRAIL CALLS A DEFENSIVE FOUL (BALL REMAINS IN THE FRONT COURT - NO FREE THROWS)



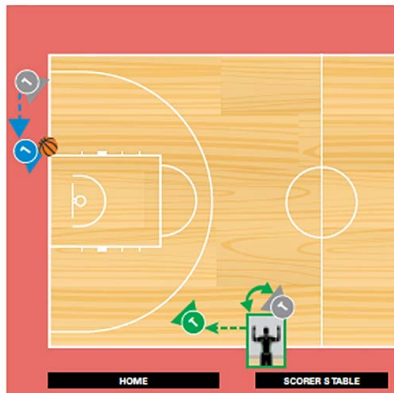
D29



D30 - Trail turns around and reports to the scorer's table, then goes back to his position.

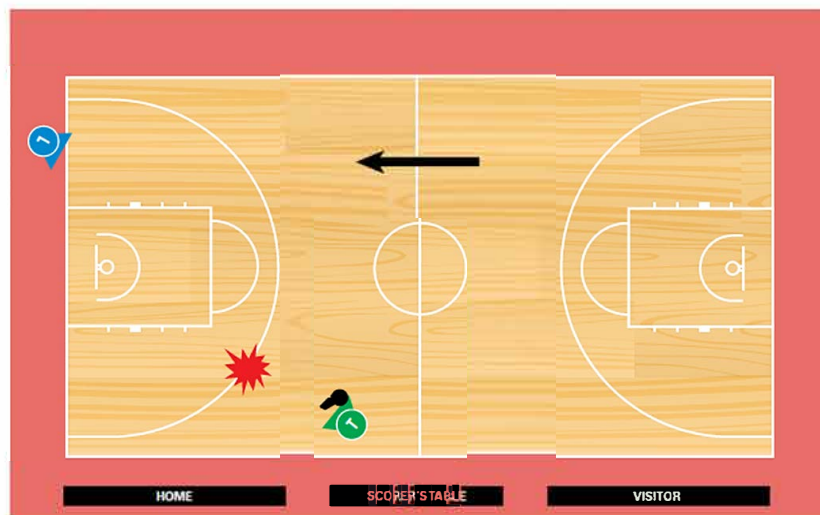
**1B – TRAIL CALLS A DEFENSIVE FOUL (BALL REMAINS IN THE FRONT COURT - FREE THROWS)**

D31

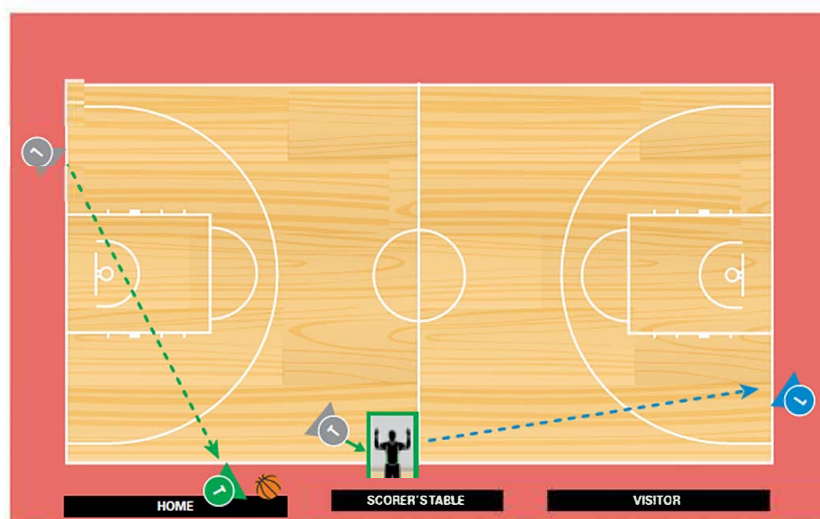


D32 - Trail turns around and reports to the scorer's table then goes back to his position for the free throws.

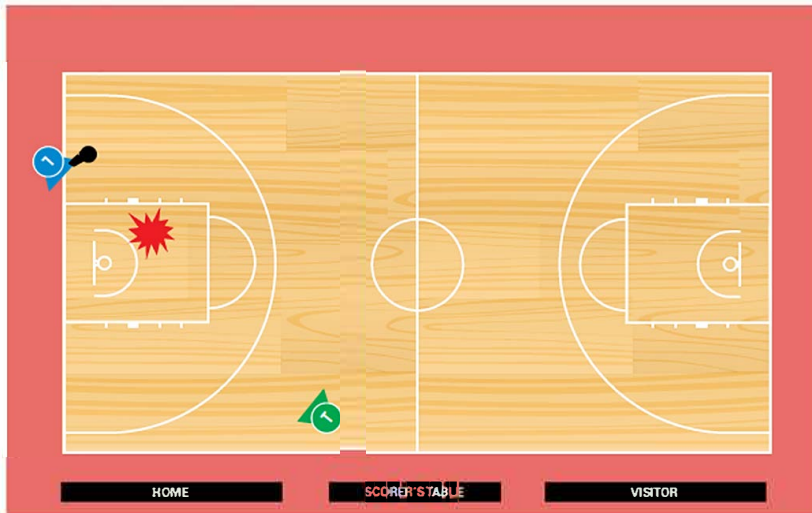
### 1C – TRAIL CALLS AN OFFENSIVE FOUL (BALL GOES TO THE NEW FRONTCOURT)



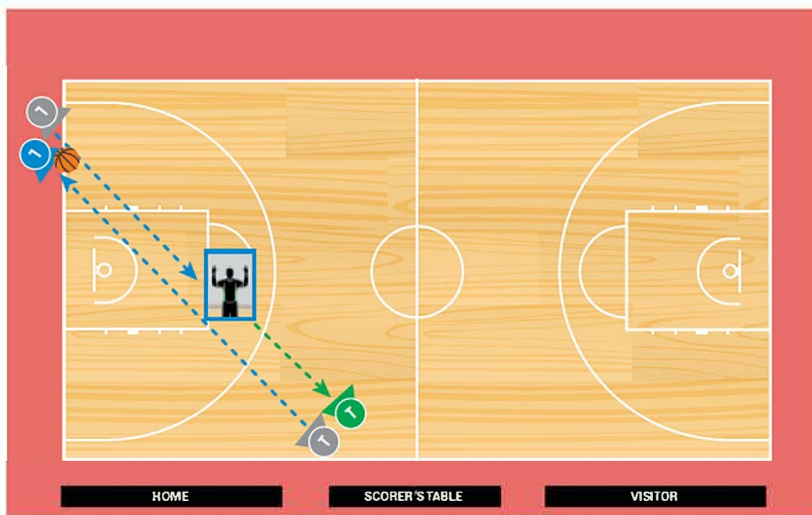
D33



D34 - Trail turns around and reports to the scorer's table then goes to the Lead position. Lead becomes the new Trail and administers the throw-in.

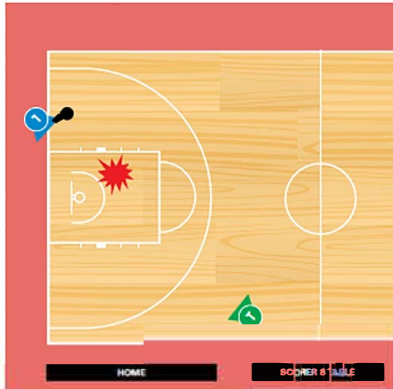
**2A - LEADS CALLS A DEFENSIVE FOUL (BALL REMAINS IN THE FRONT COURT - NO FREE THROWS)**

D35

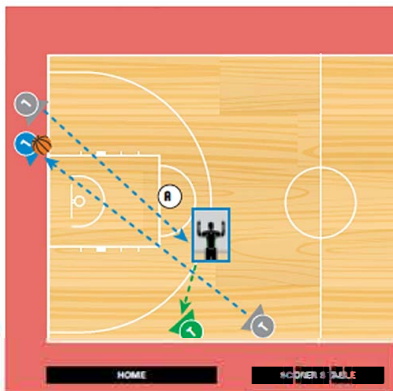


D36 - Lead reports to the scorer's table, then becomes the new Trail. Old Trail moves to the new Lead position.

## 2B – LEAD CALLS A DEFENSIVE FOUL (BALL REMAINS IN THE FRONTCOURT - FREE THROWS)

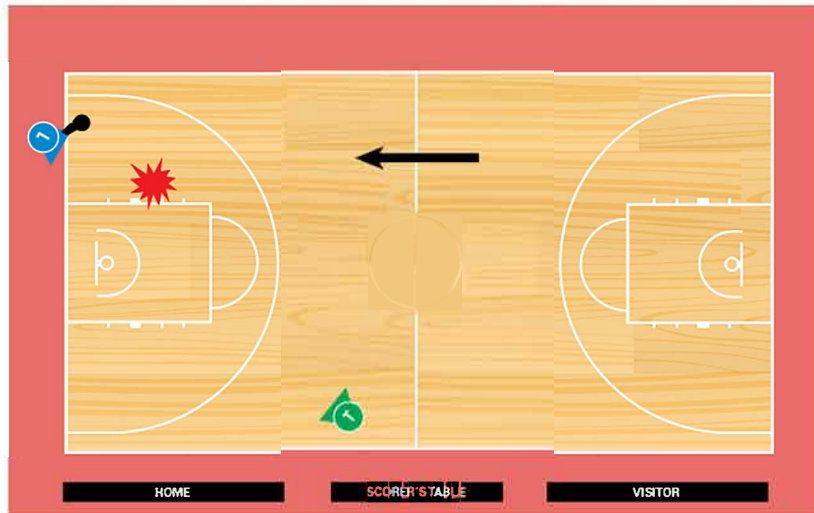


D37

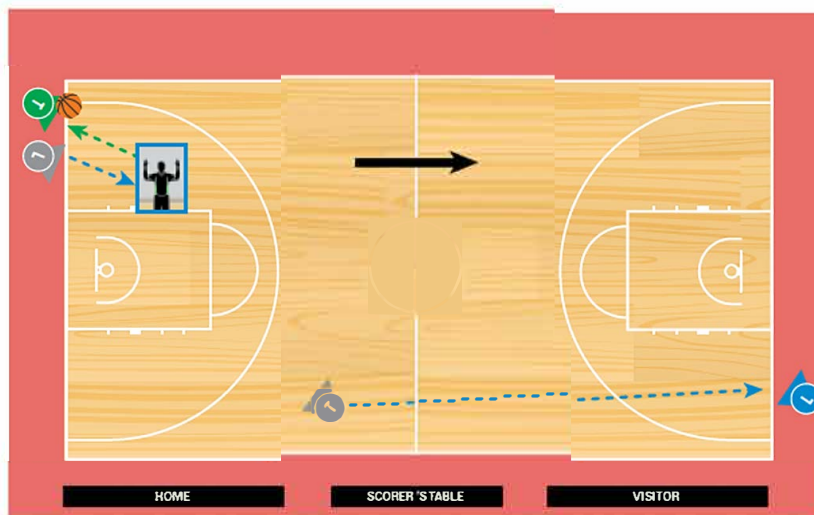


D38 - Lead reports to the scorer's table, then becomes the new Trail. Old Trail moves to the new Lead position to administer the free throws.

## 2C - LEAD CALLS AN OFFENSIVE FOUL (BALL GOES TO THE NEW FRONTCOURT)



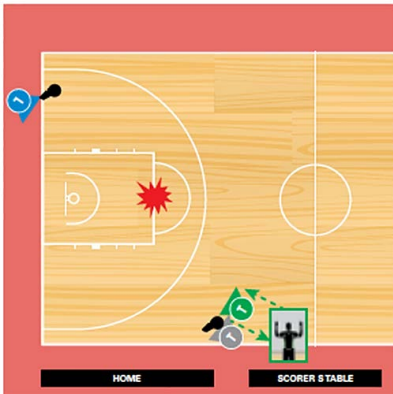
D39



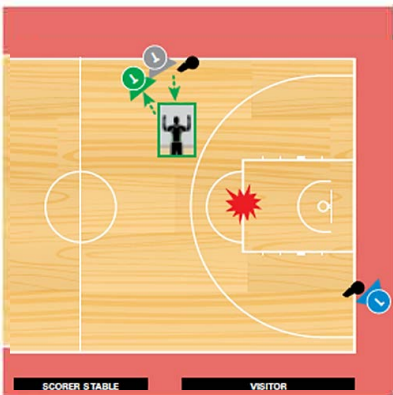
D40 - Lead reports to the scorer's table, then goes back to his position as the new Trail, to administer the throw-in.



### 3 – DOUBLE CALL



D41- In case both referees call the same play at the same time, they should establish visual contact and communicate to ensure that they have both called the same thing.



D42 - The Trail reports to the scorer's table and stays in his position, so that to avoid long switches.