

# ZONE DEFENSE RULE CRITERIA



**BASKETBALL**  
New Zealand

## The Zone Defense Rule

As there is a general acceptance that the consistent use of zone defenses in the younger age groups adversely affects the development of both defensive and offensive skills in younger athletes, the use of zone defenses is banned at all BBNZ Under 14 and Under 16 Tournaments (per BBNZ Internal Regulations).

## Definitions of Zone Defense

### Zone Defense

As a team, players defending specific areas of the court (and opponents in that area) versus marking individual players.

### Split Line

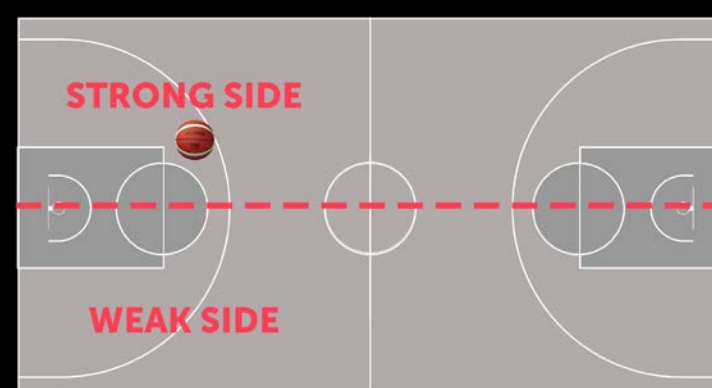
An imaginary line that bisects the court length wise.

### Strong Side

The side of the court that the ball is on.

### Weak Side

The opposite side of the court from where the ball is located.



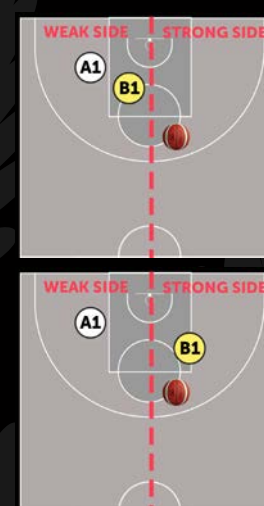
## Interpretation of Zone Defense

For the purposes of interpreting how a zone defense is determined:

A player is considered to be in man-to-man defense when the player, who is on the weak side, does not cross the split line into the strong side of the court.

A player is permitted to cross the split line to double-team or to stop ball penetration, but once the ball is passed out of the double team, the player must recover to the player they were originally defending.

A player is considered to be in zone defense when the player, who is on the weak side, crosses the split line, on to the strong side and remains there regardless of their player's movement on the court.



## Zone Busters and Process

A "Zone Buster" will be appointed at every age group tournament where zone defense is banned. At the technical meeting, the Zone Buster will reiterate the zone defense rules to all in attendance. BBNZ acknowledges that this rule can be subject to interpretation and that there are certain scenarios that can lead to teams inadvertently playing a zone, so coaches will need to understand the complexities of this rule. At BBNZ Tournaments, the process to ensure compliance with this policy is:

1. If a coach feels that their opponent is playing a zone defense, they approach the person designated as the "Zone Buster" at that tournament.
2. The "Zone Buster" will watch the play and determine if a zone is in fact being played.
3. If the "Zone Buster" believes a zone is being played, they will instruct the referees to issue a warning to the coach of the team playing a zone in the first instance.
4. Further violations will result in the "Zone Buster" instructing the referees to call a technical foul against the coach.