

# In or Out?

Here are two strange out of bounds plays to ponder.

## **Situation #1**

A1 who is near the sideline and bench area is chasing down a loose ball.

- A1 leaps from inbounds and **catches the ball** while in the air before falling out of bounds.
- Seeing this, Coach A while out of bounds and inside the coaching box reaches up toward A1 (airborne) so she doesn't fall into the bleachers / bench.
- After being **touched by Coach A** (who is completely out of bounds) A1, while still in the air, tosses the ball back onto the court.

Is this a **violation** by A1 for being out of bounds? Or is this **legal**?

Is this a **technical foul** for Coach A for assisting an on-court player? Or is this **legal**?

*Before we give away the proper ruling. Let's take a look at another strange play.*

## **Situation #2**

This is similar to the above, but this time no coach is involved in the play.

A1 who is near the sideline is chasing down a loose ball.

- A1 leaps from inbounds and catches the ball while in the air before falling out of bounds.
- While still in the air throws the ball back into the playing court.
- A1 then lands out of bounds and subsequently returns to the court, picks up the ball and begins to dribble.

Is this a **legal** play? What is your ruling here?

Let's solve these two mysteries.

## **Ruling #1: Being Touched by the Coach**

For A1 to be considered out of bounds she must touch the floor or some object on (or outside) a boundary line.

*People are NOT considered objects and play may continue.*

Inadvertently touching someone who is out of bounds like a coach, bench personnel, spectator, etc., without gaining an advantage is not considered a violation. Since the A1 did not initiate this contact to gain an advantage it's safe to rule this a legal play.

For a player to be considered out of bounds while in control of the ball they must touch an object (including the floor) on or outside a boundary line. This includes scorer's table, bleachers, chairs and other "non-living" objects.

### **Ruling #2: Regaining Possession and Starting a Dribble**

- A1 leaps from inbounds and catches the ball while in the air before falling out of bounds is **LEGAL**.
- While still in the air throws the ball back into the playing court is **LEGAL**
- A1 then lands out of bounds and subsequently returns to the court is **LEGAL**
- When A1 picks up the ball and begins to dribble this constitutes an **ILLEGAL DRIBBLE**.

*The controlled toss of the ball to the court by A1 constitutes the start of a dribble.*

Dribbling a second time after picking up the ball is where the illegal dribble violation would occur. Remember a **dribble begins** by intentionally pushing, throwing or batting the ball to the floor (once or several times) – which was the case when A1 threw the ball back into the playing court. This **dribble ended** when A1 picks up the ball.

If A1 would have NOT picked up the ball and rather immediately started the dribble this would be a **legal play**.

Most likely you will not be faced with such strange plays but knowing these concepts will allow you to apply a correct ruling in any "catch me if you can" situation.

#### *Rule References*

*4-15-5, 4-15-6d, 4-35, 9-5*

*Casebook 7.1.1 (Situations A and D)*