

# Be The Referee

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"Be The Referee" is a series of one-minute podcasts designed to help educate people on the rules of different sports, to help them better understand the art of officiating, and to recruit officials. "Be The Referee" features insights from MHSAA experts on officiating. These messages can be heard on This Week In High School Sports, which airs on over 100 radio stations and audio web outlets across Michigan.

Dec. 21, 2021 -- You'll hear a crowd scream "Over and back!" anytime the ball is first touched in the backcourt by the team last in possession of the ball – but it isn't as simple as that.

Correctly referred as a backcourt violation, there are three key elements that must first occur:

- The team must have team control while on the court
- The team must be the last to touch the ball in the frontcourt
- The team must be the first to touch the ball in the backcourt

One way a backcourt violation can occur is when a dribbler establishes three points – the ball and two feet – in the frontcourt and then retreats to the backcourt.

There are also a number of exceptions to this rule that apply to jump balls, throw-ins and when a player is making a defensive play. And remember that it's not always as easy to call as it may appear.