

ZONE DEFENSE RULE

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 in the keyhole is banned** for Under 13, U15 Age Groups, including Junior Secondary Schools” (per BBNZ Tournament Policies & Procedures).

Note this does not include fullcourt, $\frac{3}{4}$ court or $\frac{1}{2}$ court zone presses. Basic rule of thumb is that when the ball is past the centre jump circle, the defensive team must be in man-to-man.

DEFINITIONS

Zone Defense

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

Split Line

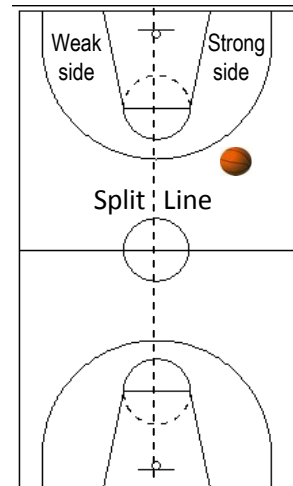
An imaginary line that bisects the court length wise.

Strong side

The side of the court that the ball is on.

Weak side

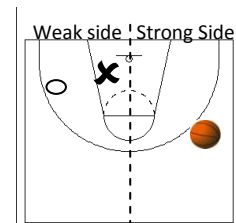
The opposite side of the court from where the ball is located.



Interpretation of Zone Defense at U13 and U15 Age Groups & Junior Secondary Schools

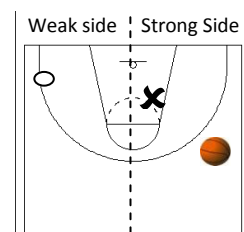
For the purpose of interpreting how a zone defense is determined:

- A player is considered to be in a 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.

- A player is considered to be in a 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.



PROCEDURE FOR ZONE DEFENSE

In the first instance zone busters/referees may speak with the coach &/or with the player/s on court. Repeated incidences:-

1. **First Verbal Warning** given to Coach of defensive team by zone buster/referee
2. **Repeated offending** – “Technical Foul” given to Coach of defensive team

Note if a coach receives two Technical Fouls, he/she will be ejected from the stadium, then the “Technical Foul will go on the player repeating in zone defense.