

Classifications of Holding

Grab & Restrict – the grabbing is considered inconsequential up until the restriction

Hook & Restrict – usually hooking under an arm or shoulder pad

Jerk & Restrict – grabbing & quickly jerking or pulling in a downward direction

Pull Down – also referred to as a takedown or tackle

Grab & Turn – a technique whereas the offender will grab and twist the opponent

You Must See the Beginning of a Block in the Back and the End (the act that restricted the defender from making a play) of a HOLD.

Did the hold have an effect on the play? If not; No Foul.

Remember, we must understand the intent of the rule as well as the definition of the rule. Just because a player violates a rule by definition, doesn't necessarily constitute that a foul be called. The intent of the RULES is to ensure that violation of a rule does not put the offended team at an unfair disadvantage; or in other words give the team whose player committed a violation an unfair advantage. MIBT – "make it be there". A foul must affect the outcome of the play or "eat the flag" and talk with the player in question (Preventive Officiating).

If you "THINK" it is a hold; then it's NOT. You should have to say to yourself "It's a hold, it's a hold, it's a hold". If you can say that to yourself three times then drop the rag only if it has a "material effect" on the play. Another good officiating philosophy to follow is GTBO – "get the big one". If you set your level of tolerance too low and are consistent with your calls (coaches expect consistency), then you will be throwing holding calls all night long; and no one came just to watch you officiate!

Remember, if you cannot categorize the type of hold as defined above then don't throw the flag; otherwise, be able to describe exactly what you saw when you throw the flag. DON'T BE A BALL WATCHER! Focus on the action around the ball. Watch for the guy with the "brick in his hand". Keep in mind that all Friday night games are filmed. Don't be the main attraction!

Of course we must realize that all SAFETY FOULS must be penalized.