FIBA
We Are Basketball

2026 RULE CHANGES
DISRUPTIVE, FLAGRANT & TECHNICAL FOULS
REFEREE & SCORER CHEAT SHEET

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

DISRUPTIVE FOUL (DI)
ARTICLE 37

THINK... "Stops or disrupts the game – not playing basketball."

WHEN TO CALL Unnecessary defensive contact without a legitimate attempt to directly play the ball that:
- Stops an offensive transition before the act of shooting.
- Deliberately stops the game or shot clock near the end of a quarter or overtime.
- Is from behind or laterally against a player progressing toward the basket with the basket (under the rule's specified control/receiving conditions).

EXAMPLES (DISRUPTIVE FOULS)


Stopping transition (hold/tackle)


Deliberate foul to stop the clock

PENALTY

No shot attempt:	2 free throws + possession (frontcourt, opposite scorer's table)
Basket is made:	Basket + 1 free throw + possession (frontcourt, opposite scorer's table)
Shot is missed:	2 or 3 free throws + possession (frontcourt, opposite scorer's table)

Counts as a team foul.
DOES NOT count toward game disqualification.

FLAGRANT FOUL (FL)
ARTICLE 38

THINK... "Dangerous, excessive, or not legitimate basketball."

WHEN TO CALL Contact that:
- Is not a legitimate basketball play against an opponent, with or without the ball.
- Is reckless, violent or dangerous and causes or could cause injury.
- Is excessive / hard contact, even while attempting to play the ball or opponent.

EXAMPLES (FLAGRANT FOULS)


Reckless / dangerous contact


Excessive hard contact

PENALTY

No shot attempt:	2 free throws + possession (frontcourt, opposite scorer's table)
Basket is made:	Basket + 1 free throw + possession (frontcourt, opposite scorer's table)
Shot is missed:	2 or 3 free throws + possession (frontcourt, opposite scorer's table)

Counts as a team foul.
DOES count toward game disqualification.

TECHNICAL FOULS (T)
ARTICLE 36

THINK... "Non-contact unsportsmanlike behaviour or administrative infractions."

CATEGORY 1 (T1)
- Unsportsmanlike behaviour (e.g., disrespect, taunting)
- Excessive or persistent questioning of decisions
- Disrespectful gestures or language
- Team bench behaviour (players/coaches)

CATEGORY 2 (T2)
- Less serious behaviour or specific administrative situations
- Minor bench behaviour
- Inadvertent acts
- Other situations defined in the rules
- Deliberate delay tactics

EXAMPLES (TECHNICAL FOULS)


Disrespect / excessive questioning (T1)


Coach bench behaviour (T1 or T2) depending on severity)

PENALTY

1 free throw
(at the point of interruption)

Counts as a team foul.
CATEGORY 1 (T1) **DOES** count toward game disqualification.
CATEGORY 2 (T2) **DOES NOT** count toward game disqualification.

KEY DIFFERENCES

FEATURE	DISRUPTIVE (DI)	FLAGRANT (FL)	TECHNICAL (T1)	TECHNICAL (T2)
Type of foul	Stopping/disrupting the game	Dangerous/excessive contact	Unsportsmanlike behaviour	Less serious or administrative
Contact involved?	Yes (defensive contact)	Yes (reckless, dangerous or excessive)	Yes (during a dead ball)	No
Typical situations	Tactical foul, transition, clock stopping, clear-path	Hard, dangerous, not a legitimate basketball play	Disrespect, taunting, excessive arguing	Minor behaviour or administrative situations, delay
Penalty	FT(s) + possession (frontcourt, opposite scorer's table)	FT(s) + possession (frontcourt, opposite scorer's table)	1 FT + possession (at the point of interruption)	1 FT + possession (at the point of interruption)
Counts as team foul?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Counts toward game DQ?	**No**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**No**

GAME DISQUALIFICATION (GD) RULES

A player is game-disqualified after:

2 FLAGRANT FOULS (FL)

2 CATEGORY 1 TECHNICAL FOULS (T1) (TEAM BENCH BEHAVIOUR)

1 FLAGRANT FOUL (FL) + 1 CATEGORY 1 TECHNICAL FOUL (T1)

REFEREE HAND SIGNALS (NEW)

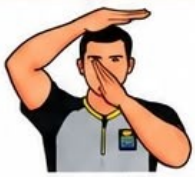
DISRUPTIVE FOUL (DI)


One hand up, two fingers brought down.

FLAGRANT FOUL (FL)


Crossed wrists above head.

TECHNICAL FOUL (T)


Form a "T" with hands.

QUICK MEMORY GUIDE

DI = Disrupts the PLAY (Tactical / transition / clock stopping)

FL = Flagrant CONTACT (Reckless / dangerous / excessive)

T = Behaviour or ADMINI ISSUE (Unsportsmanlike / administrative)