

## Letter to the Editor

MR. LOUBE:

Received my copy of *Sportorials* today and read your column. “Take Away the Baseline.”

If the player “runs along the endline partially or completely out of bounds” why is the player not subject to a technical foul for leaving the court “for an unauthorized reason”? (Rule 10–3–3)

Also, isn’t being “partially out of bounds” sort of like being “partially pregnant”? Aren’t you either in bounds or out of bounds?

THOMAS A. ROPER,  
Bd. 4 CO

MR. ROPER:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the “Take Away the Baseline” article.

When a player leaves the court for an unauthorized reason the occurrence involves intent and deception on the part of the player; i.e., to avoid a lane violation, leaving the court to avoid being defended, deceptively returning to the game after a timeout or substitution, etc. In the examples presented in the article, there was no intent of deception involved. The defender was attempting to acquire a legal guarding position on the opponent. Legal guarding position can only be obtained with both feet inbounds, therefore contact, even if initiated by the offense, can only be penalized as a block as a legal guarding position was not obtained by the defense.

As to your “little bit pregnant” analogy, I suggest, while dribbling, that she step on the endline and be called for a violation so she can avoid that unwarranted contact.

JACKY LOUBE,  
Executive Director, IAABO