

Coach Sivils Rules for Shot Selection

I had the opportunity to watch a varsity high school basketball game tonight. I had to leave. The game was well played, the players hustled and played team basketball. They just had no clue about shot selection and it ruined what was otherwise a well played game.

So while I am still thinking about it and it is foremost in my mind, here are my rules for shot selection. They are a little different but I hope I get my point across.

- 1) Shooting is not an equal opportunity skill. The best shooters get to take the bulk of the shots.
- 2) Every player must be able to make lay-ups and free throws or they should not be on the court.
- 3) Players must recognize they are open and get ready to shoot **before** receiving the ball.
- 4) Do not take a good shot and turn it into a bad one! This means don't take a shot that is open, within shooting range and ruin it by rushing it, shooting with bad form, not being squared up or any other means by which a player can ruin a shot.
- 5) What defines both an open shot and a good shot is different for every player. Make sure your players individually recognize what is both a good and open shot for that individual player.
- 6) Players don't get to shoot just because they want to.
- 7) Did I say shooting is not an equal opportunity skill?
- 8) Some shots that are good shots early in the game are not good shots late in the game when protecting a lead.

Take the time to teach shot selection and constantly reinforce it practice. Games are a bad time to punish a player for poor shot selection, but sometimes a coach must sit a player down for just that reason. The teaching principle that applies here is that players cannot be expected to do something that has not been both taught AND emphasized in practice.



www.kcsbasketball.com