

# Quick Guide for Referee Coaches or Game Controllers: No Zone Defence Rule (U12 & U14)

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## Purpose

- Promote **man-to-man defence** to develop player skills (e.g., driving, shooting, defensive movement) and avoid restrictive zone defences.
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## What is Zone Defence?

- **Zone Defence:** Players guard areas of the court, not specific players (e.g., 2-3, 3-2, 1-3-1).
  - **Man-to-Man Defence:** Each defender is responsible for an offensive player.
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## Violations to Look For

1. Defender is **not guarding a specific player**.
  2. **Cutter** is unguarded while moving through the key.
  3. **Trap** not followed by man-to-man re-establishment.
  4. **Zone press** that doesn't shift to man-to-man after crossing mid-court.
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## Penalties

- **1st violation:** Coach is spoken to.
  - **2nd violation:** **Technical foul** on the head coach.
  - **3rd violation:** Disqualification of the head coach.
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## How to Identify Zone Defence

- **Observe Multiple Phases:** Don't judge after just one play; watch a few offensive possessions to confirm.
  - **Player Movement:** If offensive players cut or move and defenders don't react (especially in the key or to the ball), it's likely zone.
  - **Ball Reversal:** Defenders must move with the ball when it's passed across the court. If they don't, it could be a zone.
  - **Cut to Ballside:** Offensive cuts to the ballside should force defenders to follow. If they stay on the "split line" or don't move, it's a zone.
  - **Post Play:** If the offensive player moves from a low post to high and the defender stays in the key, it suggests zone.
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This guide helps monitor and enforce the “no zone defence” rule, ensuring skill development in U12 and U14 players.