

## The Pursuit Rule



Defense is an instinctive, flow-of-play kind of skill. There is not time for rational evaluation of each defensive opportunity. The defenders must go to the ball every time. It is the unrelenting attitude of pursuit that makes a good defensive player. Going to the ball must be an instinct, a habit.

A player may stop pursuing the ball only if:

- ▶ The ball strikes the floor or an out-of-bounds object, such as the standard, antenna, wall or ceiling.
- ▶ Continued pursuit of the ball would risk injury
- ▶ The referee's whistle stops play
- ▶ A teammate clearly calls, "mine!"