



Let's assume this is hoop # 3 and it's Blue to play. Blue cannot effectively clear Red because Red is so close to the boundary line and would still have a shot on the hoop if hit there.

All Blue needs to do is get anywhere in the shaded oval areas to block Red from shooting at the hoop: either right in front of the hoop or somewhere between Red and the hoop.

Think of a block any time that a clear will not be effective.