

Good morning! What a beautiful day in Pennsylvania! Two Fridays in a row it looks like games will be played! Ha!

Yesterday we had a play in which the only action SEEN was the retaliation. Remember the clip? Take a look [here](#) if you don't. In this play it appears that C 'missed' the first action because he may have been looking across court at the dribbler for a split second....and thus missed the initial hold by gold 15. The retaliation was seen by two officials and called.

Today's clip is also a missed first action and the second was called, but the first was missed for an entirely different reason.....take a look [here](#).

What action was 'missed'? The obvious hand check was missed! We penalized the ball handler by NOT calling the hand check, then we penalized the ball handler AGAIN by calling a 5-second violation on him! Hand checks.....rule 10-7-12 is being officiated WAY more to the rule than before, but there are times that we try to let the kids 'play through' it, but that is NOT the intent of the rule. The 'freedom of movement' philosophy is to have NO hand checking on the ball handler other than the 'hot stove touch'.....period. CALLING the hand check is what is intended and required.

The play in the clip is an EASY one to call, just do it!

ART. 12

The following acts constitute a foul when committed against a ball handler/dribbler. A player becomes a ball handler when he/she receives the ball. This would include a player in a post position.

- a. Placing two hands on the player.
- b. Placing an extended arm bar on the player.
- c. Placing and keeping a hand on the player.
- d. Contacting the player more than once with the same hand or alternating hands.

The rule starts 'The following acts constitute a foul.....'. The word constitute means 'by law' or 'legally'. This means that it MUST be called a foul!

Missing something we should call because we didn't SEE it is way different than SEEING the play and not calling it. If an official SEES a 5-second violation, he/she HAD to have SEEN the hand check (keeping the hand on or repeatedly touching in the clip). Just call it!!!!

We are only a couple weeks away from the end of the regular season.....if you are a playoff official, or hope to be, treat EVERY game from here on out as a playoff prep.....if your season will end in a couple weeks, we still owe the schools and teams our best.....and we also know the 'Freaky February's' (or whatever you call it) can bring some crazy stuff.....no matter what, we need to stay focused the entire time we are on the floor, and remember to 'be alive when the ball is dead.'

Have a great game tonight, a great weekend, and make sure to get the rest you need to be ready for next week.

Tim