

Good morning!

Weather played havoc in NW PA yesterday.....we have been lucky and hopefully games will be played today and the next couple days!

Primary coverage areas.....we know what they are for 2-person and 3-person....we have pregame boards that show them.....our chapter interpreters have displayed them.....we can get them in the manual.....yet we still make calls out of our primaries personally, watch games where calls are made outside of our primary and hear stories about it happening and having double whistles all game long. Why? Is there ever a time to MAKE a call outside our primary coverage area (PCA)?

Is it a whale or a minnow? Is it in the last 2:00 of the game or the first 2:00? Did you talk about it in your pre-game conference? There are varying opinions about calling outside your own PCA, but the most popular train of thought is that we need to trust our partner(s). TRUST them that they saw something (or did NOT see something) that warrants a whistle (or no whistle).

Can we have a 'whale' that needs called in the first 2:00 of a game? Sure.....probably not common, but it could happen. If we have a putback shot on C's low block in the first half, should we be coming from T in a 3-person game to get a foul? I would argue almost every time that NO WAY we should be coming to get that – unless there was something dirty or intentional that was missed. Pretty sure T has something to observe other than rebounding on the opposite low block with a bunch of players between him and the play anyhow. This is just an example of when NOT to venture outside a PCA.....take a look at the clip [here](#) of this very play.

Was T justified in blowing the whistle on this play? Was L straightlined? Yea. Was C straightlined? Yea. Was this a whale? Hmmm...NO, don't think so. This was in the first half....plenty of time in the game yet if it WAS a foul and wasn't called. From the camera angle, not sure there was anything there, but T definitely had a different angle. Was it worthy of a call? I hope if I am T on that play I stay off of it.

So what happens if T DOES make that call? The T needs to take a couple steps towards the play as he/she is blowing the whistle to make it appear that he/she is all over the play and appears closer to it. If T does make this call, T needs to be prepared to 'take a little flack' for the long distance call.....and have a legit explanation ready for the upset coach!

Summary: TRUST your partner(s) and focus on your primary. If you do 'go get' something, make sure it is a whale, not a minnow!

Thursday Extra: You have last shot and a three goes up at the buzzer...GOOOOOOOOOOD!!!!!!!!!!!!!! No what.....we gotta count the good three. Give the 'count the goal' signal AND followed by the good three-point goal signal.....THEN take a couple steps towards the table, try to make eye contact with the official scorekeeper and repeat the 'good goal' and good three-point goal signal. This makes sure there is NO confusion on what you have!

Have a great game tonight and safe travels.

Tim