

Good morning!

Hope all is well with you and ready for a weekend of games! The answer to yesterday's question? YES.....remember that after a double foul, we resume play by going to the point of interruption when the double foul occurred.....nearest the spot of the double foul. In our case, we had a throw-in with the ball in flight. Remember that we DO HAVE TEAM CONTROL on a throw-in, thus the throw-in team retains control when the double foul is called. Take a look at this question:

4. While A-1's free throw is in flight, B-1, in a marked lane space, steps across the free-throw line before the ball hits the ring or backboard. The try contacts the ring but is unsuccessful. The official rules a free-throw violation and awards A-1 a substitute free throw. Is the official correct? 4. Yes No

Today's topic.....elbows above the shoulders..... This piggybacks on the same topic from last week.....and here is what is written in the 2012-13 pre-season bulletin regarding elbows above the shoulders:

- a. Contact by an elbow below the shoulder of the defender by the ball handler which is not swung excessively.
Ruling: Either incidental contact or Player control foul.
- b. Contact by an elbow swung excessively (faster than the torso) below the shoulder of the defender.
Ruling: Either an intentional foul (more likely to occur) OR flagrant technical foul, depending upon the severity of the act and if the official deems it violent, savage nature, etc.
- c. Contact above the shoulders of the defender by ball handler when elbow is not swung excessively (faster than the torso).
Ruling: Either incidental contact, common foul, or intentional foul
- d. Contact by a ball handler above shoulders of the defender when elbows are swung excessively
Ruling: Intentional or flagrant personal foul.

Examples of illegal contact above the shoulders and resulting penalties:

- 1. Contact with a stationary elbow may be incidental or a common foul.
- 2. An elbow in movement but not excessive should be an intentional foul.
- 3. A moving elbow that is excessive can be either an intentional foul or flagrant personal foul.

With all of this in mind and the heightened awareness of elbows above the shoulders and potential concussions, take a look at the clip [here](#) and think about what to have (or don't have) and what discussion we could have about this play at a meeting, then read further. Let me say that the official here called an intentional foul on black.

What did you have in this clip? Did you have elbows above the shoulders? Anything else?

I know we are only seeing a 10 second-ish clip from an entire game and many times the 'atmosphere' of the game dictates what we call/do not call in many cases. What I mean here is the fact that white did two-handed push black on the way up the floor. Was it seen? Maybe, maybe not. The official MAY have been yelling something at white just after it happened. If this were the first issue between these players/teams that we are aware of, I would think that MOST of us would try to TALK to the players to avoid anything further. COULD he have called white for the two-handed push? CERTAINLY that would have been justified as well. I am not sure there is a right or wrong answer as to whether the push should have been called. In hind-sight, most likely a whistle for the push would have eliminated the elbows issue.

OK, let's not focus on whether there should have been a foul on the push; let's look at the elbows issue solely. What do you have here? NO DOUBT we have elbows by black above the shoulders, but we also have an elbow above the shoulders from white as well. MY PERSONAL OPINION is that a double intentional foul would be the best call here. What do we do if this is called? Since we have a double foul, the free throws are negated and we go to point of interruption, which is black's ball with a throw-in nearest the spot of where the ball was when the double foul was called.

I know some people would argue that black 'eyed up' the white player and thus a flagrant foul. Does the film support this? Yea, I would say it does. Does that mean white also gets a flagrant for retaliating with the elbow? YES. I say in this play we have a borderline double flagrant. I would support that call here as well. Elbows above the shoulders are not plays I/we want to be adjudicating in our games night-in and night-out.

The official here got an intentional on black. Should he have gotten both players with an intentional? Yea, most likely, but he got one and may have reacted quickly and not seen the whole play. Remember to SLOW DOWN on intentional and technical fouls since we get excited also. Talk to at least one partner to explain what you have, then discuss how we are resuming play....do this EVERY time an intentional or technical is called.....and remember to make sure that the players are not near each other AND being monitored.....not a problem to send them to their benches to discuss the issue.

Don't get caught off guard with an elbow above the shoulders.....look for what may instigate something like this.

Have a great game tonight and travel safe!

Tim