

Good morning!

Yesterday's clip was a great start to a discussion about not only elbows above the shoulders, but to a defender 'invading the space' of a ball handler. Take a look at the three clips below and notice the elbows above the head or potential elbows contact.

[Clip for yesterday](#)

[Elbow Clip 1](#)

[Elbow Clip 2](#)

So we can all agree (I hope) that there are elbows making contact or potentially making contact in all three clips. There are certainly plays in which the entire responsibility for the elbows is on the offensive player who made contact with the elbow. Let's think about each of these in another light.

As a corollary, at the end of games when a team is trying to foul, we always try to get the FIRST foul.....that first contact made so that the SECOND contact is not more severe. What if we viewed these plays in getting the first contact?

That being said, there are different levels of protection for a ball handler at other levels like the NCAA or NBA. Sometimes they call it a 'cylinder' play. Basically this means that one player cannot 'invade the space' of another.....usually a defender invading the space of a ball handler.

Go back and take a look at the clip from yesterday again please. Did white 23 invade the ball handler's space? Look at his feet. He actually is over the leg of red (red's foot is actually behind white 23). Would any contact that is made be illegal contact by white 23? This is SO CLOSE to the first contact being by the elbow from the ball handler that it is TOUGH to discern. Could we have a double foul here? The rationale being that white 23 invaded red's space and all red was doing was turning and raising his arms to pass the ball. I do not think we can ignore the elbow contact in this play, but doesn't white 23 have some responsibility here as well? This would be a great chance for C to come in and talk with the L. C did a great job of pausing before going the other way and had a fairly open view of the play at hand. IF C SAW the play, go talk! Would you have any issue 'upgrading' to a double foul? Is that 'getting it right'?

Take a look at 'Elbow Clip 2'. The foul was called on blue 11....and offensive foul. It is quite clear that gold 24 initiated the contact by invading blue's space. He stepped over the leg of blue before he got hit in the head by blue's head. THIS is actually a foul on gold 24.

On to the third clip.....no doubt that white 5 gets progressively rougher in trying to clear space, but who was at fault? White 5 does not commit any foul as he initially bent over and contacted the torso of red 25, then as he stands upright again, red 25 starts to grab for the ball repeatedly, we have no whistle and white gets more severe in clearing space. There is definitely a potential for a bad elbow situation here. There WAS a foul by red 25 that would have stopped what was becoming rough. Fortunately it did not become ugly, but could have been stopped sooner.

Sometimes we can take care of plays like this by making sure that a defender is not violating the space of a ball handler. As is my goal with video clips, I now have SEEN what is and can happen and now will

have it tucked away in my head and will hopefully recognize it when I have it in a game.....and it will probably happen tonight since it is a TOTD!

I hope these lead to good discussion with your colleagues and chapters!

Please find a couple 'elbow' guides below as well.....thanks to James Elliott and Craig Bradley for the charts and discussions about these plays and similar ones!

Have a great game tonight and a relaxing weekend....stay masked up for you games, it keeps us out of spreading anything to teams.

Tim

1. ELBOW GUIDELINE CHART

a. The following is a GUIDELINE (not mandatory) (Judge each situation on its own)

	ABOVE SHOULDERS	BELOW SHOULDERS	NO CONTACT
EXCESSIVE SWINGING ELBOWS (elbows swing faster than torso)	Flagrant (ejection)	Intentional	Violation
SWING ELBOW & CONTACT OPPONENT (not excessive / bball moves)	Intentional	Common (Player Control)	Legal

b. The following is a list of BASKETBALL moves (these are not considered Excessive Swinging but still should be considered a foul):

1. Move the ball to prevent a held ball or loss of ball control
2. Take shot or fake a shot
3. Release a pass or fake a pass
4. Pivot - ex. rebounder turns into opponent w/ elbow = can be common foul (p.134 of 2020 PIAA Meeting Guide) (R.9-13-3)

c. GET CREW INPUT

1. When you blow your whistle, DO NOT give preliminary signal (can't "un-ring the bell")
2. Get together to discuss what the crew saw
3. If all 3 need to talk, send the players to their benches
4. We can always increase the penalty after we talk (CAN ↑ – common to flagrant)
5. We cannot decrease what was already called (CANNOT ↓ – flagrant to common)
6. Be patient when determining a foul and whether it is intentional or flagrant

Swinging the Elbows

Many players, when pressured, resort to swinging the elbows to clear out space. Are you ready to make the correct call? Was the movement excessive? Was there contact? Where? This chart should help you figure out what to call.

Excessive Swinging (Faster than the torso)	Contact w/ Opponent	Above or below the head	Outcome
No	No		Legal
No	Yes	Below	Personal Foul
No	Yes	Above	Intentional Personal Foul
Yes	No		Violation
Yes	Yes	Below	Intentional Personal Foul
Yes	Yes	Above	Flagrant Personal Foul

