

Good morning! We are getting into the time of the season that good teams are beginning to really rise to the top and the lesser teams are beginning to realize they are having a bad season. Likewise, as officials, we are hitting the mid-season wall, so to speak. We need to make sure that we stay physically and mentally sharp....not just in games, but driving to and from games as well. Make sure you are getting the rest needed when you can. We ALL need a little 'down time.'

OK, today's clip.....the caption at the beginning asks 'is the shooter still an airborne shooter at the time of the foul?'...I would ask simply "is the shooter still a *shooter* at the time of the foul?'....I don't want to lead you to what you might call, so take a look [here](#) first.

What do you have? Good goal and one shot for the foul ON THE SHOT? Good goal and white ball for a throw-in on the sideline? Good goal and a one-and-one bonus for white #21? Good goal and NO FOUL?

Let's to process here isn't there? Hopefully we can agree that we have a good three-point goal! In the replays, it seems evident that the shooter was back on the floor when contact occurred.....hopefully we can agree that is the case! If there is disagreement, let's just look at it from THAT aspect anyhow.....that the shooter got back to the floor and then contact occurred.

In this situation, we have a good three-point goal. There would NOT be a single 'and-one' free throw attempt for white 21 since he is no longer an airborne shooter. We now must determine if the contact is a foul or not. I am positive there will be disagreement about whether the contact warrants a foul or not. This is an advantage/disadvantage decision. I am not going to say it IS a foul or is NOT a foul.

In this game, the C had a *shooting foul*. I would agree that if the contact here had been made before the shooter returned to the floor, we have a shooting foul since we are protecting shooters and we need to see jump shooters up and all the way back to the floor.

If we consider the situation where we are determining if the contact is foul or not since he had returned to the floor, we have either a bonus free throw situation (this is the case here since it was red's 7th team foul) or we would have a sideline throw-in for white.

Just some food for thought.....what if the contact by red on white was in the paint on this three-point shot? Would we have an immediate whistle or would we hold it to see if the shot goes in? Was the foul a minnow or a whale in that case? A foul is a foul is a foul, right? MANY differing thoughts here about this particular contact.

There are many philosophies on plays such as this.....what we need to do is make sure we are getting it right as far as a shooting foul or not. It is easy to see it on film.....but again, as Mark Lindsey said 'video is a way to get game reps without the physical toll on the body.'

If current trends hold true, this will happen in my game tonight! Hope YOU have a great game tonight....stay sharp, get rest, eat well and drive safe.

Tim