

Good morning! We are in tip-off week Monday! A few scrimmages remain and 'real' games get underway this weekend!

In following with the theme from Friday, we will continue looking at screening today. The clip here is applicable in both 2 and 3-person. The ball handler and his defender are in T's primary, near the 28-foot line close to the sideline. A screen is 'set' on the defender.....so we have the ball-handler, his defender and the screen all happening well within T's primary. THIS is the tough case where it seems like it ALL is happening to one official.....and it is.

First off, the T must get wide to the play.....meaning that being too close to the play makes it way more difficult to official the ball handler/defender first and the screen second. If we get a little bit away from the play and maintain an angle to see between the ball handler and defender, we hopefully will put ourselves in a good position/angle to get a solid look at the screen being set.

That being said, 2-person mechanics dictate that this is the process we need to take. There is no way for our L to help us on a screen in this location. Two-person is extremely difficult in a case like this.

In 3-person officiating, this could/should be a topic to discuss in the pre-game conference. SHOULD C try to help on a play like this to get the screen? NO? TALK about this BEFORE it happens! In this particular play, C has a competitive matchup in his primary in with an offensive player makes a move to the hoop to maybe receive a pass. In addition, there is another offensive player in the lower corner of C's primary. I would suggest that in MOST cases, it would be quite difficult for C to help on a play like this since there will generally be a matchup in his/her primary, or he/she is focusing on low block/paint action in his/her secondary area. IF C does have a wide open primary, he/she needs to take a step or two off the sideline (towards the free throw line/lane line elbow) to get closer to the 10 players on the floor. IF he/she is able to get a good look at the play and have a whistle, he/she MUST close down on the play (take a couple steps towards the illegal screen) to make it appear that the play was close and well seen. Again, TALK about this in pre-game conferences.....I would think that most of us WANT help if an illegal screen was committed and it wasn't seen by the primary official.....but maybe more importantly, we do NOT want an off official making a call that he/she 'guessed' at or does 4 or 5 times a game. THAT most likely means we have a ball watcher. Slippery slope, isn't it? Whale or minnow? Game saver call?

Screening is an area that many of us could improve. Review the rule in the definitions (rule 4-40) and also the case plays for it. Make that the part of the rules and case books you read today!

Have a great scrimmage this week and make sure that you are stretching before you take the floor!

Check out the clip [here](#).

Tim