

Good morning!

Hope you had a great game last night. What is YOUR toughest call to make a decision on? Mike is by far traveling. In these days of players being so quick, it is very hard to determine when the player 'gathered' the ball and *then* established a pivot foot. Usually travels that are really tough are those ones at the end of a scoring move. Just because a play/move LOOKS weird does NOT mean it is a travel. We need to be POSITIVE when we blow the whistle that a violation occurred. If we have to watch a play in slow-motion to determine if it is a travel or not, then in real time, we cannot be positive. When in doubt, no violation.

There are lots of clips dealing with traveling out there, but take a look at this one [here](#). Notice the fans/coaches screaming travel?! The right foot is the pivot foot and never moved after the dribble ended and never came back to the floor before the shot was released. Great job here by both the L and T of seeing the whole play and ruling it legal.

Remember, we must be POSITIVE when we put air in the whistle. See the whole play. Better to be late and right than early/on time and wrong.

Wednesday Extra: What do we look for in pregame warmups? Each umpire should be checking their team being observed for all the fashion police issues.....same color for all accessories above the socks, undershirts a similar color to the jersey color, headbands with not extensions (or tied with a knot), waistbands not showing a multiple logo or strings dangling, braces legal (no sharp parts), not bobby pins or anything in the hair hard and unyielding, headbands not too wide (2 inches maximum). An easy way to measure headbands is to ask the player to take it off and measure it on our stripes...each vertical stripe on our uniform shirt is 1 inch, so not wider than 2 stripes. Just make sure not to 'stretch' the headband to make it illegal. If it IS too wide, tell the player to fold it in half. BTW, Nike makes headbands that are quite common that are 2 ¼ inches wide.....just saying..... We should also be making sure the coaching box is marked (R) and that the backboard/supports/court appear normal. Some gyms have a scorers table that is so close to the floor that substitutes cannot check in and be in front of the table. Be aware of this and mention it in the pregame captains meeting.

Have a great game today!

Tim