

Good morning!

So what is the best way to help get plays correct? What can all of us do to make play calling easier?

Positioning and getting angles is what helps most. Take a look at a play [here](#).

The play starts with a normal everyday top of the key pass to the wing. The C receives the play and the offensive player is high (above the free throw line extended) so the C steps down to officiate it and see between the ball handler and defender.

*When the ball is near the free throw line extended, it is generally taught that from the C position, 'if the ball goes high, we go low, and if the ball goes low, we go high.' What this means is that if the ball stays generally above the free throw line extended, the C should MOVE towards the baseline to get an angle seeing between the ball handler and defender. If the ball goes below the free throw line extended the C should MOVE towards mid court enough to get an angle to see between the ball handler and dribbler.*

As can be seen in this play, the L recognizes that all 10 players are in the paint or on C's side. He initiates an appropriate rotation (T moves down to new C, thus having two C's for a bit – having two C's is generally ok) and the ball is passed back towards the top of the key where it is tipped and we are off to the races the other way.

*Having two C's is fine for a bit in order to let the play in front of the 'old C' (he will become new T) to finish officiating the play he has. When the play finishes (not a competitive matchup), he will step back to his new T position. If the crew had talked in pre-game about this type of situation, it would be ok for the new C who is table side to get on his horse and tap his chest to let the official opposite know he has the play and get there to officiate it. This needs talked about though. If the crew had discussed 'we will pick up rotations' then we stay where we are. This is a time for new L who has the potential crash to self-talk and remind himself to officiate the defense.*

Now that we are headed the other way, the official that went from T to C on the rotation recognizes that the new L headed the other way is caught. He points to the play developing and knows that the new L is in no way going to catch the play and get in front of it. If they had talked in pregame, they should not have a double whistle. The new L also recognizes he cannot even get caught up to the play but also knows we have a potential crash coming. So what do we do in this situation? The official needs to still referee the play about to happen. He needs to get in the best position possible to SEE what is happening and still needs to *referee the defense* by consciously looking at the defense and checking for initial LGP and maintaining it. If this happens, calling these plays becomes much easier. The new C coming down table side is also seeing the play and gives new L first chance at the call. He holds his whistle and waits for what happens. He does a great job of 'holding' and letting the play and call from new L develop. Had new L NOT had a whistle, the C table side would need to.....and a late whistle would be fine!

We have all been caught in a transition play like this once in a while. Make a conscious decision to get in the best possible position, referee the defense and trust your partners!

Wednesday Extra: When the ball is dead is when we need to be alive. Pretty sure we have all heard this.....no matter the game we have this week and the rest of the season.....good team vs good team, bad team vs bad team or good team vs bad team, everyone is tired, playing for playoff positioning, or trying to get in the 'last dig' at an opponent. Stay alive and watch for and listen for anything, especially when the ball is dead. Let players go recover the ball.....when we take our eyes off players is when bad situations CAN happen.

Have a great game tonight!

Tim