

Good morning! Hope you had a GREAT weekend and gave your better half a little love also with Valentine's Day a BIG play date! Kudos if you closed the date for him/her!

Well I have heard from a number of people about the 'blarge' play in the Purdue at Indiana men's game this past week. If you haven't seen the play, [here](#) it is.

NO DOUBT it was a blarge (block and charge on the same play), right? Here is the case play for NFHS for this EXACT situation:

4.19.8 SITUATION C:

A1 drives for a try and jumps and releases the ball. Contact occurs between A1 and B1 after the release and before airborne shooter A1 returns one foot to the floor. One official rules a blocking foul on B1 and the other official rules a charging foul on A1. The try is (a) successful, or (b) not successful.

RULING: Even though airborne shooter A1 committed a charging foul, it is not a player-control foul because the two fouls result in a double personal foul. The double foul does not cause the ball to become dead on the try. In (a), the goal is scored; play is resumed at the point of interruption, which is a throw-in for Team B from anywhere along the end line. In (b), the point of interruption is a try in flight; therefore the alternating-possession procedure is used. (4-36)

The issue in *most* double whistles on a drive to the hole/shot **should** be handled in your pre-game conference. Personally, in my pre-games, the primary from whom the drive initiated from has the **primary defender** and when the ball handler beats the primary defender and we have a **secondary defender** the responsibility goes to the lead, as he/she can see how the secondary defender got there. Many other crews use the philosophy that if the play is going towards the lead, lead has it, we need to hold our fist at C (or possibly T if the drive initiated there). Others want the call to come from whose primary it was in. Take a look at the play again and think about each of these philosophies we generally use.

What do you think now? I say EVERY philosophy I gave above has a flaw. Mine? There never was a secondary defender, the drive came from T and was a primary defender all the way, but was in the middle of the paint....a gray area of coverage between C and L. The others? The play never really was 'going towards' the L.....and the third thought? If we went with whose primary it originated from, T is calling that....maybe that's ok?!

Here is my take on it.....probably more 'personal' opinion than most other tips I have shown all year..... I say that this was a bizarre situation where we had a drive start in T's primary, the defender remained the primary defender and the crash occurred right on the border between L and C. It was going *towards* C, so he had a great look between the ball handler and defender. The L had a wide open look as the drive started, then a matchup crossed between him and the crash. WHOSE call SHOULD have it been? MY OPINION here..... would have LIKE for C to have first crack since it was coming towards him. That being said, I have NO PROBLEM with this play being a double whistle since it happened right on the gray area between L and C.

What SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED was L and C both blowing the whistle **with their fist in the air and no preliminary signals** and realize that they HAD a double whistle and communicated with each other by saying "I got it" or "You take it." The issue on this particular play was that they both had prelims right away. L had a 'half block' and C was sending it the other way with no awareness that a double whistle might occur. We would all be fibbing if we said we never did that ourselves. I have....I have a VERY hard

time holding a PC. I have been 'lucky' that I have only landed in the 'jackpot' one time. As often as these tips of the day plays occur after I send them, I may really be in trouble this week!

So, this play was a weird one in that it happened a dual responsibility area and had characteristics that supported each of L and C taking the call. Regardless, they needed to both have a fist/whistle with NO prelims, then communicate to let one person make the call. It is EASY for me to tell a coach that I had the same call as my partner if I haven't shown my cards with a prelim. When the play happens as in the film, we have a double foul, period. On a double foul, we always got a point of interruption. Thus, if the ball goes in, we count it and black gets the ball for an endline throw-in anywhere along the endline (they may run). If the shot does not go in, we go to the possession arrow since POI was no team control on the shot attempt, and a double foul ensued. The case play is VERY clear on how to resume play. I know the ball went in here and they did not count it.....this was an NCAA game!

So, the moral of the story is, on a foul, blow the whistle, fist up with NO prelim, make sure we have no double whistle, and then give a prelim! It happens WAY faster than that, but we are basketball officials, right? Our brains process faster than the average person anyhow! 😊

Hope this last week of the regular season is a fantastic one, you stay healthy, have safe travels and those moving on to postseason games us this week to be more focused than ever.

Tim