

Good morning!

Hope you had safe travels last evening and this evening as well.

Yesterday's clip brought a few questions up *beyond* the intent of the 'Move to Improve' of it. Let's take a look a little more into the elbow to the face. Recall the play [here](#).

So let's review elbow contact above the shoulders. From the 2012-13 Preseason Bulletin (the year elbow contact above the shoulders was a POE) is:

a. Contact by an elbow below the shoulder of the defender by the ball handler which is not swung excessively.

Ruling: Either incidental contact or Player control foul.

b. Contact by an elbow swung excessively (faster than the torso) below the shoulder of the defender.

Ruling: Either an intentional foul (more likely to occur) OR flagrant technical foul, depending upon the severity of the act and if the official deems it violent, savage nature, etc.

c. Contact above the shoulders of the defender by ball handler when elbow is not swung excessively (faster than the torso).

Ruling: Either incidental contact, common foul, or intentional foul

d. Contact by a ball handler above shoulders of the defender when elbows are swung excessively

Ruling: Intentional or flagrant personal foul.

Examples of illegal contact above the shoulders and resulting penalties:

1. Contact with a stationary elbow may be incidental or a common foul.

2. An elbow in movement but not excessive should be an intentional foul.

3. A moving elbow that is excessive can be either an intentional foul or flagrant personal foul.

The key here is the speed of the swinging of the elbows in relation to the speed of the torso. If the elbows are stationary, this is about the only case that we could have incidental contact. Let's go to the other extreme.....to have a flagrant foul with elbow contact (above or below the shoulders), the player committing the foul would either 'eye up' the opponent or it be excessive contact with the elbows. Is excessive contact judgment? YES! This would be a good case to discuss with your crew if you had ruled an intentional foul first.

The big determination with elbow contact is between a player control and intentional. *In my humble opinion*, nearly all elbow contact in which the elbows are moving faster than the torso are *at least* intentional. These are very dangerous plays and need to be penalized as such.

Seeing incidental contact with elbow contact above the shoulders is rare. If we do not deem it intentional initially and we get *at least* a player control foul first, then ask a partner if he/she had something more. Same with an initial ruling of intentional – it CAN be upgraded to flagrant. NCAA has replay review to aid them, we have our partners. There is nothing wrong with calling a PC then getting together with your partner(s) and suggesting an upgrade yourself. Sometimes we just 'get the foul' then as it all gets processed as we are signaling the foul, we think it was more severe than initially ruled. If that happens, go to your partner(s) and tell them what you have and that you should have had a more severe penalty. Ask for their input....get it right among the crew! Make sure that if the entire crew is talking that you have sent the players to their bench areas.....we always want to do this when at least one of the crew is not able to be monitoring the players.

The play in the clip? What do you have? I have an intentional foul. Black #23 hit her defender with an elbow that was moving faster than her torso. She did not appear to 'eye up' the defender (a dirty play

with intent to cause severe contact). Was the contact severe? Yea, it could certainly be argued that it was. Flagrant? If that is what was ruled I could support that. Elbow contact above the shoulders is not a play to take lightly.

Make a decision as a crew! Just get it right!

Friday extra: BE SAFE on the roads!

Have a great game tonight and great weekend!

Tim