

Good morning! Hope you and your family had a wonderful Christmas and are not getting hindered TOO bad by the weather. Brrr.....

Today's tip.....the drive coming from C's side in a three person game (or from T's wing in a two-person game). Let's just look at the clip [here](#) first.

Well, what answer do you have on the clip? "Should the center have called this too?" THIS is exactly what needs discussed in a pre-game conference.....2 or 3-person. The drive coming from C (or T in 2-person) NEEDS talked about. The general philosophy has changed over the years from "C has the drive the whole way to the hole" to "C has the primary defender and L has the secondary defender." Current philosophy has L making this call on a drive like in the clip EVERY time. The defender who was involved in the play was a secondary defender, not the primary defender. In a huge majority of plays like this, if C makes the call involving a secondary defender, the C makes a guess as to how the defender got to his/her position. Lead needs to be *responsible* for secondary defenders on drives such as this and then make the call.....making sure to know how the secondary defender got to his/her position. BTW, in the play on the clip, the defender got to his spot first, but then leans into the path of the ball handler.....good 'block' call.

Take a look at the lead in the clip again. He DOES close down and is LOOKING at the secondary defender and sees the play develop. The 'block' call is correct, but does not follow NFHS mechanics. Remember, we need to:

- 1) Get a fist in the air to stop the clock,
- 2) After making sure there is no double whistle, signal a block with open hands one time on the hips (not pound the hips with fists),
- 3) Signal a good hoop plus one free throw OR two shots if the ball did not go in,
- 4) Jog to the table to report the foul.

Remember, 'mechanics get you noticed' and good play calling keep you noticed!

In a two-person game, the sequence is similar, T has the primary defender and L the secondary. This takes work and practice to get it right.....TALK about it in EVERY pre-game conference.

Similarly, isn't this similar to screening? The screen set by an 'off' player (the primary matchup is what the official is looking at) is MOST times not able to be seen from the onset by the primary official. This is why I believe screens and getting them right takes great pre-game communication as to how to officiate them and also execution during play.

Make it a point to talk about these plays in your pre-game conference today.

Hope you have a great game today!

Tim