

Good morning! What a difference a week make with weather in PA!

Elbows above the shoulders.....we have all had a foul with an elbow in the chest or neck or head. Is it intentional? Common? Flagrant? Not sure? Think a partner can help?

Today's clip is in an NCAA tournament game where they are permitted to use video review to determine if an intentional foul (flagrant 1 in their verbiage) has occurred. Take a look [here](#).

Let's think about this play in OUR (NFHS) game. If the T makes a foul call but does not have an intentional for an elbow above the shoulders, what can be done? What SHOULD be done? The partner(s) of the T should go to the T and offer information if they suspect that the elbow was above the shoulders. Likewise, the T could/should certainly go to the L (and C in a three-person game) to ask for information about the location of the elbow if not sure. Plays like this deserve getting it right, so no issue having a discussion with partners.....THAT is our only 'review' option in NFHS.

If the play is determined be a common foul, we know the resumption of play procedure. If it is deemed intentional, the fouled player would shoot 2 free throws with no players on the lane lines and the fouled team would get the ball OOB at the spot nearest the spot of the foul. If the elbow is deemed flagrant (a flagrant intentional) then we have the same procedure as the intentional except the player who threw the elbow is ejected (and must stay on the team bench or be escorted by an adult out of the gym and an adult must stay with the player).

If anybody has missed an elbow above the shoulders (I have), it is about the worst feeling an official can have when we find out what happened and see the film. Work to get good looks between players, work to see when players are nearly in a ball handler's space and be ready for what might happen and be confident in what your call is when you have such a play.

As we approach the final week of the season, some games will be between the really good and really disappointed teams.....and sometimes bad things happen between them. Stay focused this last week and a half of the regular season!

Thursday Extra: You have the last shot of a period.....what are all the options? If the shot will not count because it was released after the horn, blow the whistle and wave the shot off *immediately*. We do not want to wait until the ball goes in (or not) to wave it off. If we had waved it off right away, there is no doubt in anybody's mind what we have. If the shot could count and the horn goes off while the shot is in the air, we should raise our hand straight up with no whistle. Once the ball goes in or does not go in, we have a whistle. If it goes in, we give the 'goal counts' signal (# 16 in the NFHS chart) then look to the table, make eye contact with the official scorer and give the 'goal counts' signal again. Make sure that if it is a three-point goal that we give the three-point goal signal also (# 18 in the NFHS chart with palms facing in, not forward like being held up in a robbery). If that last shot could have counted and does not go in, we blew the whistle when we knew it wasn't going to go in and also give the 'no score' signal (#15 in the NFHS chart).

Have a great game today!

Tim