

Good morning!

LOTS going on in this clip today and it was shared by the T on this play (thanks Matt). Matt actually asked another official for his and my opinions about how it should/could have been handled.

Take a look at the play [here](#).

When I was sent this clip, I first thought the girl in green hit her head/face on the floor...then I looked at it more closely and shared it with the small group of officials (with i-phones!) that I am in. So there is a TON going on here. First, white hits green in the face/head with her arm at the least, and elbow at most. In addition, one friend point out that white also *kicked* green.

So, if we JUST look at this clip for what HAPPENED, what should the call be? (There was actually nothing called on this play.) My opinion is that white would have been assessed a flagrant foul – even if just from the arm/elbow contact to the face/head. The kicking action just verifies the flagrant foul, but would be flagrant all by itself. *At the least*, L could have called an intentional foul then talked with his partners (after sending the teams to their benches and getting help for the injured green player). They could/should have upgraded to a flagrant foul if either partner saw the arm action or kick action.

OK, what could the crew have done to get this right or maybe even prevent it? Let's ;look at each position....

C, where the drive initiated....

- It appears that there was not just a rotation, so C should be much lower – at free throw line extended at the *highest*
- C should at the very least have taken a step down towards the baseline when the drive was happening to get a good look
- C 'flinches' like he wants to move down closer but doesn't when the ball changes possession. Even if he expected L to rotate, it is fine to have 2 C's for a bit, so he should stay at free throw line extended at highest.
- Depending on how the first 3 ½ quarters of the game had been called and how 'chippy' the game had become, there could have been a foul called by the C as the drive went baseline on green 2 (I think that's her number). She does stick her leg out and makes contact...but a foul could be determined by how previous plays had been officiated.

T

- T is too high for a half court set to begin with, then consider the drive on the baseline opposite and he should be at the top of the key (where C is) at the deepest/highest.
- T really has no competitive matchup so definitely can lend an eye to what is happening in the paint, especially if he gets closer to the paint to get a good look.
- T actually saw the action and the injured green player, hence why he wanted to stop play, so depending on what he saw, he could/should have blown the whistle when the action occurred.
- This is a 'whale' or 'game saver' and if T SEES what actually happened, come and get it – even if it is late because L had no whistle.

L

- L is closed down and looking across the paint at the drive and most likely should have already rotated (unless it was a skip pass from T's wing).

- ROTATE!
- Not sure what L saw or didn't see when the two players were on the floor, but when the player is injured and appears to be above the shoulders, ask 'are you ok' and if no answer then we need a whistle. Green had the ball, so we are not stopping an opponent's transition play.
- If an injury appears to be a head injury, we are better to be more safe than sorry, so stop play.

As you can see, there is a TON going on in this play! How the game was called to this point helps determine if a foul could have been called on the drive by C. The contact was ugly and warranted a flagrant foul. That all being said, we ALL have had plays that we wish we had done something different on.

In a two-person game, the drive would have initiated from T, so T should have stepped down towards the baseline to follow the drive. L would have received the play.

THANKS to Matt and Noah for sharing the clip and hoping many people learn from it!

Tuesday Extra: If you have a game with a player who has a 'reputation' for rough, dirty or inappropriate play, make sure to make that player a part of your pregame. We don't want to be 'looking' for anything, but we don't want to get caught with the player doing something bad when we could have pre-gamed it.

Tuesday Bonus: CONTACT YOUR PARTNERS! Do not wait for your partners to contact first...AND if a partner contacts you, reply! Do not wait till gameday to think about making contact!