

Good morning.....never thought about games being postponed for flooding in January, but we had them yesterday.....wow.....

Late game situation.....2 point game with about 16 seconds left in OT, team up 2 has the ball so the defense needs a steal.....what should we expect? What we SHOULD expect is a pretty fair chance that the team down 2 will initially go for a steal and if they do not get it, will foul right away. We need to get that first foul attempt immediately since a no-call on the attempted foul may very well lead to a rougher foul in order to get the whistle blown.....then we may have a decision to make about an intentional foul.

Sooooo.....today's tip.....what some people might call a 'hidden' foul. Take a look at the clip and think about what almost everyone in the gym would see....and what we as officials NEED to see...keeping in mind the game situation.....[here](#) is the clip.

What do you see as the coach or fan of white? A hit of the ball from behind, right. NOTE: I have heard discussion of this particular play from many well respected officials/supervisors/assignors about a defender coming in from behind like this and making an attempt to hit the ball.....some are adamant that this is a foul, not a basketball play.....others have quite the opposite view that defenders CAN do this legally. Regardless, the hit from behind is NOT the point of discussion here..... The point here is that we, as officials, need to see the WHOLE play.

See the whole play.....what do we NEED to see here? We need to make sure that we are moving to get an angle to see the left hand/arm of the defender wrap it around the ball-handlers waist/off side arm. The defender definitely held the ball-handler. The ball-handler was not given the opportunity to freely accelerate away from the defender due to the illegal contact by the defender.

We need to make sure we are seeing the whole play in order to make the correct call.....it may not be the 'popular' call, but who ever said we are officials to be popular?!

Be aware of the situation (late game scenario with the defense NEEDING a steal), see the whole play and don't get caught off guard with a 'hidden' foul such as the one in this play. This official did a GREAT job of moving with the play to get an angle, seeing it all and making the call immediately. Remember, the kids DO decide the game if we officiate it through to the final buzzer.

Have a great game today, safe travels and remember to make sure your loved ones know you still care about them after two weeks of games since the holidays!

Tim