

Good morning! Hope you had a great weekend.....

Today's tip.....let's just start by taking a look at the clip [here](#). What did you see? How would YOU lead a discussion of this play?

First off, the situation was that there were 4.4 seconds remaining in the first quarter. Secondly, yours truly was the T who made the PC call. Thirdly, I asked the C at halftime if there WAS contact on this play.

SOOOOOO.....you know what I did there? I GUESSED at what happened. Fortunately, it appears that I was right, but as soon as the quarter ended and I was waiting for the second quarter to start, I was wondering if there really WAS contact or if the defender flopped. I KNEW I was wrong to make the call the way I did.

This is a very different play to officiate in two-person vs three-person. Let's talk about this from these views.

Three-person

In a three-person game, plays like this NEED to be a part of every single pre-game conference. Talking about transition plays in which "C has a 'cone' of coverage the whole way across the floor and could possibly have an over-and-back violation" is important to remind everyone. I will probably elaborate a little more in my own pre-game conferences about what that 'cone' of coverage means.....that C could/should have a foul to the opposite sideline, even though the 'cone' of coverage implies that. Just as in this play, C DID HAVE the look between the ball-handler and the defender. C DID know if there was contact or not. I needed to be patient and give C a chance to make that call.

Two-person

In a two-person game, this specific play is VERY difficult to officiate simply because of the distance between T and almost having no chance of NOT getting straight-lined. All we can do is think about what plays might happen here and when we SEE that a play similar to the clip is developing (the player receiving the throw-in pass is heading up the sideline), maybe we can take a couple quick steps either towards the center jump circle or out-of-bounds towards the division line extended to try to get a look at it. This is VERY difficult to get help from L on this play since half the players are in the front court, L is officiating them and players are moving towards the location of the foul. This also creates a blocked line of sight for L.

As a result of experiencing this play personally, here is what I HOPE I can do in future similar situations:

What I NEEDED to do was be more preventative in realizing what MIGHT happen. Trail normally bounces the ball to the thrower-in after taking a couple steps away from the thrower-in. *Now that I have experienced a play like this*, I plan to have this in my mind and if the throw-in appears to be to a teammate that may end up in a contested defender block/charge situation right on my sideline, trying to get off the floor a step or two, if possible, is one scenario. The second option is to take a quick couple steps onto the floor to SEE what happened. SEEING the contact is the only way to be positive there was a foul.

The point of this clip is that we need to trust our partner (if that can be done, like in a three-person game) or to try our best to get into a position to SEE between the players to make a decision about the play. Someone *needs to see the contact*.

Are we ever going to get caught out of position to SEE a play and make the call? Absolutely. That will happen from time to time. What I want to do is *learn* from what I do night in and night out to improve. We can all learn from what we do in our games. I have added several items to my own pre-game from situations that have happened in my games this year to hopefully make the game better for our crew.....remember **GAME**, CREW, me. Whatever we can do to help the GAME is what we SHOULD be doing!

Get film of your games! WATCH IT!!!! The person who should be most critical of myself is ME! If THAT is the case, then when we are given constructive criticism, it is easier to accept!

Hope you have a great game this evening, have a great pre-game conference!

Tim