

Good morning! Hope all is well with you.....and here's hoping we get through today weather-wise with no postponements.

Today's tip starts with a piggy-back on yesterday's.....take a look at the clip again [here](#).

Now, think about a ball handler anywhere on the court whose defender 'walks into' him/her. Think about the ball handler very close to the sideline or baseline that has no dribble remaining and the defender 'walks into' him/her and he/she either steps on the line or completely out-of-bounds.....was there ANY contact that caused the ball handler to do this? How about the ball handler on the perimeter who has no dribble remaining and may be pressured from two defenders and they are 'walking into' the ball handler resulting in a travel? Was there any contact here before the travel? If there WAS contact and the result was the ball handler violating (by stepping OOB or traveling), then we MUST have a foul....the contact CAUSED the violation. Be patient on plays like these, see the whole play, then determine just what happened and the cause of the violation. If contact was present that caused it, FOUL. The contact does not need to be much in some of these cases for a ball handler to lose his/her balance and violate.

I have received a few emails from officials/rules interpreters who are watching games and seeing patterns in us. Here are a few that have been passed along to me.....

- 1) Make sure you have the correct officials uniform.....no headbands, fit-bits, rubber bands on the wrist....make sure your patch/flag are on the correct sleeve.
- 2) KNOW who has last shot.....there needs to be a whistle at the end of EVERY period regardless of the 'pressure/excitement' at the end of the period.....ONE official has the whistle.
- 3) Make sure we are not letting subs in on free throws at the wrong time, make sure we are not letting subs in on a TO after the first horn has blown, but make sure we ARE aware subs are at the table in case we have a timer who isn't buzzing the horn.
- 4) Be aware on free throws of the players in the second lane space dislodging the player in the first space and gaining an advantage by securing a rebound.
- 5) Have a pre-game conference EVERY game, regardless of the experience the crew has together.

Safe travels today, have a great game and have FUN working it....isn't that why we do it?!

Tim