

Good morning!

Today's tip is with positioning, primary areas and mechanics. Take a look at the clip of the three-person positioning and mechanics [here](#).

OK, let's break down the possession. Take a look at each of the three officials and what happens during the possession, what they are focusing on and what mechanics they are using.

Take a look again at the official who begins the possession as the lead. He begins the possession table side and recognizes couple things....1) that he has a matchup just below the elbow that HE needs to officiate because 2) his C has a closely guarded matchup above him and needs to count on that. The L appropriately rotates, with urgency, and is keeping his focus on the matchup on the lane line just below the elbow. Great job on this particular sequence for L. The ball does not get passed into his matchup, but instead gets dribbled above the top of the key and passes to the opposite wing. The L closes down (moves to the lane line extended) in case the ball stays on the opposite side and another rotation is needed. The ball did not stay there but moved to the top of the key and eventually a shot is taken from just inside the top of the key. The L moves wide on the shot...this is to get a better look at rebounding action....a wide angle instead of a narrow angle. As the rebound gets 'kicked around' and goes to the top of the key, he remains patient AND continues to focus on the paint. When the offense 'resets' after the rebound and he sees the ball go to C's side with a count started, he rotates by jogging across the lane with urgency again. He MAY have been able to close down, hold momentarily, then rotate. This would have given T better notice that a rotation was possible, but this crew works really well together and this was no issue here. He had actually started to close down on the pass but saw a count started right after the pass and continued with the rotation. He also continues to officiate the matchup in his primary just outside the low block. When the foul is called, he gets the ball and monitors the players. After the throw-in, he has a foul, could have stayed in his spot to give prelims (he had none), but did indicate it was going to be a spot throw-in. When he goes to the table, he uses two hands for the number and an unapproved mechanic. Remember we use ONE hand for numbers and report the number as a number.....meaning 23 is 'twenty-three.' The mechanic should have been a hand check since he indicated an armbar at the table. The L here did a great job except for the reporting at the table. His positioning and rotations were very appropriate and he was focusing on the matchups in his primary.

Take a look again and this time let's focus on the official who begins at the C position. It starts with the ball in his primary and the L rotates to him since he begins a closely guarded count. The C holds his position (to be able to see between the ball handler and his defender) instead of immediately rotating out to T. After the closely guarded matchup ceases, he moves out to T.....very smooth transition. He is also focusing on the ball handler/defender matchups at the top of the key as he should, then when the shot goes up from just inside the arc, he steps down (takes a step towards the baseline) in order to be in better position to officiate rebounding. He also points to the shot, presumably indicating it was a two-point try, not a three. By the manual, this is not needed since NO signal at all indicated that it is a two-point try. As the rebound goes quite long, he mirrors it and does a nice job preparing for a potential transition play, then stops when the rebound is secured by the shooting team. He goes right back to a good position just above the top of the key, then when L rotates, it appears he is being pulled by a string attached to the L and it looks very smooth as he moves to the C position. Notice we have two C's for a few seconds. This is fine as the old C (new T) is staying with his play to keep a good angle. The C has the ball handler/defender coming at him on the free throw line and has a good look at the blocking foul. He jogs to the reporting box, should have STOPPED to report and needed to use one hand to report the foul as well.

OK, third viewing for the official who started at T. He crosses the midcourt line and almost immediately the L rotates and he knows it and moves to new C with urgency, yet still focusing on his primary. He continues to focus on his primary and also moves a step or two to get a look at matchups. He does not stand as a statue; he does a nice job moving to get those looks. He could have taken a step down when the shot goes up, especially since he has a couple players blocking his line of sight towards the low block. He does step higher on the long rebound and then goes back to focusing on his own primary when the offense resets. When the closely guarded matchup is above him, he gets a count and doesn't not move away from the good angle to see between the ball handler and defender. As the ball is passed below him, he still does not move away since he has a great angle where he is. He does take a step or so towards being trail as the ball handler moves towards him. Remember that having two C's for a short time is fine. We do not want to move out of an advantageous angle just to get to a new position due to a rotation. The ball handler is leaving his primary as the C opposite calls the foul, so I have to assume that since he did not have a whistle, they discussed a play like this in the pregame OR he did not have contact that warranted a foul. As the C calls the foul opposite, he could have frozen a bit longer before going to replace and could have monitored the players better as he went to his new position.

This crew obviously works quite well together and appears very comfortable with each other. This is not always the case with officials who work a lot together, let alone working with partners who do NOT work often together.

Remember, we should be our biggest critic when watching film of ourselves. Don't be afraid to see what is GOOD, but also look at the details to see not only what could help YOU but the crew as well!

Try to get a film of yourself before next week is over....break it down and be honest with yourself!

Have a great game today and safe travels!

Tim