

Good morning!

Hope all is well and you are getting more excited for Friday! Let me first say 'Thank You' to any veterans who receive the tip of the day. We are able to do what we want (officiate), when we want and how often we want because of you....and with today being the 75th anniversary of Pearl harbor, it is fitting to honor those veterans and ALL veterans today...so again, THANK YOU.

Today we have a play where a violation (back court) and a foul (push) happen extremely close to each other. This was from a game between North Carolina and Indiana last week. The officials ruled a foul on the play on North Carolina. It appears that the violation happened first and that it was missed.....why?

Take a look at the video [here](#) then please come back to this.

What did you see? Looking at the violation/foul and which happened first? Your ruling? It certainly appears that the Indiana player caught the ball in the air after leaving the front court (so the ball now has front court status) then lands with one foot in the back court (violation) and THEN just after landing, gets push OOB by the NC player. Remember that IF the violation had been ruled to happen first, and contact after the ball becomes dead on the whistle is ignored unless it is deemed flagrant or intentional.....and in this case it certainly does not qualify as flagrant or intentional. SOOOOO.....this play SHOULD have been a back court violation instead of a foul. Now.....WHY did it happen???

Take a look at the video again.....C is the official on the sideline that the play occurred. Watch what leads up to the play.....C does a GREAT job helping with the pressure defense.....NC is down 10 with 1:20 left....not out of reach but they need turnovers badly. The C has a pressure play coming right at him deep in the back court. T also has the play, but it moves very close to C's sideline, hence why the C takes a step back towards it, to get a better angle. He maintains a position at free throw line extended and does a GREAT job of not bailing out on the play. As the pass is made towards mid-court, the players are moving right at him and the very tight sideline. He does what most of us would.....makes sure that the players do not crash into him or the spectators.....and in that fraction of a second he does it, the entire play happens at mid-court. He KNOWS something happened, and when he turned his head, all he saw was the player falling OOB.....and raises an open hand to stop the clock.

OK.....how do we get this right???

In a 3-person game, we have to hope that our new L can help us with it. Get together and discuss it (make sure the players are either at their benches or being monitored). Make a decision, be able to explain it to the coaches, and go with it. No need to rush it.....get it as right as you possibly can! This is in the final 2:00, so we need to try to get it correct!

In a 2-person game, this is actually a play that 2-person *should* get right anyhow.....The new T will have the entire play in the back court....sideline to sideline.....and move across with the matchup as needed, much like the T did in the clip. The new L should be somewhere between the mid court line and the free throw line extended....with the pressure in the back court, he/she should probably be a little closer to mid court (around the 28-foot mark).....there are 8 players in the back court so what new L can do is 'open up' on the sideline, meaning stand more with his/her heels by the sideline...that way the 2 players in the front court can be seen and officiated if a long pass is made.....and also be in position to officiate that play at mid court.

If the play happens on the opposite side (strong side for a 3 –person game) we then hopefully get it right without discussion in the 3-person game since new L hopefully is in position to make the call, and in a 2-person game, new T is probably in the same predicament that the C is in our clip.

Bottom line here is to get it right if at all possible.....talk to a partner or partners to ask if he/she got a good look at it.

In addition, remember that any contact that causes a violation is a foul. This is NOT what happened here, but keep that in mind in your final scrimmages and when games start rolling on Friday!

Have a great day today.

Tim