

Good morning!

Hope you have enjoyed getting back on the court as much as players and coaches have. Even scrimmages are exciting!

Elbows above the shoulders.....remember that we have some general guidance to use:

- 1) If the elbow is moving the *same* speed as the torso when contacting the opponent, we could simply have a player control foul.
- 2) If the elbow is moving *faster* than the torso when contact is made, we have an intentional foul.
- 3) If the player 'eyes up' or purposefully contacts the opponent with the elbow it is flagrant.

Take a look at the play [here](#). Which case do you have? I would rule an intentional foul. Red 23 swings his elbows faster than his torso is moving....in fact in the slo-mo reply, his torso is almost stationary. It doesn't look like he eyes up white and intentionally hits him....that would be flagrant.

The lead does a great job getting the foul. NCAA has a luxury of being able to use replay to 'get the call right' in plays that may be intentional or flagrant. We do not have video, but we DO have partners. If the calling official has any thought that it might be intentional when only called a PC or that it might be flagrant when rules intentional, TALK to the rest of the crew! THAT is how we can get it right. On the other hand, if either C or T, in this case, have more info to offer, they SHOULD go give it to the calling official.

If the crew is discussing the play, make sure the teams are separated – probably easiest to send them to their bench areas while discussing so they are not intermingled. We just have an elbow to the head, we don't want more.

It is FINE to upgrade a call to intentional. In fact, many times it is easier to see that a foul is intentional from further away than from the calling officials close proximity. TALK! Take it from someone who has missed a play like this in a 'fairly big' game.....there is almost no worse feeling as an official to not have a whistle when one is needed on an elbow above the shoulders.

Make sure to talk about elbows above the shoulders, talking as a crew and sending the teams to their benches and upgrading fouls in your pre-game conference. You also may need to get the coaches together near the division line to explain what the call is.

Just be aware and don't get caught off guard.....and this type of play is the 'whale' that CAN be called out of an official's primary IF it is seen.

Hope you have a great game tonight!

Tim