

Good morning! Hopefully we get back to normal with games and the weather and the past week doesn't become 'the norm' the last couple weeks of the season! Regardless, please allow appropriate time to get to your games!

[Here](#) is yesterday's clip. Take a look at it again please. I wasn't completely clear about the intent of this yesterday.

Regardless of whether you agree with the hand check call or not, it WAS seen and called by the C on this play and it WAS followed by a crash that would have been a PC. On this particular play, L (me) was about to blow the whistle for a PC when the C had his foul. It would have been fine to have a double whistle here since C had the primary defender (with a foul) and L had the secondary defender (and a foul). If we did have a double whistle here, the L and C would need to get together to discuss the play and would have had the hand check foul before the PC since it was not on a shot and the ball would have been dead on the whistle from C. Remember that we ignore contact after the ball becomes dead unless ruled intentional or flagrant, and the 'PC' would not have been either. We MAY have to get the coaches together to explain what the double whistle was and why we ruled the way we did. Remember also that the third official in a three-person game needs to monitor the players or better yet, in either a three-person or two-person game, send the players to their benches.

The intent of this clip was to reinforce the need to be calling hand checks as the rule is written. We don't hear 'get the hands off' nearly as much as we did prior to the freedom of movement rules. Is it called the same from game to game? Is it called the same in D-10 as D-7 as D-3? Do we take a stance that 'this is a big boys game and they can play through it'?

Hand checking is as close to a black and white foul, as close as there is to no judgment needed, as close to an automatic as we have in our game. Remember that we are to allow 'one hot stove touch'.....'one hot stove touch.' Some of the evaluators I have talked with have said they do not see hand checking called as much as it should be.

Summary – just be vigilant in what you do with hand checks and call it early to set the tone! Talk about it in your pregame conference!

Thursday Extra: When you are going to new lead after a made goal/rebound or turnover, make sure to focus on picking out your next competitive matchup – the offensive player who is first down the floor and his/her defender. MOSTLY, avoid looking back at/for the dribbler when the dribbler is in new T's (or C's) primary. Sooooooo, when going to new lead, we still have a responsibility to 'work our primary' and see what we have there.

Have a great game tonight and safe travels!

Tim