

Good morning and Happy New Year! January 2, 2020.....were you officiating January 2, 2010? Think about all the turnover we have had since then.....some are going on 50+ year and MANY are relatively new!

On to a topic that we can ALL improve.....looking for a TIMEOUT request when needed (opponent just went on a run, nearing a closely guarded violation, player with the ball is trapped, etc.) Take a look at the clip [here](#). I may have used this clip in the past but it warrants another view as a reminder.

So we need to disregard the difference in the way closely guarded is called in NCAAM and NFHS (we know in NFHS we have a count during a closely guarded dribble also...and ignore Jay Bilas' comments also!!!!). Let's just look at the closely guarded count that T initiates. Did he get to 5? YES! There are also many opinions on 'getting to 5' and if we should really 'get to 6' since that first count may be faster than a second.....great meeting discussion there! Was a TO requested? YES! Look at the clip again and check out when black 45 actually starts requesting a TO.....at the TWO count! I totally understand that a TO being requested is nothing until we recognize and grant it.....but was this in time? YES! Should the official have seen it? MOST LIKELY! Black 45 ended up right in T's face requesting the TO.

THIS is a case where a player is trapped and we may open our 'field of hearing AND vision' up to make sure we do not miss a TO request. Could C have helped here? Maybe...he did have 2/3 matchups and a potential screen coming his way.....L had an open look at black 45 leaving his PCA and appeared to be looking towards the closely guarded play. If we can help on a TO when the situation may appear to be asking for one, we SHOULD help our partner.

There is no doubt we have all had something happen right in front of us and not 'see' it like the black 45 TO request to T. We get so focused on the play at hand...like T was with the closely guarded and looking for contact or a travel.....that we can miss something like the TO request.

Bottom line is.....if we can help on TO requests, do so.....many times the request can be seen from across the floor instead of closer with our back to a coach, etc. Helping on TO's is great crew communication.

Thursday Extra: Ball watching is the act of being a 'spectator' wearing stripes on the floor! Spectators watch the ball.....we need to watch our PCA (primary coverage area). We have responsibilities in our PCA that does not many time involve the ball. We have screening and defenders trying to slow down offensive team members without the ball....we need to make sure we are seeing our own PCA and avoid being a spectator. Ball watching is most likely the TOUGHEST bad habit experienced officials need to break and the most common issue among new officials. Think about that during your next game.....'Am I focusing on my PCA?'

Have a great game today!

Tim