

Good morning! Welcome to winter again!

Today's clip is a loose ball situation and the lead does a great job getting the foul. Take a look at the clip [here](#).

Loose ball plays do NOT give players the right to push, hold, or that really good one.....piling on. We need to be especially diligent in getting the fouls on loose balls since no-calls on these plays could lead to really bad situations later in the game. Players don't seem to forget when they feel something cheap or dirty happened...and loose ball situations are just the stage for plays like these to occur.

What we need to do is recognize what position the players are in when attempting to recover a loose ball. Many times players will move their body to 'shield' an opponent from gaining access to the ball. Sometimes this is legal and sometimes not.....ADVANTAGE/DISADVANTAGE here.....did either player *create* the illegal contact that put the opponent at a disadvantage?

In the clip today, it is obvious that white basically tackled black. This can NOT be permitted just because it is a loose ball. Get the FIRST foul in a loose ball situation and it cleans up lots in our game.

In addition, if the loose ball is recovered and passed to a teammate with no foul but players are still on the floor, we *must stay with those players* to make sure nothing bad happens, like a cheap shot between them. This happens more than we care to think, so don't leave players on the floor!

Close down on loose ball plays also for a couple reasons.....to see the action and to also be close in case we are needed there to stop aggressive action after the whistle.

Have safe travels today and a great game as well!

Tim