

Good morning! We actually have a Friday that games in western PA should be played! Yee haw!

Today's tip.....a push off PC foul called on a drive to the hole. When you look at it the first time, consider JUST the PC foul called and if that part of it was justified.....take a look [here](#). Did black 5 create space by using his off arm? If so, this is a PC foul...correct call. It certainly appears from L's angle (former PIAA official Larry Sciroto) that there clearly was a push-off that created space by the ball handler....correct call on this contact!

Remember that when the 'freedom of movement' hand check (10-7-12) was added a few years ago to allow for the ball handler to be free from impeding contact, there became an emphasis on not allowing the ball handler to create space by using a hand or forearm to do so. This particular play is an excellent example of what that illegal contact by the ball handler looks like.

I know some people are saying 'if the hand check was called first that the PC foul never would have occurred.' Take a look at the clip again. Did the defender commit a 10-7-12, hand check foul?

ART. 12

The following acts constitute a foul when committed against a ball handler/dribbler. A player becomes a ball handler when he/she receives the ball. This would include a player in a post position.

- a. Placing two hands on the player.
- b. Placing an extended arm bar on the player.
- c. Placing and keeping a hand on the player.
- d. Contacting the player more than once with the same hand or alternating hands.

Red 34 definitely places a hand on the waist of black 5. Is that enough for a hand check? Is it a 'hot stove' touch? It appears to be a quick 'measuring up' of the ball handler and the hand is immediately taken off. When the defender's forearm contacts the ball handler the second time, the ball handler is the one who created that contact by leaning in on red 34 in a move to score. Again, this particular part of the clip would be great to discuss at a meeting, but in this guy's opinion, it certainly appears that red 34 played pretty solid legal defense...one touch and then moving backwards the entire time without initiating another 'hand check' to the ball handler.

Please also note that there have been occasional uniform violations across the state probably because of watching NCAA games such as this. Obviously NCAAM does not have a home team wears white requirement any longer. We DO have that requirement in NFHS. If the home team violates this rule (or the visitor would not be wearing a contrasting dark color), then the penalty is a direct technical foul to the head coach (10-6-4), the head coach loses the coaching box and a team foul is added to the team total.

Hope these plays create good discussion and get you in the rules and case books as well! Have a great game tonight and make sure to get a little down time this weekend.

Tim