

Good morning!

Here is a great discussion play. It is a potential travel play for which a travel WAS called. This play has lots for a group of officials to discuss and the WHY's for the talking points. Take a look at the play [here](#).

Personally I do not have a travel *from this angle*. The L here had a look at the ball handler coming at him and could see when the dribble ended (when the ball was gathered). I want the slip of the right foot here does not seem to have an effect on why the L called it because it was after the up and under move. It does not have an effect on me NOT seeing a travel.

REGARDLESS of whether you see a travel or not, sometimes plays can serve other purposes. Five of us discussed this play for an hour Friday night after the game it took place in and after we were all home from our own games. THAT was such a valuable conversation, and a first year official was involved also! After we talked about the travel or not and why, we shifted the conversation. Sometimes even with slo-mo it is tough to determine AND if we need slo-mo TO DETERMINE it, can we really say that what was called was wrong?

What we decided was that no matter what is called, we MUST – **MUST** – be able to explain exactly what we saw to a coach AND give him/her reasons (rules) for our decision. THIS play is like that. The L could say to the coach “he gathered the ball with his right foot on the floor then jump stopped but the right foot slipped, so that has to be a travel since on this jump stop, neither foot can be lifted or moved.’ If it was ME, I would explain no travel by saying ‘the ball was gathered in the air, we had a jump stop, the right foot slipped, so the left foot is the pivot foot and it never left the floor before the shot.’ We have all had a different angle than a coach and we need to be able to explain what we saw to him/her. We just cannot make something up or say it looked weird.

As an addition to this play, the coach has a reaction that warrants being addressed, The L DID address it by giving a stop sign and the coach DID move back and quit his pronounced walk. The stop sign seemed to work. This play was halfway through the third period and if this coach hadn't said anything all game, he was probably handled correctly. L did a nice job of diffusing the situation.

KNOWING RULES and being able to give RULE examples to coaches to support our decision is invaluable. They WILL look at film. We have to be right about what we give them and also be big enough to admit when we are wrong. WHEN you look at the film and see something different than what you thought you saw in the game, learn from it! Sometimes when you next see the coach, you may be able to talk to him/her about it! We can't do this about 5 plays a game, but we can do it occasionally. You will know by his/her reaction if the respect you gave him/her is reciprocated.

Wednesday Extra: Have you asked for film from a coach or asked your assigner to help get you one yet?

Have a great game tonight!

Tim