

Good morning!

Traveling – the toughest call we have to make on a daily basis. Kids are so quick and have new moves like the euro step....and they are being done at lower and lower levels continually. The days of ‘it looked weird’ so it must be traveling are gone. We are now charged with a completely new trend in moves by the ball handler/shooter. The most important items in officiating a potential travel play includes these: 1) determining when the dribble ends and 2) which foot is the pivot foot (the foot on the floor WHEN the dribble ends or the first foot to hit the floor if the dribble ends in the air).

The most common ‘new’ move we need to officiate is the euro step. These happen on a nearly nightly basis and we need to be ready – maybe more accurately ‘not get caught off guard’ by the move. Regardless of a euro step or ‘regular’ layup, we need to find the pivot foot – the first foot on the floor after the dribble has ended. Take a look at a euro-step move [here](#).

This is a legal move – no travel. The left foot is the pivot foot since the dribble ended with the left foot on the floor. He then steps with the right foot and creates a big advantage for himself as he does so and scores a layup. Does he cover a great distance? SURE! His pivot foot is on the free throw line when he ends his dribble! GREAT move! Be patient, determine when the dribble ends which determines the pivot foot. Find those and officiating potential traveling plays becomes easier! Watching clips of traveling plays and euro moves helps prepare us as well.

Monday Extra: Skip passes are a common pass in our current game. We need to be prepared for them and in a three-person game, realize when a team uses them and rotate accordingly (be patient to see if a skip pass happens). In both a three-person as well as a two-person game, when the skip pass is coming to either C’s or T’s primary, we must be ready for it and moving to get a good look BEFORE the skip pass is received. Many times it is a catch-and-shoot play and we MUST be in position to see between the shooter and defender. If we wait until the pass is received and the shot is taken on the catch, we can easily miss the defender closing out on the shooter. Realize that a skip pass is coming and move to a position to be ready for it when received. Talk about skip passes and team tendencies in your pre-game.

Have a great game today!

Tim