

Good morning! I am sure you are working tonight if your area is anything like mine with all the reschedules and heavy play date to start with!

Let's just start off with the clip.....take a look [here](#). So we had a travel called. Agree? She DID definitely travel. Would you consider a held ball BEFORE the travel?

Philosophy about held balls has evolved over the years, especially in the girls game. Current philosophy subscribes to allowing the 'stronger player to pull the ball away' in general. Many times just by 'sucking on the whistle' a split second allows the ball to be pulled out of a potential held ball and flow continues. If the potential 'held ball' results in a violation, we would then have a whistle, albeit late, for a held ball.....SINCE the held ball 'caused the violation.' This is an easy explanation to a coach also..."Coach, the held ball happened first and after the ball was pulled out, the travel happened....the held ball caused the travel.'

What can happen on a potential held ball that we don't whistle too soon? Like in the clip, a travel.....or the ball can be lost control of and go OOB.....or the player pulling it out could commit a player control foul by running into/hitting an opponent when the ball is pulled away.....or if one or both players are on the floor, one may pull it away and roll (hence a travel)..... So.....if you are trying to let the stronger player pull a ball away so as to not whistle a held ball and when it IS PULLED AWAY, a violation happens, it would be perfectly fine to have a whistle with a held ball.

Tuesday Extra: Skip passes from yesterday.....be prepared BEFORE the skip pass is received by getting into position to officiate a catch-and-shoot play. Likewise, when a skip pass *leaves your primary* (two or three-person game), we need to be disciplined enough to not watch the pass and what happens when it is received. We still have PCA responsibilities for where the pass *was thrown* from.

Have a great game tonight....pretty sure every official in PA is working today!

Tim