

Hi Everyone! One full week in and one full week before Christmas and tournaments. We are almost in 2018! Wow....

OK, back court violations.....sometimes we aren't sure, sometimes they are easy. Take a look at the clip and look at the plays in real time and decide on the FIRST time you watched them what you have....back court violation or not? Remember, we are only to blow the whistle when we are POSITIVE of the violation. So the clip for today shows two plays that have back court violation possibilities. The 'real time' clip of each one is shown first. When you watch it, pause it after the second real time play and think about what you SAW. I get that seeing it on film is a little different than being right there at C or T and deciding in a split second whether to blow the whistle or not, but seeing it on film helps us get better. As Mark Lindsay said at the convention, "Watching film gives us reps of plays without the physical toll on the body." How true that is. SO, without further ado, take a look at the plays [here](#).

Have you watched the clip all the way through or still paused? Have a violation in real time on either of them? Running the play in slo-motion on the first play IMMEDIATELY shows that the player's foot was ON the line (not just over it) and should have been a back court violation. The second? Super slo-motion verified what slo-mo may have left to doubt. NO back court violation in the second play. Did either look 'weird'? YES, BOTH looked weird.....but 'weird' doesn't mean we put air in the whistle.....euro-steps look weird (still) and a true euro is legal. Travels are sometimes VERY weird looking but weird, again, isn't a violation.

Let's analyze the first play.....no call incorrect. There is a quick change in possession and new lead takes off. Black takes a dribble then another that deflects off the opponent's leg. White recovers the ball in the front court and then takes a little step backwards towards the back court. Did his foot TOUCH the line or stay OVER the division line? Technically, new T has the division line on front court play, but as we *should* talk about in pre-game, transition plays need C to have that bog "V" the whole way across the floor, which *could* potentially include a back court violation. THIS is exactly what happened in this play.....except what happened with C here? He had *several* players directly between his location on the division line and the foot on the line that caused the violation. It also appears that new T was not close enough to SEE the foot (heel) go down on the line. Was this a violation? YES! Was it a missed call? YES! I also say that in this case, the officials did what they SAW.....none SAW a violation. If they HAD seen it, they would have had a whistle. Do we want this happening nightly in our games? Of course not, but we try to learn from these plays and get positioning. MAYBE C could have let players go by to get a good look at the division line and not get screened from seeing it.....MAYBE.

The second play.....no call correct. In this play, it looks very 'weird' again in real time. Slo-motion certainly verifies that the player did not go into the front court and pass to a teammate in the back court. Again, we need to be positive of what we have seen to make a judgment. In this case, whether the official was positive or wasn't sure, he did not guess (by blowing the whistle) as to what happened. Remember, as Marty said in his Weekly Reminder last week, "if I THINK it happened, then it didn't happen."

All this being said, hustling and putting yourself (and your partners) in good position to SEE plays and MAKE good judgments is the best way to have a solid call/game.

MAKE SURE when you blow the whistle, you are positive of what happened.

Have a great game tonight and get the week off to a good start!

Tim