

Good morning! Hope you had a great game yesterday! Sort of a 'bonus weekend' tip for us.....to generate some discussion and maybe even some arguing!

Dave Wright and I discussed this play after I shared it with him earlier in the week. He has posted it on the PIAA Basketball Referees Facebook page. The comments are 'all over the place' about the clip. It is a screen play again! Remember, the tip of the day started the year with screens and has revisited them several times so far. Soooooo, here is the book definition of screening again:

ART. 1

A screen is legal action by a player who, without causing contact, delays or prevents an opponent from reaching a desired position.

ART. 2

To establish a legal screening position:

- a. The screener may face any direction.
- b. Time and distance are relevant.
- c. The screener must be stationary, except when both the screener and opponent are moving in the same path and the same direction.
- d. The screener must stay within his/her vertical plane with a stance approximately shoulder width apart.

ART. 3

When screening a stationary opponent from the front or side (within the visual field), the screener may be anywhere short of contact.

ART. 4

When screening a stationary opponent from behind (outside the visual field), the screener must allow the opponent one normal step backward without contact.

ART. 5

When screening a moving opponent, the screener must allow the opponent time and distance to avoid contact by stopping or changing direction. The speed of the player to be screened will determine where the screener may take his/her stationary position. The position will vary and may be one to two normal steps or strides from the opponent.

ART. 6

When screening an opponent who is moving in the same path and direction as the screener, the player behind is responsible if contact is made because the player in front slows up or stops and the player behind overruns his/her opponent.

ART. 7

A player who is screened within his/her visual field is expected to avoid contact by going around the screener. In cases of screens outside the visual field, the opponent may make inadvertent contact with the screener and if the opponent is running rapidly, the contact may be severe. Such a case is to be ruled as incidental contact provided the opponent stops or attempts to stop on contact and moves around the screen, and provided the screener is not displaced if he/she has the ball.

ART. 8

A player may not use the arms, hands, hips or shoulders to force his/her way through a screen or to hold the screener and then push the screener aside in order to maintain a guarding position on an opponent.

Take special note of article 2.C and article 6.....then look at the play [here!](#)

This clip is solely to SEE a play that I am guessing MANY chapters have held discussions over. This has been discussed off and on for years in chapter meetings I have attended. Let's break it down.....

Does white set a legal screen initially? YES, she sets the screen after stopping within the field of vision of a defender who was NOT moving when the screen was initially set, but then the defender moves *away* from the screen then back towards it and *does* have time and distance to avoid contact even tho it is not required since the screen was set on a stationary defender.

Next, the screener rolls and screens the same defender *moving* in the same direction. In article 2, the screener may face any direction (A) and may be moving if the screened player is moving in the same path and direction (C). Do we have that here? I say we DO!

According to our rules book, this appears to be LEGAL screening by white! Is there contact? SURE, but screens are intended to have contact and according to article 7, may even be 'severe' but incidental.

What we need to adjudicate here is if 1) white was 'holding' blue to prevent her from getting around or if 2) blue 'pushed thru' to try to get around the screener. The actual act of 'screening' by white is legal according to our rules set. Was there anything else that was *not* legal? The point of this clip is the screen rules and that screeners ARE permitted to do what white did here. IF white had used an armbar or held blue behind, we would have a push or hold foul and if blue was deemed to push thru the screener, then we have a push on her.

Screens are TOUGH plays! Many people think block/charge plays are tough...I think they are easy if I referee the defense and know how the defender 'got there.' I think traveling is the toughest call we make because many LOOK weird but are not traveling and the entire call depends on when the dribble ends (ball is 'gathered'). I now am moving screening up closer to that tough travel call.....as said in the past, I think we have our greatest room for improvement in the area of screens and how we officiate them. Screens are generally set on a contested matchup which makes for a very challenging situation for the primary official.....it is TOUGH to call screens when one official has a contested matchup and then a screen set. TALK about screens at length in your pregame conference.....it doesn't hurt to get the books out and read the rule and case plays. WATCH FILM and look at screening specifically.....how could it have been officiated better? Again, Mark Lindsay told us at the convention that 'video counts as hours of reps without the physical toll on the body.'

I HOPE this play generates discussion among your crew and at your meetings! Have a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Tim