

Good morning everyone!

Hope you are doing ok having to stay home evenings in December.....

Take a look at a clip for which a blocking foul was called [here](#).

So we have a transition drive to the hole and a 'train wreck'. We NEED a whistle. In this play, there was a double whistle. Fortunately the two officials (New L and C) communicated with each other about the call. C walks towards L and gives it up to L. They did a GREAT job of communicating on this double whistle.

Was the call correct? Did the L referee the defense? What did the defense do wrong? Did the defender establish legal guarding position? If so, did he maintain it? Did the defender take the contact in the torso?

In MY opinion, this is a player control foul. The defender establishes LGP by facing the opponent with two feet on the floor, then maintains LGP by moving backwards. Remember that the defender need not KEEP two feet on the floor. The defender merely needs to not be moving *towards* the ball handler when contact is made (the defender may move laterally – side-to-side, backwards or obliquely – any angle from side-to-side through backwards).

A few lessons from this play:

- 1) Discussion of transition plays MUST happen in a pre-game conference to determine responsibilities and primary coverage areas.
- 2) Double whistle situations must be discussed in pre-game to avoid the dreaded blarge.
- 3) Maybe the most important lesson from this play is to know the rules surrounding LGP and maintaining it.
- 4) You MUST be able to explain to a coach what you SAW. Coaches know when we are BS'ing them. Film does not lie. We need to be positive of what we saw.

Watch film of your games! Be HONEST and critical of yourself, that is how you get better. Practice blowing the whistle with a mask on or using the pocket mask or with a mask on and electronic whistle. Some officials have not been able to experience scrimmages or games under these conditions yet. We recommend that new officials practice mechanics in front of a mirror.....well we ALL are 'new officials' when it comes to masks and blowing the whistle with a mask on.....practice it so we are ready come January 8!

Have a great day and get that shopping done!

Tim