

Good morning!

Drive from C in a three-person game that goes right down the lane line.....ball handler beats the primary defender and there is a crash with the secondary defender.....whose call?

Can C legitimately make a definite call on this? Most likely C is officiating the ball handler and primary defender. Most likely C has no idea how the secondary defender got to his/her spot. L is on the opposite lane line in a closed down position.....L *should* have the secondary defender and KNOW how he/she got to his/her spot.

Take a look at the clip [here](#).

This play has it all.....drive starts in T's PCA.....he has a count and continues to have the count through the contact. NO WAY the T has clue about this crash and how the secondary defender got to his spot. The C has a competitive matchup coming out directly towards him AND a potential shooter stepping back on the baseline towards the three-point arc. C has lots going on. L has a strong side low block matchup and is looking into the paint and at the drive coming as well. He sees the secondary defender and correctly determines that this help defender gained LGP. The L determined there was enough contact for a foul here.....that the ball handler dislodged the defender. The ball handler appears to 'stop on contact' but the collision and dislodging certainly created an advantage for the ball handler. Player control! The L here did a great job of getting the crash with the secondary defender, the T and C also did a great job by 'staying off' the secondary defender crash and they avoided a double whistle. The COULD (should) have had a fist up first, then the player control call.

Obviously this crew talked about primary/secondary defenders in their pregame conference. Taking this philosophy seems to be the BEST way to avoid double whistles.....primary defender is the call from the PCA the drive initiated (T or C) and secondary defender crashes get whistles from the L. This seems much easier than "if it is going to L, let L take it". Many times, the call from C has a quick draw official who signals right away and his partner does the same at L and we end up in a blarge of a mess.

Consider the primary/secondary defender philosophy on drives to the hole.....it will help your game and make it easier to officiate!

Remember that to establish Legal Guarding Position on a player with the ball, time and distance are NOT a factor! Rule 4.23 and article relevant to establishing LGP are:

ART. 2

To obtain an initial legal guarding position:

- a. The guard must have both feet touching the playing court.
- b. The front of the guard's torso must be facing the opponent.

ART. 3

After the initial legal guarding position is obtained:

- a. The guard may have one or both feet on the playing court or be airborne, provided he/she has inbound status.
- b. The guard is not required to continue facing the opponent.
- c. The guard may move laterally or obliquely to maintain position, provided it is not toward the opponent when contact occurs.
- d. The guard may raise hands or jump within his/her own vertical plane.
- e. The guard may turn or duck to absorb the shock of imminent contact.

ART. 4

Guarding an opponent with the ball or a stationary opponent without the ball:

- a. No time or distance is required to obtain an initial legal position.
- b. If the opponent with the ball is airborne, the guard must have obtained legal position before the opponent left the floor.

Tuesday Extra: Remember that all officials are to be involved in the pre-game captains meeting. The alignment should be something like this.....



Have a great game tonight!

Tim