

Good morning!

Hope you have survived the first week of the regular season and are ready for tonight's game!

Today I am trying to stay with the PIAA bulletin that was emailed to us this week.....the blarge (not rolling of the shorts)! Here is the link to the [PIAA basketball bulletin I](#).

The dreaded 'blarge' as Dave says in the Bulletin.....if you have not had one in a game you have worked, you probably have not officiated long enough!

Blarge – adjective to describe the action of usually two basketball officials who rule the same play differently – one official calls a block and the other calls a charge (PC). **Note** – there are usually other adjectives used to describe the occurrence of a blarge!

Take a look [here](#) at a textbook example of a blarge. So, the ruling is in the bulletin we received this week and also below – and how we resume play depends if whether the shot went in or not.

#### 4.19.8 SITUATION C:

A1 drives for a try and jumps and releases the ball. Contact occurs between A1 and B1 after the release and before airborne shooter A1 returns one foot to the floor. One official rules a blocking foul on B1 and the other official rules a charging foul on A1. The try is (a) successful, or (b) not successful.

**RULING:** Even though airborne shooter A1 committed a charging foul, it is not a player-control foul because the two fouls result in a double personal foul. The double foul does not cause the ball to become dead on the try. In (a), the goal is scored; play is resumed at the point of interruption, which is a throw-in for Team B from anywhere along the end line. In (b), the point of interruption is a try in flight; therefore the alternating-possession procedure is used. (4-36)

So what is the key to avoiding a blarge? The pre-game conference is a great place to start. In a two-person game, the crew needs to discuss transition plays (and primary coverage areas in the half court set) so that they KNOW that L has first, second, third, fourth and fifth cracks at this play. T should only come in with a whistle LATE on transition in the paint and if it is a foul (train wreck) that for some unknown reason L passed/missed. In a three-person game, we are more likely to see exactly what happened here unless the discussion is held in a pre-game to make sure L has ALL THE CHANCE IN THE WORLD to make the call. If C does have a whistle, it should be well after L gets his/her chance. C MUST also make sure that there is no double whistle when making his/her signal. In the play on the clip, it appears that L makes the signal, then after a pause, C makes his signal. There should not be any way this happens IF the C is aware of what has happened and L made a signal and starts to the table to report. Double whistles are going to happen – they are almost inevitable. As a good partner, we need to be *aware* when they happen.

We need to trust our partners and stay in our own PCA. We need to sometimes give, suck on our whistle and let our partner take care of it. Game, crew, me. We can/should always talk about those plays and what each official saw on the play. In the play in the clip, I had a PC until I saw the angle from right under the hoop that showed the defender leaning.

When a blarge happens, we also need to make sure to SLOW DOWN, get together as a crew or at least the two partners who had the blarge (send the players to their benches so they are not mingling) and get the ruling correct!

Have a great game tonight, pre0game PCA's and double whistles!

BTW.....tickets to the PIAA Championship finals went on sale Monday. If you haven't been to the finals, please consider going.....GREAT three days of basketball and camaraderie! The Giant Center box office number is (717)534-3911.

Tim