

Good morning! Hope you had a great game/evening yesterday.

Just a little follow-up to the Kobe tragedy.....was talking to a coach (one very close to me!) and she talked to her team about it and it became life lesson number who knows what that she tries to give her players. She asked them.....'what would happen if you go to bed tonight and don't wake up tomorrow morning...how will you be remembered in you 15, 16, 17 years on this earth? Kobe Bryant was one of the all-time greats but nearly every tribute to him is about the awesome family man he was and the father he was.' Sure hits home, huh?

So a basketball play for this Tuesday.....the toughest call in our game.....traveling.....players at ALL levels are getting SO GOOD at working on their game to make sure they are not traveling.....and sometimes a play LOOKS so weird that it MUST have been a travel.....take a look at the play [here](#).

So it is clear in slo-mo to SEE that he did NOT travel. Think about it...if he had NOT ruled a travel and we had to look at it in slo-mo to verify that it was not a travel, was this a play that we should blow the whistle for in REAL time to begin with? The coach ended up with a fine for his comments after the game.....he named the official as well. This certainly cannot be condoned, he should NOT have said what he did publicly, but he was correct about it not being a travel. His team ended up losing by 1 point....this play happened with 2:00 or so remaining in the game.

I can remember an official in my chapter who was one of the 'old-guard' who always said we need to be perfect in the last 2:00 of a game. He said that teams have a chance to make up for mistakes WE make earlier in the game but there isn't enough time in the last 2:00 for them to make up for our errors. Good advice that I am sure was passed along to him from some OTHER 'old-guard' official.

Travels are the toughest call in the book.....just because they LOOK funny doesn't mean it was illegal. If I do not KNOW FOR A FACT that it was a travel, I cannot assume it was and put air in the whistle. Be POSITIVE! If the ball handler is going away from an official, can a travel be called if the official cannot see the ball? Does the official KNOW what happened with the ball? Was it hit or fumbled? The play in this clip was not like this one....it just looked weird.

MANY of the plays we see are from some of the best officials in the NCAA or best HS officials in our area. We ALL make mistakes! We can ALL keep learning and get better from seeing film and plays! Remember to pick *one or two* things to work on every game.....maybe even ask your partner(s) before the game what he/she is working on this game.

Be POSITIVE when you blow the whistle.....there is most likely film out there somewhere of what happened!

Tuesday Extra: Fifth foul procedure after the table informs you..... 1) make sure your partners do not resume play (blow the whistle and yell to them 'we have 5 fouls on #23'), 2) inform the head coach that his player, #23, has 5 fouls, 3) look at the timer and say 'give me a horn right now and another in 15 second please', 4) go to #23 and inform him/her that he/she has 5 fouls, 5) stay near the table to bring in the sub (hopefully!).

Have a great game tonight!

Tim