

Good morning! Another blast of winter just to keep us all honest.....

Breakaway transition play.....what do you talk about in a pre-game about it? Take a look at [this clip](#) and think about what might have been missed in a pre-game conference that should have been talked about.....

What do you think? SOME mention of how you will handle these types of plays (breakaway layups, transition steals, etc) need to be discussed to avoid the uncomfortable situation that this crew had. Heck, I was uncomfortable FOR these guys just watching it!

Here is a thought for a pre-game.....new lead has first, second and third crack at ALL breakaway layups and one-on-one plays such as in this clip.....why? WHAT ELSE should lead be looking at? What other competitive matchup does lead have or need to officiate? Talk about that in your pre-game in a two or three-person game. We certainly do not need a double whistle here with the potential of a blarge from these two officials. (It appears in the clip that L was very hesitant to finish his prelim for fear of C having a charge.) Back to the situation.....new lead gets every chance to make the call, then if lead does NOT make a call and C (or T in a two-person game) feels that there definitely was a foul, get it then...AFTER lead has had one, two, three cracks to blow the whistle. A late whistle from C is better than a double whistle that could lead to a bad situation. BTW.....it would probably be VERY RARE in a two-person game for the trail to come in and make a call on a true breakaway layup or steal/transition play. In a two-person game, we almost have to let lead live and die with his/her call or no-call.

The 'little' things like this in a pre-game can help save a bad situation during the game.....be thorough in a pre-game conference, even with officials you work with regularly. Having a strong pre-game gets me into a good mental/focused frame of mind to go onto the floor.....try it if you haven't been having good pre-games. It truly helps get focused even when the rest of the day leading up to the game has been 'stressful.'

BTW, the number of intentional and technical fouls due to poor sportsmanship has continued into January.....stay on it and hold players AND coaches to a high standard.

Have a great game today! Safe travels the next couple days.

Tim