

Good morning!



Hopefully this is not a jinx for February and March!

OK.....we had a play on Monday for which the jump shooter went to the air, realized his shot would be blocked and threw the ball to the floor. In this particular clip there was no violation called for a travel. We don't know why T didn't call it, but it seems that he was looking at the back of the shooter and might not have seen if the ball was hit or not. Regardless, it appears that *he did not guess* at what happened.....THAT almost always gets us in trouble.

The issue that has caused a great deal of discussion since seeing this clip is WHEN should the whistle be blown for the traveling violation (assuming that nobody else touched the ball before the 'shooter' touches it again). There are several scenarios to consider.....is it a violation when the ball is thrown to the floor? Dropped to the floor? Hits the floor? Touched by the 'shooter' after it hits the floor? There has been discussion among officials, chapter rules interpreters, district rules interpreters and Dave Wright, the statewide rules interpreter.

There are many rationale to support when to blow the whistle on a play like this. One official told me "I am always caught off guard by this and as a result have a delayed whistle." In this particular case play, that seems to be a GOOD thing.....the delayed whistle to see the entire play.

Dave Wright gave the following suggestion....

“My advice, take a mental picture, patient whistle, let the play finish. You may call the violation once you "digest" what occurred. If you're not SURE whether it is a dribble or a pass, simply wait a beat and see.”

These two philosophies seem to go hand in hand. The bottom line is that we get the call correct.....even a little late whistle is fine.

Take a look at the clip today and notice that the T has a little delay in the whistle since he saw the entire play and DID digest what happened. Click [here](#).

Have a great game today!

Tim