

Good morning!

TIP-OFF 2023!!!! On one hand it, seems like forever ago that the state finals happen and on the other hand, it seems like yesterday! One thing is for sure – this season will go fast!

There are lots of new procedures we had to be attentive to during scrimmages but still some of the same old misunderstandings by players, coaches and officials. Traveling (or lack thereof) remains high on the list. I firmly believe that traveling and screening are the areas we as officials have the greatest room for improvement and are the two areas coaches, players and spectators are most in a fog about.

In a scrimmage earlier this week, a coach wanted a travel on a certain player when she made a ‘step thru’ or ‘up and under’ move. She made this move multiple times during the scrimmage and not one whistle was blown for a violation (correctly so). The comment from the coach was “She is changing her pivot foot!”

Please look at these two plays with THAT in mind....DID SHE CHANGE HER PIVOT FOOT?

[Play 1](#)

[Play 2](#)

Well.....it is clear that she did NOT change her pivot foot. There MAY be debate on the first play in regards to ‘dragging’ the pivot foot, but in real time, that was very difficult to see. I had to watch it several times to determine that possibility. Remember, if we are not sure, are not POSITIVE, we cannot blow the whistle. It is not good practice to say ‘I *think* she dragged the pivot foot’ or to blow the whistle and see on film that we were wrong.

Don’t get me wrong, we ALL make mistakes and see it on film (that is how we get better) but blowing the whistle when he are not sure is a ‘hard habit to break’ (a Chicago song for us old fogeys!). Just be POSITIVE and be able to explain what you had (or did not have) to the coach!

Tip-off extra: Remember that the 4 new throw-in spots are ONLY used in the front court! ANY throw-in that happens in the back court is at the closest spot to where the foul, violation or stoppage occurred. Do not get confused with the ‘designated spot’ verbiage that is in the rules book. Just determine if the throw-in is a front court throw-in or back court throw-in. If BACK court, go to the spot nearest to what happened (or where the ball was in a double foul). Remember that a back court violation (over and back) becomes a FRONT court throw-in for the team who gets possession, so ne of the 4 new throw-in spots will be used.

Tip-off extra II: It might be a good idea to go to the table *extra* early at least the first time you are the R so that you can see the look of the new scorebooks in regards to the 5 fouls per quarter and reset procedure. **If a school does not have a scorebook that reflects the new procedure**, tell the head coach that they have an old style scorebook and that they need a new style AND let your chapter interpreter know right after your game so that he/she can contact the athletic director to attempt to rectify the situation.

I would welcome any video plays for consideration for the Tip of the Day! High school clips of YOU are best but if you don’t have any, my friends and I have enough plays in question to suffice!

Have a GREAT tip-off weekend and HAVE FUN!!!!

Tim

