

Good morning!

Short one today (I hope), but one that generates discussion.....

Take a look at the play [here](#) where a held ball was called after a rebound.

This comes from a veteran official, who was very good, when I was younger and learning.....he said 'If you don't want to officiate that kind of play where the reach in all night, then call the foul!'

I have used this philosophy for many, many years and it is ALWAYS part of my pregame.....something to the effect of 'a pet peeve of mine is raking on the rebound.....if a player cleanly gets the rebound and someone reaches in, it's a foul EVERY time!'

Just food for thought – if we do not call a foul and either call a held ball or a no-call, we are telling the defense it's a good play to do that – reaching in after a clean rebound. Do you want to officiate that in a close game with under 2:00 left?

Monday Extra: Talk to the timer and scorekeepers about the procedure when we get to 5 fouls *in a quarter* and the officials do not immediately recognize it. The table should not hold up an open hand (5 fingers) and say 'that's 5 fouls' because it is easily confused with a player fouling out. To differentiate, ask them to just put up 2 fingers and say 'that's 2 shots'. Hopefully that clarifies the fifth foul of a quarter and the fifth foul on a player.

Monday Bonus: Many of my partners discuss not being able to toss the ball for the opening jump ball very well. PRACTICE tossing the ball. If you can get to an empty gym, a good guide is to stand under a basket and toss the ball straight up so that it *just touches* the rim. That is a good height for most games! Concentrate on tossing it straight and just to the rim! It really does help!