

Good morning!

Held balls....with all the newer officials in our area, I am getting questions about held balls regarding how quick to call them (especially in a girls game), what happens if someone pulls it away then travels, what if a foul happens before the held ball, what if there might be a held ball close to a boundary line then after it's pulled away the player goes OOB right away. Legit questions!  
For all of these clips, let's focus on the jump ball part of the play, not anything prior to going into it, like a potential travel.

So, let's just start off with a clip.....take a look [here](#). Certainly an ugly play. Red pulls the ball away, falls over white (who happens to be OOB) and then ends up OOB himself. Could we have had a held ball prior to the potential foul by white for tripping red or the OOB by red? Did the potential held ball cause the falling by white, the falling over white and the OOB by red? IF you say yes, maybe we have a held ball since ripping it away caused the following actions.

The next clip is [here](#). So we had a travel called. Agree? She DID definitely travel. Would you consider a held ball BEFORE the travel?

Philosophy about held balls has evolved over the years, especially in the girls game. Current philosophy subscribes to allowing the 'stronger player to pull the ball away' in general. Many times, just by 'sucking on the whistle' a split second allows the ball to be pulled out of a potential held ball and flow continues. If the potential 'held ball' results in a violation, we would then have a whistle, albeit late, for a held ball.....SINCE the held ball 'caused the violation.' This is an easy explanation to a coach also..."Coach, the held ball happened first and after the ball was pulled out, the travel happened....the held ball caused the travel.'

Another clip [here](#). Sorry for the blurriness....but we can see that we have a held ball that the official blows quickly then the players end up OOB also. The held ball *caused* the resulting travel/OOB actions. Good held ball from the L.

Next clip is [here](#). On this play, the defender blocks the shot and both the shooter and defender hold onto the ball as the shooter returns to the floor. Good get on the held ball here!

So what can happen on a potential held ball that we don't whistle right away? Like in one of the clips where the result was a travel.....or the ball can be lost control of and go OOB.....or the player pulling it out could commit a player control foul by running into/hitting an opponent when the ball is pulled away.....or if one or both players are on the floor, on may pull it away and roll (hence a travel).....  
So.....if you are trying to let the stronger player pull a ball away so as to not whistle a held ball and when it IS PULLED AWAY, a violation happens, it would be perfectly fine to have a whistle with a held ball *even if the held ball appears late*.

Friday Extra: Designated starters and when they can be changed, penalties and such is a GREAT review and would surprise many of us. Take a look at the casebook plays 3.2. There are 5 situations presented with some rulings not what many people would expect.

Friday Extra: This weekend is a great time to work on 'Just get one' new official! Invite a potential official to a game of yours, a meeting or just talk about what you/we do!

Have a great game tonight and a great weekend!

Tim