

Good morning!

Part of my and several of my good friend's pre-game ALWAYS has included 'if I come in to you on an OOB and you passed on a foul and just gave the ball to the 'right' team *because* you passed on the foul, just say 'I got this, Tim, I saw what happened' and I will know what you did.' Haven't we ALL passed on a foul on white, blue touches it last (so should be white ball) but we give it to blue because we passed on the foul on white – well, if you are old enough to have officiated many, many games?!

This has ALWAYS been part of my philosophy to keep some flow in the game and not be a game interrupter. That philosophy has changed with a post that was shared with me about just this type of play. Take a look at an example of this [here](#).

So obviously orange bumped white OOB, the L passed on the bump and game the ball to orange. Great philosophy, right? I think so also.....but in this play with 37 seconds left in a 10 point game where all has been relatively calm from the benches, we have a video review since in college it is permitted. The OOB was changed to orange ball because it DID go out off of white. Review does not permit the issuing of the foul that CAUSED the ball to go OOB.

Why do I say all of this for since we are under NFHS rules? Because EVERY GAME WE OFFICIATE is filmed. EVERY game has someone filming. EVERY call is scrutinized. This play and discussion has actually made me rethink my philosophy. With my pre-game last evening, we talked about this type of play and will now CALL THE FOUL. Not sure a TON arguments or questioning of calls have ensued from the 'pass on the foul, give it to the right team' philosophy, but I HAVE had a coach ask me about it during a game, and I bluntly told the coach 'I passed on a foul on your kid so just gave the ball to them'. Right or wrong – and it depends on the volatility of a particular coach – I said it.

All of us have different levels of comfort talking to coaches and explaining rules. In the game above the coach for white, who was up 10, now was not 'good' the last 37 seconds of the game. He didn't receive the foul that happened AND lost the ball. We cannot argue that from what we SEE on film.

BIGGEST advice from this...TALK about this type of play and philosophy with your friends, your crew and at meetings. There is a lot of good that can result from a discussion about this!

Friday extra: You are traveling 2 hours to a game (or even 10 minutes) and get almost there and stop at a convenience store and walk back to the car and realize your bag is at home.....ever done it?! Come on, admit it! Two options – go back and get it OR hope your partner has a spare uniform! So just remember your bag each night!

Have a great game tonight!

Tim