

Good morning!

So late last week and the weekend had a multitude of crazy games and plays. Most of us saw the VA/Duke end to regulation somewhere. [Here](#) is that play.

In our rules set, we must make the split second decision if the ball was released prior to the horn sounding. IF IT WAS released, we have to officiate the airborne shooter until no longer an airborne shooter – in other words, until the shooter returns to the floor. If the shot was NOT released before the horn, any contact is ignored unless it is intentional or flagrant (4-19-1 Note).

In the VA/Duke play, the ball is in the air before the horn sounds (lights are on). Since this happens, we need to officiate the airborne shooter until returning to the floor. If a foul is committed on the airborne shooter EVEN AFTER THE HORN SOUNDS, the foul is penalized.

The support for all of this is in rules 5-6-2 exceptions, 6-7 and 6-9 with the exception and note. There is a LOT that is associated with this, such as 9-3-3 (an opponent leaving the court for an unauthorized reason just to make the ball dead and thus the potential shot not counting) or 9-13-1 (an opponent swinging elbows excessively to make the ball dead and thus the potential shot not counting).

These types of plays happen SO INFREQUENTLY, but when they do, we MUST know the rule.

Regardless of what happened and what explanation was given by the ACC after this game, we do not have the luxury of viewing video to ‘help’ make our decision.

In my opinion, the shot attempt WAS released before the horn AND the contact for the foul was before the horn. In this case, the free throw(s) should be attempted since they affect going to OT or not. Even if the contact (deemed a foul) had been after the horn on the airborne shooter, the free throw(s) should be attempted if they would determine if we have an overtime period or not. Check out the case plays associated as well- like those in 6.7 and 5.6.

PHEW, those are DEEP rules and case plays!

Thursday extra: In regards to yesterday’s rebound on a contact, the phrase “Do not penalize strength. Strength is an aspect of athleticism.” Was sent by Scott Walters, Jr. This is a great phrase to think about. Thanks Scott!

Have a great game tonight! Hope you have a game that goes down to the wire, but not a release before the horn and a foul after!

Tim