



National Basketball Association

TO: TEAM OWNERS, GENERAL MANAGERS, COACHES AND OFFICIALS
FROM: MIKE BANTOM
DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 2015
RE: PERFORMANCE UPDATE AND TRAVEL CALLS

As we prepare to return from All Star break, we thought it would be a good time to provide you with an update on how we are doing and where we need to be focused in the latter part of the season. The attachment provides a synopsis of referee performance, with some key takeaways at the bottom of the page. Using data, we are able to identify areas we are doing well – and need to continue to do well – and where we need to improve. This is only a subset of the performance areas and we will continue to focus on all aspects of the game (including calling and on-court interactions).

As shown in the attachment, among call types (Figure 1), one area we need to focus on is travel calls, and in particular (Figure 2), picking up perimeter split-foot travels, and perimeter and post-pivot foot travels. The goal of raising this simultaneously with teams and referees is to a) remind teams of the rule so that they can focus on starting a legal dribble, and b) continue to remind referees to observe the pivot foot when the offensive player receives the ball and keep it in their periphery when defensive pressure is applied. Please review the travel plays below as a reminder on what constitutes illegal moves in the categories.

Of course, we continue to focus on all areas of performance, including D3s, O3s and fouls.

Split Foot and Pivot Foot Travels

When a stationary player has/receives the ball, he has the following options: i) pass or shoot without lifting or moving either foot, ii) jump to pass or shoot, but he must release the ball before returning to the floor, or iii) alter his stance before passing, shooting or starting to dribble. To alter his position legally, the player must maintain his pivot on the floor and he may move his other foot as many times and in any way he chooses.

To establish a pivot foot when the player has:

- Two feet on the floor, he can choose either foot to be his pivot,
- One foot on the floor, that foot is his pivot, or

- No foot on the floor (i.e., was in the air when he received the ball), the first foot to clearly land is his pivot foot.

Once he has established a pivot foot, the player may not lift, slide or use his pivot foot as an axis (walk on it from heel to toe) in order to gain another position on the floor, prior to releasing the ball to start the dribble.

If he lifts his foot before releasing the ball to start a dribble, it's a travel.

Here are examples of a player lifting a pivot foot before releasing the ball on the perimeter:

http://dmmx2.nba.com/video/redirect?&project=/bballops/bballops_Travel_13

http://dmmx2.nba.com/video/redirect?&project=/bballops/bballops_Travel_02

Here are examples of a player splitting his feet before releasing the ball on the perimeter, which is another way of lifting or sliding a pivot foot:

http://dmmx2.nba.com/video/redirect?&project=/bballops/bballops_Travel_06

http://dmmx2.nba.com/video/redirect?&project=/bballops/bballops_Travel_01

Here is an example of a player lifting his pivot foot on a spin move in the post:

http://dmmx2.nba.com/video/redirect?&project=/bballops/bballops_Travel_05

Here is an example of a player moving both feet prior to releasing the ball:

http://dmmx2.nba.com/video/redirect?&project=/bballops/bballops_Travel_10

Here is an example of a player dragging /sliding his pivot foot prior to releasing the ball:

http://dmmx2.nba.com/video/redirect?&project=/bballops/bballops_Travel_08

Here is an example of a player taking an illegal hop step:

http://dmmx2.nba.com/video/redirect?&project=/bballops/bballops_Travel_15

Here is an example of a player taking an extra step after ending the dribble:

http://dmmx2.nba.com/video/redirect?&project=/bballops/bballops_Travel_09

Here is an example of a player using an axis move (rocking heel to toe) to create space:

http://dmmx2.nba.com/video/redirect?&project=/bballops/bballops_Travel_17