VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Divisions I, II and III Coordinators of Men's Basketball Officials.

FROM: J.D. Collins  
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Because of the importance of this information, we appreciate your consideration and effort in providing this bulletin directly to all officials and head coaches in your conference. We believe that providing this information to each institution demonstrates a continuing commitment to maintaining and improving the officiating in every game. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

This information will also be available on the ‘Coordinator's Meeting’ section of the men’s basketball officiating website at www.ncaambb.arbitersports.com

1. We have had a positive start to the 2017-18 season. Officials are addressing the directive to reduce physicality in order to create freedom of movement in the six key areas.

2. Many of the topics we discuss today are repetitive. Often times information that gets repeated is the most critical. Reinforce today’s message with all of your officials. We are at a critical point in the season and now is the time for all of us to hold the line. We have continued to make progress in January on the six directives to reduce physicality. Conference season is half over and it is more important now that we reinforce to our officials the need for consistency in officiating to the directives. **Those six key directives are:**


   b. Freedom of movement for players without the ball - cutters.

   c. Screening – make sure all screens are legal.

      • Officials are addressing illegal screens. When a post player moves out to the wing/or FT line to set a backscreen, officials should be aware of time and distance, as well as wide screens. Officials should not split hairs on wide screens, but should continue to penalize excessively wide screens.
d. Offense initiated contact – do not reward offense initiated contact on legal defenders.

- Continue your efforts to not reward offense initiated contact on legal defenders. If the defender is legal, do not reward offense initiated contact. Pay specific attention to drives down the lane lines.

e. Physical post play – call the first displacement.

- We need to improve our efforts in calling offensive players for straight-arm ward-offs. Often time the defense is being penalized when the offense is warding off. We are addressing the defense laying on and swim stroking. Officials should move rapidly during a rotation from trail to center. Getting to the center position quicker may allow the center official to see the first foul in the post. We have room for improvement in the post, especially in addressing the offensive player warding off.


- We are making progress on rebounding fouls. It is imperative for the center and trail to get to a good initial starting position and close down on every shot. This movement will place the official in a much better position to see rebounding displacement.

g. The rules committee also gave a directive to give additional focus to the following four areas:

(1) Traveling – We are still struggling with traveling. Officials **MUST** find the pivot foot. We are still having officials not calling obvious travels in the post and on the perimeter. Also, officials are calling traveling on plays that are not travels. We are inconsistent in adjudicating travel plays and must get better in this area.

(2) Hook and hold plays – officials are more aware of this play and need to be diligent in penalizing the correct player.

(3) Wide screens – previously addressed in 2c.

(4) Strict enforcement of the coaches’ box and bench decorum – While there may be some progress in this area, most of the progress made should be credited to the coaches. Generally, I am disappointed in official’s approach to this issue. Some officials are addressing this issue and need to be complimented. Other officials are disregarding the coaches’ location and behavior. It is simple, if a coach is clearly and completely out of the coach’s box, issue a warning and subsequently issue a Class B technical foul. There have been situations where a coach is standing on the floor beside the official and it goes unaddressed. There are other instances situations where an official will run around the coach and it goes unaddressed. Officials **MUST** engage this process and use all of
their communication skills to make the coach comply with the rules. Officials need to do it now so conference play will be better. One last comment about the coaches’ box, in the past coaches have been in the habit of walking onto the floor to call a time out. If officials see this type of action, grant the timeout and communicate with the coach that they must stay in the coaches’ box to call timeout and that any subsequent action will result in a warning and then a technical foul. We must tighten up this type of action or it will become a problem later in the year.

h. Overall, we must stay diligent in adjudicating these directives. If we do our job in the non-conference season, it will make the conference season more bearable for all involved.

3. Relative to mechanics and signaling, I am asking the coordinators of officials to continue to support the following:

a. Stop the clock on all fouls and violations. I would like to compliment officials nationally for your efforts in this area.

b. The trail and center must get to an initial starting position at or near the 28’ hash and free-throw line extended respectively and adjust from there.

c. The trail and center must be willing to take 1-2 steps high or low to obtain better angles. Mobility is the key to finding better angles.

d. The trail and center must close down on all shots to enhance our chances of seeing rebounding displacement.

e. The trail and center officials must be mobile; to get better angles, to pick up the pivot foot in the post, to observe post activity and see rebound displacement fouls.

f. The center and trail must recognize when the ball is leaving their primary area and entering someone else’s primary. When the play is leaving your primary, the angles are diminishing. Some officials are carrying their vision too far into their secondary areas. Also, the center official MUST pick up this play and engage to call fouls when they occur.

g. The center official needs to be aware of post activity when he does not have an active matchup.

h. The trail official needs to move rapidly to the center position during a rotation. This may give him his only shot at seeing post physicality.

i. The lead official needs to clear the players, clear the 3-point arc, stop and report fouls to the table. We still are having to many officials walking to the table and not complying with
the required mechanics. With the extension of the coach’s box, it is more difficult for the scorer to find the reporting official.

j. Officials are doing a great job of using the new “shot clock is nearing expiring signal.”

k. Officials should protect the shooter all the way to floor. There are many new techniques sneaking into our game. Be sure to see the shooter to the floor.

l. I am seeing officials allow arm bars in the back of the offensive player outside the post area. If the offensive player is beyond 3’ feet outside the lane line, an arm bar is not allowed.

m. If we encourage our officials to stick to the basics listed in the CCA Mechanics Manual, we will do a better job of having the right official in the right position to make the right call.

4. Again, as I spoke to the Division I coordinators this week there were reoccurring plays that I would like to comment on that need our attention:

   a. Restricted area arc plays.

      (1) The trail and center officials must be more involved in restricted area arc play adjudication. It is imperative that they pick up the feet on restricted area arc plays and assist the lead when necessary.

      (2) The trail and center should not assist the lead in determining if the defender walled up and left the floor. This is strictly a judgment call on the lead’s part.

      (3) The lead official should only point to the restricted area arc when a blocking foul is being called because of the restricted area. Page 33 of the CCA Mechanics Manual says: “Note: if the foul called on the court is a blocking foul, not based on the player position/RA, the calling official should not point to the restricted area when signaling a foul. That will alert his partners that a blocking foul is being called without reference to the restricted area.” That said, if a blocking foul is being called because of the restricted area, the calling official must emphatically point to the RA indicating the blocking foul is being called because of the restricted area. Complying with this mechanic has implications on plays where the trail or center offers restricted area help.

      (4) As a reminder, a defender may establish legal guarding position outside the restricted area arc and retreat into the restricted area arc legally.
b. Time-out huddles.

- Please remind your officials to be diligent in allowing both teams to get to their huddles before beginning the time-out reporting procedure. If we do our part on the front end, the coaches will do their part in getting their teams out of the huddles. Let’s not slip on continuing the great efforts from last season.

5. Art Hyland, Secretary-Rules Editor comments.

a. 20 Second Reset (Rule 2-11.6 Exception).

- The 20 second reset rule applies only when there is a defensive foul or kicking/fisting violation and the ball is to be inbounded in the front court. In this case, the shot-clock will be reset to 20 seconds or the time remaining on the shot-clock whichever is greater.

It was never the intention of the rules committee to expand the 20 second reset beyond the limits of the rule as stated. For instance, if Team A attempts a try, there is no longer team control and Team A would get a 30 second reset if they regained possession or were fouled while the ball was loose during the try by Team B.

In addition, other than the Exception noted above, all other provisions of Rule 2-11.6 and .7 remain in effect.

b. Delays (Rule 4-10.d-g and 4-10.2).

- When a third delay occurs after a second warning has been given for a delay which is different from the first delay, a technical foul shall be assessed in accordance with the delay penalty prescribed for the third type of delay. For instance, if the first and second delays are different but both call for an administrative technical and the third delay calls for a Class B technical, the officials should assess a Class B Technical.

c. Throw-ins (Rule 7-3 and 7-4). The following throw-in provisions are in effect immediately:

(1) Front Court.

a) Any foul or violation by the defense where the offense retains possession (other than the defense causing the ball to be out of bounds), use the line of demarcation referenced in Rule 7-3.2.b to determine the closest 28 foot line or spot on the end line 3 feet outside the lane line.
b) When the ball is deflected out of bounds or caused to be out of bounds by the
defense, the throw-in shall be from a designated spot nearest to where the violation
occurred.

c) When the offense is granted a timeout while the ball is live, the throw-in shall be
from the nearest of the four spots as determined by the line of demarcation.

d) When either team is granted a timeout when the ball is dead, the throw-in shall be
from a designated spot nearest to where the ball became dead.

e) When the offense attempts a try and there is a foul by the defense while the ball is
loose, the throw-in shall be from the nearest of the 4 spots as determined by the line
of demarcation.

f) When the defense commits either a single contact dead ball technical or single
flagrant 2 technical, the throw-in shall be from the division line on either side of
the court. (Rule 7-4.16.a &.b)

(2) Backcourt.

a) When the offensive team commits an offensive foul or violation (including causing
the ball to be out of bounds) or the defense is awarded the ball after a held ball, the
throw-in for the defensive team (now becomes the offense) will be at the closest of
the four spots using the line of demarcation.

b) When the defense commits any personal/technical foul or violation, the throw-in
shall be from a designated spot nearest to where the foul/violation occurred.

(3) 2017-18 CCA Manual.

a) Page 85, Art 4 A – Add “by the defense” after “violation”.

b) Page 85, Art 4 B – Add “by the defense” after “violation”.

c) Add the same language as in b.1.above to cover offensive fouls/violations in the
backcourt.

d. Miscellaneous Clarifications

(1) Rule 3-6.1.j Exception – Team A replaces A1 with A2; Team B then replaces player
B1, B2 and B3 with B4, B5 and B6. A1, B1, B2, and B3 are all subject to the tick of
the clock rule. On the subsequent throw-in by Team B, a Team B player commits a foul
or throw-in violation before the ball is legally touched inbounds.
Ruling – A1 may re-enter the game and Team B may counter with one or more substitutes who were subject to the tick of the clock rule. If A1 does not re-enter the game, none of the Team B players that are subject to the tick of the clock rule may re-enter the game. All substitutes who are not subject to the tick of the clock rule may enter the game any time substitutions are permitted by rule.

(2) Division Line Throw-in (Rule 7-4.16.a & .b) The requirement for a division line throw-in under this rule applies only to a single flagrant 2 technical or single contact dead ball technical. It does not apply to a flagrant 1 personal or flagrant 2 personal foul. After a flagrant 1 or flagrant 2 personal foul, play is resumed with a throw-in from a designated spot using the procedures set forth in Section 3 of these Comments.

(3) Instant Replay – The use of instant replay is divided into “Voluntary” use (Rule 11-2) and “Mandatory” use (Rule 11-3). The use of instant replay for those plays which are noted under voluntary use is at the discretion of the officials. There is no discretion for those replays noted under mandatory use.

6. General Comments/Questions and Answers.

   a. Please emphasize to your veteran officials that they have a leadership role in enforcing the directive to reduce physicality; slowing down the beginning of time-outs, enforcing delay of game warnings and using proper mechanics.

   b. I would like to remind each coordinator on the call that you have an extremely important leadership role in accomplishing all that we have talked about today. We all need to be on the same page pulling in the same direction.

   c. We have had a good start to the 2017-18 season. Let’s all commit to making this the best season possible.