



MEMORANDUM

December 20, 2019

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Division I Directors of Athletics and Head Men's Basketball Coaches.

FROM: Judy MacLeod
NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Oversight Committee, Chair

Dan Leibovitz
NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Competition Committee, Chair

Tad Boyle
NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee, Chair

SUBJECT: 2019-20 Men's Basketball Progress and Challenge

As we look forward to the beginning of conference play, we are writing to give you an update on the current trends in the game, to provide observations with regard to the recent rules changes and officiating directives, and to challenge the men's basketball community.

As of Dec. 15, the following statistical data year-over-year is noteworthy:

- Scoring is down 2.77 PPG (-3.8%).
- 3-point field goal percentage is down 0.9% (33.0%).
- 3-point field goal attempts (-3.1%) and makes (-5.7%) are down.
- Points per possession are down 3.0% (0.99).
- Fouls are down 1.21 FPG (-6.5%).
- Free throws attempted are down 1.61 FTPG (-8.2%).

There are several potential reasons for these declines, including the impact of recent rules changes as well as enforcement of these rules.

Deeper 3-point line: Anticipated impact during first season of adjustment on scoring and spacing. The last time the line was extended, there was a similar impact initially, but the shooting percentage increased the following years. Improved wider spacing is allowing more freedom for the offense to dribble/penetrate into the lane area, which has potentially made defending the dribbler more difficult resulting in more physical play. The marginal decline in enforcement of fouls may be affecting the ability of an offensive player to beat his opponent and has thus negatively influenced offensive efficiency and scoring.

20-second reset after an offensive rebound: Has forced teams to shoot within a tighter time frame possibly impacting offensive efficiency.

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The most concerning data point backed by broad observation is the decline in fouls per game. J.D. Collins, NCAA national coordinator of officials, agrees and believes nationally officials have been hesitant to enforce physicality fouls on a consistent basis. He and the coordinators of officials of the 32 conferences have been urging officials to call the appropriate fouls as written, but improvement is still necessary. Collins believes that our most senior officials need to be leading in this effort.

In closing, we believe that men's college basketball is in a good place, yet we need to stay committed so the progress we have made in recent years to reduce physicality stays intact. We are challenging all participants and stakeholders to embrace the directive, as men's college basketball deserves our attention in reducing physicality. Coordinators and officials must work together to reduce the number of no-call incorrect plays in each game and call the rules as written — including the directive to reduce physicality to create freedom of movement. Consistency is the most important factor to any coach. We are convinced if we communicate this message to coaches and then make the calls, players will adjust to stricter adherence of the rules for a less physical game.

Thank you for your support of this important challenge. Best wishes for a happy holiday season.

JM/DL/TB:blt

cc: Mr. J.D. Collins

Mr. Jim Haney

Mr. Art Hyland

Mr. Reggie Minton

NCAA Division I Conference Commissioners

NCAA Division I Conference Coordinators of Men's Basketball Officiating

NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee

NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Oversight Committee

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