Report of the NCAA Men’s Basketball Rules Committee

May 2012 Annual Meeting

1. Playing Surface Requirements.

The playing court must be completely finished in a manner that is similar throughout, including the three-foot sideline and restricted area behind the baseline. It is the responsibility of the host game management to ensure the court is of a consistent finish, including any logos or decals that are legally allowed on the floor.

2. Block/Charge plays. The committee expressed concern regarding the number of incorrect block/charge calls, especially those called as charges which should have been, by rule, blocking fouls. After viewing numerous examples, the committee developed several key teaching points for immediate implementation:

- Before the offensive player (with the ball) becomes airborne, the defender must have two feet on the floor, be facing the opponent and be stationary to draw a charge. Otherwise it should be a blocking foul.
- Secondary defenders (help defenders) moving forward and/or to the side are also in violation and these should be blocking fouls.
- Contact that is “through the chest” is not de facto proof of a charge. The rule in its entirety must be considered before making a foul determination.
- In some cases, it appears that a defender is being rewarded solely for being outside the arc, without considering the other aspects of the rules.

3. Sportsmanship Guidelines. The committee approved a revised set of guidelines to support the Men’s College Basketball Officiating, LLC (MCBO) initiative to improve the men’s basketball game environment. The revised guidelines appear at the end of this document.

4. Approved Ruling. The committee voted to change the interpretation to count the goal in current Approved Ruling 34, Ruling (1) when it can be determined that a foul occurred before the game clock expired.

5. Future Considerations. While this is not a rules-change year, the committee did discuss several rule concepts and shares them below as future considerations:
Goaltending. There is support in the committee to remove the requirement that a ball striking the backboard must be completely above the rim for goaltending to be called if the shot is blocked. Additionally, there was some support for not calling goaltending when a shot clearly has no chance to go in the basket.

Ten Seconds to Cross Midcourt. There is support for only allowing 10 seconds to advance the ball, even if there is a timeout or a deflection out of bounds by the defensive team. Along with this change, the game clock would start when the ball is first touched, but the shot clock would not start until team control is established. This would allow officials to use the shot clock for 10-second counts.

End of Game Situations. There is support for expanding the use of the monitor in late game situations (Rule 2-13.3). In addition, there is support for permitting the use of the monitor to review out of bounds (e.g., deflections) calls during the last minute of play.

Team benches during timeouts. The committee is considering limiting teams to their bench area during timeouts. The cleanup after timeouts is increasingly becoming an issue to the resumption of play.

Coaches calling timeouts during play. Issues remain with this play and the committee continues to work on officiating this situation properly.

Coaches interfering with play. The committee authorized the secretary-editor to draft an approved ruling which would penalize bench personnel for interfering with play under Rule 10-6.2.h.

Disqualification – Five fouls. The committee discussed alternatives to the current five foul limit and will continue to consider new concepts.

Shots over the backboard. There is some interest in permitting a shot to be taken from behind the backboard. Currently, any ball passing over the backboard in either direction is considered to be out of bounds.

Elbow Rule. The committee is reviewing the swinging of the elbow rule for possible future adjustment. Overall, the committee continues to be in support of this rule but believes some aspects of the rule and its adjudication may be improved.
Appendix III
Officiating Guidelines

Section 1. Bench Decorum

a. Unsportsmanlike Conduct. Coaches and bench personnel are expected to adhere to the specific rules set forth in Rule 10-5.2. Repeated or prolonged violations of these rules should result in a technical foul being assessed against the coach or other bench personnel. More egregious conduct violations, while inside or outside the coaching box, should be properly and consistently penalized with a technical foul without warning.

Examples of egregious conduct violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Comments directed at or referring to any game official that question the integrity of an official (i.e., repeated references to the number of fouls called against each team; suggesting an official is “cheating” a team, etc.).

2. Profane, vulgar, threatening, or derogatory remarks or personal comments relating to race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation directed at or referring to any game official or opposing player/bench personnel.

3. Prolonged, negative responses to a call/no-call which is disrespectful or unprofessional and includes, but is not limited to: thrashing the arms in disgust, dramatizing contact by re-enacting the play, or running or jumping in disbelief over a call/non-call.

4. A negative response to a call/no-call including, but not limited to, approaching/charging an official in a hostile, aggressive or otherwise threatening manner, emphatically removing one's coat in response to a call/no-call or throwing equipment or clothing on to the floor.

5. Continual criticism during a game regarding the same incident after warning by an official.

Officials should permit certain behavior by the head coach who engages in spontaneous reactions to officiating calls and non-calls provided the coach remains in the coaching box and the reaction is not prolonged, profane, vulgar, or threatening. At the official’s discretion, repeated spontaneous reactions by the head coach may result in a warning with subsequent incidents resulting in a technical foul.

In all cases, the official should consider whether the complaint was heard by persons other than the official and whether the complaint was directed toward the call/no-call or was a personal
attack on the official. When complaints become more public or the attacks personal to the official, there should be less discretion exercised by the official.

b. Coaching box. Failure to comply with the rule results in a distinct advantage that is not within the spirit and intent of the rules. The rule is clear and concise. The head coach or any other bench personnel may not be outside the prescribed coaching box except when otherwise permitted by rule. After a warning, for the first violation, a technical foul should be assessed for any subsequent infraction.

c. Assistant coaches and bench personnel. All bench personnel, with the exception of the head coach, are required to be seated on the bench while the ball is live except to react spontaneously to an outstanding play and then to immediately return to sitting on the bench. Violations by players, and especially assistant coaches, should not be tolerated by officials. When assistant coaches or bench personnel are violating bench decorum rules in a minor way, the official shall inform the head coach and request that he/she handle the situation. This is an official warning. Any further violation by bench personnel shall result in a technical foul assessed to the offender. Egregious (blatant) conduct violations by assistant coaches or bench personnel need no warning and shall immediately result in a technical foul. A technical foul assessed to bench personnel is also assessed as a CLASS B technical foul to the head coach.