



## MEMORANDUM

April 17, 2018

VIA EMAIL

TO: All NCAA Game Officials and Conference Officiating Coordinators.

FROM: J.D. Collins  
NCAA National Coordinator of Men's Basketball Officiating.

SUBJECT: Summer teaching points – mechanics.

Greetings to all Game Officials and Coordinators!

The CCA Mechanics Committee met during the Final Four in San Antonio. There will be additional changes to our Mechanics Manual that will be explained during the fall regional clinics. As we prepare for summer camps and the 2018-19 basketball season, the Mechanics Committee would like to offer the following mechanics teaching points from the Mechanics Committee:

1. **Foul reporting:**

- a. Make sure that you clear the players, clear the 3-point arc and have line of sight with the scorer (**page 23 of the 2017-18 Mechanics Manual**). Walking to the table from lead is unacceptable, put some zip into your movement to report.
- b. When you call a foul in your primary area, report the foul to the table. We need to force switches in order to get officials in different positions on the floor.

2. **Stopping the clock** – Previous Mechanics Manuals referred to this as we “would like” the official to stop the clock. The 2017-18 manual made stopping the clock mandatory. Stopping the clock will make us better officials, allow ourselves additional time to gain insights on each play as they happen and eliminate blarghes from our game (**page 25**).

3. **Communication** – It is very important after a foul is called that we communicate effectively. Often times, our officials have a favorite “signal” that they use at the scorer’s table or at the spot of the foul. It is the official’s responsibility to communicate “what happened” on each play using the appropriate signal (**pages 80, 86-90, 92, 124, 129, 131-132 and 156-166**).

4. **Staying at trail after a foul** – Again this year, staying at trail after reporting a foul will be an option if the official thinks that he may have a chance to defuse a coach. Officials need to be aware of the coach’s reactions and utilize this mechanic as needed to help the game.

5. **The “legally walled up signal”** – The legally walled up signal was used during the 2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons. This signal will be used again in 2018-19 and should only be used by the lead official. The center and trail should not use this signal. **In addition, the lead official should not**

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overuse this signal; it should only be used after the play is complete. During the 2017-18 season, the lead official used this signal too quickly and too often.

6. **Clock awareness** – The 2017-18 mechanics manual stressed the importance of clock awareness. We are developing the suggested mechanics and will communicate those during the fall clinics. Officials did a great job of being clock aware last season. Officials should point to the “shot clock at/under 10 seconds” momentarily. This signal should not be prolonged.

7. **Lead position – Throw-ins:**

- a. During a half court throw-in, the lead should position himself according to **page 63** of the Mechanics Manual. We have chosen to go inside the player too often. The lead official will now be given the option to position adjust inside the thrower-in (baseline 3’ outside the lane) during the last few seconds of a period or shot clock period. This could allow the lead official to be in better position on imminent scoring plays.
- b. During a backcourt baseline throw-in, the lead official will be given the option to stay on one side of the lane and bounce the ball to the offensive player on the other side of the lane when there is no pressure. This will decrease the number of times the center and trail have to reset and change position. This will be detailed in the fall clinics.

8. **Positioning:**

a. **Trail official:**

- (1) Should have an initial starting position at or **inside** the 28’ hash.
- (2) Should close down to get the best angle to officiate each play (**pages 29-30**). In addition, it is important that our trail official does not “bail out” to begin covering a play at the other end.
- (3) Should move 1-2 steps high or low to obtain a better angle between players depending on the movement of the ball. It is important to move with a purpose and not get straight-lined by your movements.
- (4) Should release plays that curl away to the new primary official.
- (5) Should focus on obvious “reset the feet” travels on the perimeter and travels in the post.
- (6) Should be even with or a ½ step behind the ball handler in the back court and should not allow a gap between the ball handler and the trail official. This action will better position the trail official when arriving in the front court.
- (7) On sideline throw-ins, should hand the ball to the thrower-in, unless there is an active matchup that requires protection further back. In this case, the official should back away from the thrower-in to protect the active matchup and bounce the ball to the thrower-in.

b. **Center official:**

- (1) Should have an initial starting position at or **inside** the free throw line extended.
- (2) Should close down to get the best angle to officiate each play (**pages 31-32**).
- (3) Should move 1-2 steps high or low to obtain a better angle between players depending on the movement of the ball. It is important to move with a purpose and not get straight-lined by your movements.
- (4) Should not leave a “good view” of an active play just because the lead rotated. After the “active play” has changed rotate to proper position.

- (5) Should officiate primary defenders on block/charge plays to the rim from center side.
  - (6) Should officiate the restricted arc line on secondary defenders on block/charge plays to the rim from center side.
  - (7) Should release plays that curl away to the new primary official.
  - (8) Should focus on obvious “reset the feet” travels on the perimeter and travels in the post.  
Find the pivot in the post!
- c. **Lead official:**
- (1) Should mirror the ball at Lead. It is imperative that we begin to close down as the ball moves toward the opposite side. This will allow us to be in a better position to rotate, if a rotation is needed (**pages 26-28**).
  - (2) Should officiate all primary and secondary defenders on block/charge plays to the rim down the lane and from strong side.
  - (3) Should officiate secondary defenders on block/charge plays initiated from weak side.
  - (4) Should “take fouls to the table” on all plays to the rim in his primary area of responsibility when calling a foul.
9. **Free throw administration:**
- There is significant pressure from the stakeholders to reduce the total game time and number of stoppages in the game. Officials should be aware of this and discourage delays during free throws. In addition, officials should generally administer free throws in a timelier fashion.
10. **Traveling:**
- When a player catches the ball, officials should officiate from the floor up. Find the pivot foot and then move your eyes up to officiate potential contact.
11. **Foul calling procedure:**
- Officials should post a foul (stop the clock), give a preliminary signal (if needed) and pause before leaving to report the foul. We have been leaving the scene too quickly to report a foul. Slowing this process down will put officials in a better position to discourage unsporting behavior.
12. **Legal guarding position:**
- Officials should review Rule 4 Section 17 on pages 48-50 of the Rules Book. This section deals with establishing legal guarding position and moving to maintain legal guarding position. We have the opportunity to be better at these plays, especially when offense initiated contact is involved.
13. **Mechanics rules quizzes:**
- The Mechanics Committee encourages coordinators of officials to give mechanics quizzes during classroom sessions at camp. It is all about positioning. If we can teach our officials to dig into the Mechanics Manual, we will naturally be in a better position to get the calls right.
14. **Rules Committee action:** The rules committee will meet May 9 – 11, 2018 in Indianapolis. All rules changes and impacted mechanics will be shared with you during the fall clinics.

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As we all look toward the Fall, I offer the following information for your future planning:

1. Coordinators rules meeting/clinic – September 7, 2018, in Indianapolis, Indiana, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (approximate). The Mechanics Committee will meet the afternoon of September 6, 2018.

2. 2018 Officials' regional clinics:

<u>City</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Phoenix, AZ	Marriott Phoenix Airport	Saturday, Sept. 22
Indianapolis, IN	Fairfield Inn/NCAA Office	Saturday, Oct. 6
Atlanta, GA	Atlanta Airport Marriott	Sunday, Oct. 14
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia Airport Marriott	TBD

Please note: Information regarding the clinics and hotel accommodations will be sent out at a later date. Do not contact any of the hotels until this information is officially made available.

I hope you have a great off-season! My contact information is shown below. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions, comments or input.

Best regards,



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