



ARBITER POSTING

January 26, 2021

TO: NCAA Division I basketball officials
NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Coordinators of Officials.

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

SUBJECT: NCAA to change the number of officials selected to the 2021 MBB championship.

The NCAA men's basketball committee has approved a change in the number of officials selected to the 2021 NCAA men's basketball championship. Instead of the normal process of selecting 100 officials and nine stand-by officials, a total of 60 officials will be selected this year.

The change in the number of officials will provide the following:

- The opportunity for officials to work more games from the First Four through second round.
- The opportunity for officials that work deep into the tournament to work more games throughout the tournament.
- The highest quality of officiating possible during the pandemic.
- An incentive for selected officials (independent contractors) to quarantine for the duration of the NCAA championship.
- A smaller number of officials to manage within the NCAA Tournament format.

This year selected officials will be notified earlier (Week of March 1-5, 2021) since they will be required to provide seven consecutive days of negative COVID-19 testing prior to their arrival in Indianapolis. Officials will also be asked to arrive in Indy on Sunday, March 14, 2021 or by noon at the latest on Monday, March 15, 2021 for officials working conference championships on Sunday and can't get a flight into Indianapolis Sunday night prior to the first scheduled game on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

Details regarding the testing processes, protocols and tracking for selected officials will be forthcoming. The NCAA will utilize all testing completed by conferences as part of the seven-day protocol.

While this is a one-year departure from the norm, we have all learned to adjust during the pandemic and this structure will allow officiating to be successful in the 2021 NCAA Tournament.

For those that have previous NCAA Tournament experience and are not selected, please understand that this has been a very difficult decision and we plan to return to our normal format next season. For those that are on the cusp of being selected for the first time, I know this information is disappointing. Please continue to improve your craft and the opportunities will be available in the future.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to a successful 2021 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship.

JDC:BLT

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