



MEMORANDUM

April 29, 2021

VIA EMAIL

TO: All NCAA 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!

I hope this e-mail finds you well. I hope that you and all of your families are healthy and safe. The 2020-21 season was successful because of your efforts and discipline to endure the COVID-19 protocols. Thank you for all you do to make our game better.

The CCA Mechanics Committee met on April 21st to discuss the 2021-22 Mechanics Manual. The number of mechanics changes will be minimal in this rules change year. However, our focus should be on perfecting our current mechanics. Any changes to our Mechanics Manual will be explained during the fall regional clinics. As we prepare for summer camps and the 2021-22 basketball season, the Mechanics Committee would like to offer the following mechanics teaching points:

1. **Mechanics reminder.** In 2020 the Mechanics Committee eliminated the closed fist “air punch” signal during a player control/team control foul. The proper mechanic should be 1) Stop the clock; 2) Point to the other end; 3) Place a hand behind your head signaling a player control foul. Too many times when an official used the “air punch” with a closed fist, it was misinterpreted for a “count the basket signal.” Let’s work hard to implement this signal.
2. **Foul reporting.**
 - a. Make sure that you clear the players, clear the 3-point arc and have line of sight with the scorer (**page 23-24 of the 2020-21 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.
 - c. Pausing at the scene of the foul is critical to the process. It will help ensure no unsporting behavior happens and allow you to know the number of the fouler.
3. **Communication.** It is very important after a foul is called that officials communicate effectively. Often times, officials have a favorite “signal” they use at the scorer’s table or at

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the spot of the foul. It is the official's responsibility to communicate "what happened" on each play using the appropriate signal (**pages 84, 93-96, 98, 129, 135, 137-138 and 169-179**).

4. **Clock awareness.** The mechanics manual stresses the importance of clock awareness. Officials did a great job of being clock aware last season. The off official should point to the "shot clock at/under 10 seconds" momentarily. We do not want the on-ball official to take his eyes off the active matchup. This signal should not be prolonged.
5. **Flopping.** Officials should judge the action to be either illegal (call a foul) or incidental. If the contact is incidental, determine if the defender flopped and adjudicate accordingly.
6. **Legal guarding position.** Review the rules book (**Rule 4-17**) to understand "establishing legal guarding position" and "moving to maintain legal guarding position."
7. **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 the 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 be even with or 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.
 - (5) 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.
 - (6) Should have a patient whistle when a play leaves your primary area and moves away from you. We have had too many missed calls on plays that curl away from the trail. Trust your partners!
 - (7) Should have a cadence whistle on plays to the rim outside your primary area of coverage. The lead official should have first crack at plays in his primary.
 - b. **Center official:**
 - (1) Should move in transition from the free throw line extended to half court and pause to see if the ball is coming C-side. If the ball is not coming C-side, then the center should move to the free throw line extended in the front court.
 - (2) Should have an initial starting position at or inside the free throw line extended.
 - (3) Should close down to get the best angle to officiate each play (**page 31**).

- (4) 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.
 - (5) 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.
 - (6) Should officiate primary defenders on block/charge plays to the rim from center side.
 - (7) Should officiate the restricted arc line on secondary defenders on block/charge plays to the rim from center side.
 - (8) Should focus on obvious “reset the feet” travels on the perimeter and travels in the post. Find the pivot in the post!
 - (9) Should have a patient whistle when a play leaves your primary area and moves away from you. We have had too many missed calls on plays that curl away from the center. Trust your partners.
 - (10) Should have a cadence whistle on plays to the rim outside your primary area of coverage. The lead official should have first crack at plays in his primary.
- c. **Lead official:**
- (1) **Should mirror the ball at lead.** It is imperative that officials begin to close down as the ball moves toward the opposite side. This will allow you to be in a better position to rotate, if a rotation is needed (**pages 26-28**).
 - (2) **Should not call across the paint on plays above the backboard.** The center official should be active on these plays and has a much better look above the board.
 - (3) Should officiate all primary and secondary defenders on block/charge plays to the rim down the lane and from strong side.
 - (4) Should officiate secondary defenders on block/charge plays initiated from weak side.
8. **Traveling.** When a player catches the ball, it is imperative that officials officiate from the floor up. Find the pivot foot and then move your eyes up to officiate potential contact.
9. **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.
10. **Mechanics rules quizzes.** The Mechanics Committee encourages coordinators of officials to give mechanics quizzes during classroom sessions at camp. It is all about positioning. Teach officials to dig into the Mechanics Manual to help them be in a better position to get the calls right.
11. **Rules Committee action.** The rules committee will meet May 5 – 7, 2021. All rule 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 (pending COVID-19 implications):

Since this is a rule change year, our intent is to have the coordinator's meeting and the officials' fall regional clinics in-person. We hope to have this information finalized and disseminated on or near June 1, 2021. All of our planning is subject to the impact of COVID-19 in the future.

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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