MEMORANDUM

December 14, 2016

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Divisions I, II and III Coordinators of Men’s Basketball Officials.

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

Art Hyland
NCAA Men’s Basketball Secretary-Rules Editor.

SUBJECT: Bulletin No. 2 – December 12, 2016, Teleconference Follow-Up.

Because of the importance of this information, we appreciate your consideration and effort in providing this bulletin directly to all officials and head coaches in your conference. We believe that providing this information to each institution demonstrates a continuing commitment to maintaining and improving the officiating in every game. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

This information will also be available on the 'Coordinator's Meeting' section of the men's basketball officiating website at www.ncaambb.arbitersports.com

1. Compliments should the coordinators given on a positive start to the 2016/17 season. Officials are addressing the directive to reduce physicality in order to create freedom of movement in the six key areas.


   c. Screening – make sure all screens are stationary.

   d. Offense initiated contact – do not reward offense initiated contact on legal defenders both on the perimeter and on drives to the basket.

   e. Physical post play – call the first displacement.

   f. Rebounding.

   This is one specific area where we need to show improvement. We need to improve our efforts in calling offensive players for straight-arm ward-offs. If the offensive player uses a straight arm, makes contact and wards off the defender, it is a foul. This is a difficult play because the trail usually has the ball in his primary and the lead is looking at the backside...
of the play. When the lead official sees post players that habitually "body up" he needs to rotate quicker and with more of a purpose. This will put him in a better position to see the first foul. As a reminder, if both players foul simultaneously, call a double foul. I am asking the coordinators of officials to continue to support calling double fouls in this situation. We have room for improvement in the post, especially in addressing the offensive player warding off.

Overall, we must stay diligent in adjudicating these directives. If our officials will call the first foul, whether at the beginning of the game or the end of the game, it will make the conference season more bearable for all involved.

2. I have spoken with almost every Division I coordinator in the last week. We are all seeing reoccurring trends in our positioning and mechanics. Relative to mechanics and signaling, I am asking the coordinators of officials to continue to support the following:

a. Stop the clock on all fouls and violations. When officials don't stop the clock on fouls and violations, only bad things happen. As stated on the video, fast does not always equal strong. We must encourage our officials to change habits and begin to stop the clock on all fouls and violations.

b. The trail and center must get to an initial starting position at or near the 28’ hash and free-throw line extended respectively and adjust from there. Encourage your officials to intentionally step down to the 28’ hash at least once on every possession. It is extremely important that the trail become engaged in front court plays. In order to do this, he must get to a good initial starting position and close down.

c. The trail and center must be willing to take 1-2 steps high or low to obtain better angles. Mobility is the key to finding better angles. I am still seeing many officials standing flat footed at trail and center.

d. The trail and center must close down on all shots to enhance our chances of seeing rebounding displacement.

e. The trail and center officials must be mobile; to get better angles, to pick up the pivot foot in the post, to observe post activity and see rebound displacement fouls.

f. The trail and center must recognize when the ball is leaving their primary area and entering someone else's primary. When the playing is leaving your primary, the angles are diminishing. I am seeing officials carrying their vision too far into their secondary areas. Many of the coordinators shared this concern with me. Let's all reinforce this message to our officials.
g. I am still seeing lead officials walking to the table on foul reports. Please encourage your officials to put some zip into their movement to the table.

h. I would like to remind everyone that when there is less than 30 seconds left in a period, the trail official MUST have a visible 10-second backcourt count. By rule, we are not allowed to use the game clock for our 10-second count in this situation.

If we encourage our officials to stick to the basics listed in the CCA Mechanics Manual, we will do a better job of having the right official in the right position to make the right call.

3. I would like to comment on several plays that need attention:

a. Restricted area arc plays.

(1) The trail and center officials must be more involved in restricted area arc play adjudication. It is imperative that they pick up the feet on restricted area arc plays and assist the lead when necessary.

(2) The center official must realize that on all plays, except a primary defender from the center side, one of his responsibilities is to pick up the feet and the restricted area arc.

(3) The trail and center should not assist the lead in determining if the defender walled up and left the floor. This is strictly a judgment call on the lead's part.

b. Bench decorum and coaching box violations.

As a reminder, officials should initially use all of their approachability skills with coaches. If a coach is violating the decorum rules and/or the coaches box, the official should address the situation. Thereafter, the official should issue a warning, either verbally or a book warning for coaches' box violations. If the coach then chooses to violate bench decorum or the coaches box, officials should issue a technical foul. Again, as I talked with each of the coordinators this theme was prevalent. Officials need to begin addressing bench decorum issues.

c. Time-out huddles.

Please remind your officials to be diligent with allowing both teams to get to their huddles before beginning the time-out reporting procedure. If we do our part on the front end, the coaches will do their part in getting their teams out of the huddles.
d. Traveling.

We are doing a better job of finding the pivot foot in the post. Emphasize to your officials the importance of finding the pivot foot. We should not be splitting hairs on traveling plays, but should be calling them as we see them. Coaches really get frustrated when we call traveling violations that are not travels. We can continue to improve by finding the pivot foot.

e. Team Control Fouls.

It is very important for our crews to discuss team control fouls during the pre-game. The off official often times has the best look at whether team control has changed. When we do call a team control foul, the team control signal should be used during the foul report to indicate that we are not shooting free throws. I know that the officials are more aware of this issue now and we need continue to be diligent with our rules application.

4. Art Hyland, Secretary Rules Editor comments.


In Rule 5-1.15, it refers to a goal not counting after a player-control foul has been committed. In A.R. 163 there are two fouls, one by the offense and the other by the defense, making this a double foul and not a player-control foul. Therefore, the double foul rules set forth in Rule 7-4 apply. Furthermore, the intent of our case plays is to clarify rules which are not set forth explicitly in the rule book. It does not mean they should not be given the same weight as if they appeared in the rule book. Finally, please see the "note" which is at the end of A.R. 163 specifically to clarify the requirement that the player-control foul be the only foul in order for 5-1.15 to apply.

b. Shot clocks – LED light illumination not required.

In reference to the LED lights on the backboard per Rule 1-18.4, they are used solely for the purpose of determining when a period has ended per Rule 5-7.2. When the LED lights are not visible, the period shall end with the sounding of the game-clock horn.

In reference to LED lights on the shot-clock, first they are not mandatory per 1-19.4 and second, they should not be used to determine if a shot-clock violation occurred. In addition, per Rule 11-1.3, when using instant replay to determine if a shot-clock violation occurred, the officials must use the sounding of the shot-clock horn first and then zeroes on the shot-clock next if the horn is inaudible. The shot-clock LED lights are not to be used to determine shot-clock violations.
c. Reminder – monitor review for elbows plays – must have a call on the floor!

   When adjudicating cylinder plays followed by a monitor review, it is very important that officials MUST have a call on the floor before they go to the monitor to see if a flagrant foul occurred.

5. General Comments/Questions and Answers:

   a. Please emphasize to your veteran officials that they have a significant leadership role in enforcing the directive to reduce physicality; slowing down the beginning of time-outs, enforcing delay of game warnings and using proper mechanics.

   b. I would like to remind each coordinator on the call that you have an extremely important leadership role in accomplishing all that we have talked about today. We all need to be on the same page pulling in the same direction.

   c. We have had a good start to the 2016-17 season. Let's all commit to making this the best season possible.

   d. Please note the dates of our upcoming conference calls:

      Monday, January 9, 2017 at 11 a.m. Eastern.
      Monday, February 6, 2017 at 11 a.m. Eastern.