



MEMORANDUM

October 23, 2017

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Division I Directors of Athletics and Head Men's Basketball Coaches.

FROM: Jeff Hathaway  
NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Oversight Committee Chair.

SUBJECT: Sportsmanship.

As basketball's regular season begins, the Division I Men's Basketball Oversight Committee wants to emphasize its clear expectations regarding sportsmanship:

***The highest level of respect and integrity, which embody good sportsmanship, must be exhibited throughout the 2017-18 Division I Men's Basketball Season and Championship.***

As athletic directors and head coaches, we have a mutual responsibility to serve as leaders and role models in this regard. Basketball is a competitive game which, by its very nature, may lead to adversarial relationships between opponents. However, the relationship should not foster a negative interaction. Individuals should employ a behavior that respects the skill level of an opponent and should not create an atmosphere that negatively influences the attitude of the game.

**Accordingly, the committee would like institutions and conferences to take strong action in response to any form of misconduct and/or unsportsmanlike behavior by student-athletes, coaches and/or administrators/support personnel during the season.** In this regard, the Men's Basketball Oversight Committee expects all game officials to **strictly and consistently enforce the bench decorum and strictly enforce the coaching box rules**. As outlined in Rule 10, Sections 3, 4 and Appendix III of the 2017-18 Men's Basketball Rules Book, the committee encourages conferences to instruct their officials to have a renewed focus and appropriately penalize the following types of unsportsmanlike behavior by student-athletes and/or coaches, including but not limited to:

1. Comments directed at or referring to any game official that question the integrity of an official (e.g., 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/no-call.

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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 receiving a warning from an official.
6. Taunting, baiting, ridiculing, finger pointing, trash talking or inappropriate gestures (obscene, provoking, and intimidating).

When these activities are witnessed by fans in attendance, or by those watching a broadcast, such actions also damage the game – which is a concern to all that support the principles of sportsmanship. All stakeholders must agree that behavior exhibited by coaches, student-athletes and institutional personnel should portray the highest ideals of higher education and intercollegiate athletics.

In order to be considered for selection to officiate in the NCAA Championship, officials will be expected to consistently enforce the rules as written during the regular season.

In closing, please note that the Men's Basketball Oversight Committee will monitor decorum throughout the regular season. With your leadership, we can demonstrate our personal, as well as our collective, commitment to ensuring that the season will continue to be a great experience for student-athletes and fans alike.

We fully anticipate and appreciate your cooperation to further enhance sportsmanship throughout the season.

JH:eeb

cc: Mr. J.D. Collins  
Mr. Jim Haney  
Mr. Art Hyland  
Mr. Reggie Minton  
NCAA Board of Governors  
NCAA Committee on Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct  
NCAA Division I Board of Directors  
NCAA Division I Conference Commissioners  
NCAA Division I Conference Coordinators of Men's Basketball Officiating  
NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee  
NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Oversight Committee  
NCAA Division I MBOC Competition Committee  
NCAA Men's Basketball Officials  
NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee  
Selected NCAA Staff Members