



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

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February 9, 2007

TO: NCAA Divisions I, II and III Women's Basketball Coordinators of Officials.

FROM: Mary Struckhoff
National Coordinator of Women's Basketball Officiating

Debbie Williamson
Secretary Rules Editor.

SUBJECT: Women's Basketball Coordinators of Officials Telephone
Conference Minutes.

Welcome. (Mary Struckhoff)

- Conference roll call was taken. Curtis Shaw (Atlantic Sun and Ohio Valley Conferences) was absent from the call.

Rules Interpretations and Clarifications. (Debbie Williamson)

1. Rules change proposal form submission and rules survey.
 - a. Rules change proposals are due Friday, February 9. The form can be obtained from the ESO Web site. Please fax those to Heather Perry at 317/917-6800.
 - b. Those with suggestions for rules changes or revisions should submit the required form by the aforementioned deadline. Suggestions will be compiled and presented to the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee for consideration.
 - c. Also, note that editorial changes are equally important. Any editorial changes should be e-mailed to Ms. Williamson at williamsondebbie@yahoo.com.
 - d. The rules survey will be e-mailed to coaches, directors of athletics, senior woman administrators, conference commissioners and

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- coordinators by mid-February. Coordinators are asked to send this link to officials and encourage participation.
- e. The rules survey will include rules changes made for the present season as well as proposed changes for the future.
 - f. Coordinators and officials will receive a slightly different survey that will include mechanics questions.
2. New rules interpretations posted January 25.
- a. The first interpretation covers what officials are to specifically look for when they go to the monitor at the end of a game. NCAA Rule 5-7.2 speaks to the fact that a period shall end when the red light or LED light has become activated. When the red light is not present, the game horn shall terminate player's activity. The officials use these indicators to make a judgment call on the floor to determine whether a try for goal occurred at or near the expiration of time. When a courtside monitor is available, the book presently states that the reading of 0.00 on the game clock is to be used to determine whether a try for goal occurred at or near the expiration of time. There has been discussion as to the placement of the decimal in the reading of zeros and the accuracy of the book on this issue since many clocks read 00.0 at the expiration of time. The intent of the rule is that, when officials go to the monitor, they are to look for all zeros regardless of the location of the punctuation.
 - b. The second interpretation addresses a rewrite of the ruling in A.R. 120. The ruling presently reads, "...the referee cannot correct the official timer's mistake unless he or she knows exactly how much playing time elapsed while the game clock was stopped..." The rewrite of the ruling in A.R. 120 further supports the fact that a do-over is not permitted when there has been a timer's mistake. This ruling was changed to clarify that officials must use all available resources and information when making a decision regarding game and/or shot clock time adjustments. Officials may not always know the exact time, as stated in the original ruling, which shall not prohibit officials from adjusting the clock(s) appropriately.
 - c. Lastly, Rule 5-7.6 states that when a technical foul occurs after the ball has become dead to end a period, the next period shall be started by administering the free throws and play shall resume at the point of interruption by awarding the ball at the division line on either side of the playing court. This is not always the case. If the technical foul occurs between the first and second period or is a flagrant technical, the point of interruption for the throw-in is the division line. Otherwise, if the technical foul is not flagrant and occurs before or after regulation, then the point of interruption is the jump ball.

3. Previous years' postings.
 - a. The question has been raised as to whether previous year's interpretations and bulletins are still applicable. The answer is yes.
 - b. Previous interpretations apply until they are reviewed and revised. Interpretations are made during the year and are presented to the rules committee for approval at their May meeting. Some interpretations will be put into next year's book; but all are applicable until revised.
 - c. The past two years' interpretations and bulletins are posted on the Web site.
 - d. In the future, plays from the current season will be included in the next year's case book.

4. Rules education.
 - a. As a point of information, the rules committee has expressed interest in supporting our efforts of rules education as it relates to coaches and officials.
 - b. We have forwarded the most recent quizzes and answers to the rules committee. They are interested in passing those along to coaches. This is an example of their willingness to help get the word out about the job we are doing to prepare our officials. It is our desire to make the rules committee, coordinators, officials and coaches aware of our effort to educate everyone involved in the game on the rules. The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) has been contacted and will assist in this effort as well. The WBCA recently posted an article Ms. Williamson wrote on ten of the most misunderstood plays and the rules that pertain to them. It can be found at www.wbca.org and the link for the article is at the bottom of the page. We will be discussing ways to enhance this educational effort and we welcome your input. We have offered and have spoken to some of you about spring and summer educational opportunities. We want you to know that Ms. Struckhoff and Ms. Williamson are available to you for this purpose. This game is year-round and we want to do all we can to prepare everyone for the next season.

Points of Emphasis. (Ms. Struckhoff)

1. Ball-handler/dribbler displacement.
 - a. We are missing obvious arm-bars and illegal hands on the ball-handler/dribbler.

- b. Make this call early in the game so that players and coaches can make the appropriate adjustments.
 - c. Be consistent in the application of this guideline from the beginning of the game to the end, from official to official and from night to night.
 - d. It is important that we continue to make this call the remainder of the season and into tournament play.
 - e. **Make the call.**
2. Post displacement.
 - a. Keep calling displacement fouls in the post.
 - b. As discussed in the October clinics, offensive players are extending their arms horizontally. This position is not legal; however, the defender must make an attempt to go around. Once that happens, make the offensive foul call.
 - c. The defender should not have to get injured to get the foul called on the offense.
3. Screening.
 - a. Remember, a moving player being screened must be given a step or two to stop or change directions.
 - b. A screener may be “set” with two feet down, taking the contact in the middle of the torso, but could still be setting an illegal screen if not giving the player being screened a step to stop or change directions.
 - c. See the entire play; widen your vision to see the screener.
 - d. If you do not hear a player calling out a screen to a teammate, expect an ugly collision and know if the screen was legal from the start.
4. Bench decorum.
 - a. We must deal with coaches that are not adhering to the rules and guidelines of the game.
 - b. Tirades and tantrums are never appropriate and are egregious in nature. An immediate technical foul shall be assessed for this type of behavior.

- c. As mentioned in October and again reinforced on recent video bulletins, we must deal with this behavior. Ignoring it is **not** acceptable.
 - d. When an official has gone to report a foul or has turned their back to move on to the next play, co-officials must be aware when a coach has exhibited egregious behavior. Watch your partner's back.
 - e. If the official nearest the coach does not address the situation, a co-official must.
 - f. Treat this as any other **obvious** call. Give the primary official the first opportunity to assess the penalty. If they pass or ignore it, then make the call.
5. Traveling.
- a. We have done a much better job with accurate traveling calls this season, but we still have room for improvement.
 - b. Keep working on finding the pivot foot first, before looking for illegal contact. One quick glance at the feet gives you the information you need to make this call accurately and consistently.

Mechanics, Game Management and General Officiating Concerns. (Ms. Struckhoff)

1. Signals.
- a. In an effort to get as close as possible to a consistent and uniform look throughout the country in our signaling, it is important for officials to use only the signals (and auxiliary signals) presented in the Collegiate Commissioners Association Mechanics Manual.
 - b. We are not trying to develop robots, just create consistent and effective communication techniques throughout the country.
 - c. Effectively communicating to players, coaches, partners, table officials and spectators with our signals is extremely important, but we also do not want to draw unnecessary attention to ourselves.
 - d. Some signals serve no other purpose – specifically:
 - (1) Changing an approved signal – use of the “hitch-hiker” thumbs on the shoulder for a thirty-second timeout rather than the tips of the fingers.

- (2) Excessively repeating the same approved signal – block, block, block, block, etc.
 - (3) Over-exaggerating a signal – taking 3-4 steps backward to signal backing out a player on a rebounding displacement foul.
 - (4) Superfluous signals – the going-the-other-way signal after a successful basket or clean turnover, or the not-closely-guarded signal when the defender is 12 feet away.
- e. We should have the ability to confidently and emphatically sell a call without over-doing it.
 - f. Signals are meant to communicate, not draw unnecessary attention to the signaling official.
2. Dead ball situation.
- a. It is February, so emotions are high and teams are seeing conference rivals or teams they have already played once.
 - b. Heighten your awareness and keep your focus on the court during dead balls.
 - c. It does not take long for a cheap shot to be taken anytime, especially during a dead ball.
 - d. If players start to get tangled up, step in between them.
 - e. If someone goes hard to the floor, step in and let them know you are there.
 - f. Let someone near the court go after a ball that has rolled away. If there is not anyone nearby, direct a player to retrieve the ball.
 - g. At least one crew member must be watching players at **all** times.
3. Replay monitor.
- a. There are more women's games on television than ever before. Even if the game is not being broadcast on live television, there still may be a replay monitor present.

- b. When table officials come to the locker room before the game, the crew **must** remember to ask if there is a replay monitor available that meets the rule specifications.
 - c. If so, it is imperative that the crew review the rules regarding when it **may** be used and when it may **not** be used. Every member of the crew is responsible for knowing these rules, not just the designated referee.
 - d. Also review the procedures for properly using the monitor. Rules and procedures can be found on the Web site. Print this information and use it in your pregame.
 - e. Assume that you will need to use the monitor in your game. Do not be caught off guard and unprepared when it is time to use this equipment. Emotions can escalate when a monitor must be used. Advance preparation will keep the crew focused on the task at hand and help to produce the desired outcomes.
4. End-of-game situations.
- a. There have been many close games in the past several weeks, with many more likely to occur. There is more parity across every conference.
 - b. We must discuss in our **pregame**, situations that **could** occur at the end of the game and how we will handle them.
 - c. Near the end of a close game, when the opportunity presents itself during one of the many called timeouts, we must get together as a crew to again discuss the situation being presented to us.
 - d. Officials can call a perfect game for 39 minutes, but if something goes wrong in the last minute, that is what will be remembered.
 - e. Fouls and violations must be **obvious**. That does **not** mean, “do not blow your whistle.” We cannot pass on obvious calls, anytime, especially in the waning moments of a tight game. **We** are not deciding the outcome, the player that fouled or violated a rule, or the coach’s extreme behavior, is deciding the outcome. Do not penalize the offended team by **not** making the obvious call. That is when we are accused of game manipulation.
 - f. By the same token, we do not want to make a marginal call – something that we have not called all game and/or that is not obvious to the masses – determine the outcome of a close game.

- g. Making the distinction between obvious and marginal is **not** always easy, but this is our charge and comes with this important responsibility. This is what separates **great** officials from everyone else.
- h. Remember, **obvious** trumps **everything**. It does not matter the foul count, the score or the time left in the game.

ESO Officiating Web Site. (Ms. Struckhoff)

- 1. Conference reports.
 - a. We will continue to send you reports as they become available from ESO.
 - b. Please continue to encourage your officials to log on to the Web site frequently to obtain important information.
- 2. Last quiz.
 - a. The last quiz will be posted to the Web site Monday, February 12 and taken down from the site at the end of February.
 - b. It will be a bit longer than previous quizzes with ten questions.
- 3. Video bulletins.
 - a. We have been able to get video bulletins up on a more frequent basis thanks to the regional advisors help with identifying clips.
 - b. Officials should be sure to check the Web site every few days to view the new bulletins.
 - c. Clips are not meant to embarrass anyone. We should all be learning from what others do well and not so well.

Other Business.

- 1. Mechanics survey.
 - a. Again this year, we will be including a mechanics survey with the rules survey for officials to complete.

- b. In general, we believe our mechanics are in good shape and no major changes are needed.
 - c. The manual subcommittee, which includes the regional advisors, will soon be asked for any suggestions for this survey.
 2. Technical foul summary.
 - a. Thanks to all for assisting with acquiring this information.
 - b. In review, November/December technical foul totals equaled 189.
 - c. In January, a total of 139 technical fouls were called with nine for head coaches out of the box, 60 for unsporting behavior by the head coach, one to the head coach for “other”, four on assistant coaches for unsporting behavior, nine on bench personnel for unsporting behavior, zero on bench personnel for “other”, 49 for player unsporting behavior and seven for player “other.”
 - d. These totals will be sent to coordinators soon.
 - e. We will again be asking for your February/March totals by mid-March, which will include conference tournament play.
 3. Post-game evaluation summary.
 - a. Again, thanks to all for assisting with acquiring this information.
 - b. The survey summary will be sent to each coordinator soon.
 - c. Hopefully you will find this information helpful. If any follow-up information is needed, please let Ms. Struckhoff know.
 4. 2007 regional clinics.
 - a. We will be expanding the fall clinics to include optional professional development sessions as previously discussed.
 - b. Clinic dates, sites and schedules are being finalized.
 - c. Tentative schedule:

* 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Rules and mechanics (required; *earlier starting time)
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch break (on own)
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Breakout session #1 (voluntary)
1:45 – 2:45 p.m.	Breakout session #2 (voluntary)

- d. We already have some great ideas for the afternoon sessions. Coordinators please give us your ideas at or before our Women's Final Four meeting with as much detail as possible.
 - e. In an effort to streamline the registration process for officiating clinics, we are investigating the possibility of establishing a system by which officials can pre-register for clinics. This would provide important attendance information for the NCAA.
5. NCAA tournament nominations.
- a. The process by which officials are nominated was reviewed. Nominations must be submitted by each coordinator and approved by the conference commissioner not later than 5 p.m. Eastern time, February 16.
 - b. Coordinators will rank those officials who worked more than 10 games and those who worked less than 10 games. For coordinators with multiple conferences, a composite list of officials nominated will be compiled and an overall ranking must be submitted with the nominations.
6. Women's Final Four schedule.
- The Women's Final Four schedule was reviewed and it was noted that the coordinators meeting would be conducted at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center, Saturday, March 31. Additionally, the coordinators were invited to attend the VIP/Media Party to be held Saturday, March 31 from 7 – 11 p.m.

Future Calls/Meeting Schedule.

- Saturday, March 31 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Eastern time (Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center, Salon F).

MS/DW:rak

cc: NCAA Divisions I, II and III Conference Commissioners
NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee
NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee
Selected NCAA Staff Members