



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

February 14, 2007

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

FROM: Henry O. Nichols
National Coordinator of Men's Basketball Officiating.

SUBJECT: Bulletin No. 3 and February 13, 2007, Teleconference Follow-Up

Because of the importance of this information, we would 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 NCAA section of the Excel Sports Officiating Web site at www.eofficials.com.

For a successful conclusion to the season, officiating at the current positive level must be maintained. Officials must continue to concentrate on the points of emphasis each game. The pregame conference must include specific reference to each point of emphasis – post play, handchecking and body bumping, screening, cutters moving unimpeded and palming. Each area must be specifically emphasized to keep each aspect foremost in each official's mind before the game begins. An example of what should be part of the pregame discussion is a reminder that the official in the lead position has initial primary responsibility for post play officiating and must keep working at calling the first foul.

Only a dedication of purpose and a fresh look at the officiating guidelines relative to the points of emphasis before and during each game will prevent officiating slippage down the stretch of the season. The assumption is made that officials will meet their responsibilities during the remaining games as well as they have thus far and the conference coordinators will keep monitoring their officials to ensure that they finish the season in strong fashion. **OFFICIALS: CALL THE FOULS – THE PLAYERS WILL ADJUST!**

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Other Areas of Concern

Bench Decorum. It appears that coaches are completely ignoring the coaching box restrictions and officials are ignoring the fact that the coaches are ignoring the coaching box. The responsibility for these ongoing blatant violations of the rules lies with both the coaches and the officials. Coaches need to discipline themselves to stay in the box and officials, rather than ignoring the violations, must address them and do what is necessary for adherence to the rule. Officials and conference coordinators must address this issue in strong fashion for the remainder of the season.

Pertinent to bench decorum is the excessive communication during the game between coaches and officials. It is ludicrous that any coach should expect response after response from officials after calls are made and it is just as ludicrous that officials respond after every call and have discussions with the coach. This excessive communication diverts the official's concentration and makes decisive action difficult for officials when a coach demonstratively disagrees with an official's decision.

It has been mentioned several times before and during the past two seasons that communication between coaches and officials during the game is to be kept to a minimum, of short duration and only when necessary. Coaches and officials must do a better job of adhering to this philosophy.

Clearing Space. An evolving situation is occurring whereby a dribbler uses his off-hand forearm to push his defender away to clear space for a shot. Officials must be more consistent in calling a foul when this occurs.

Verticality. While there has been excellent improvement in this area, there are still too many fouls called on defenders who are in legal verticality position and do nothing wrong when the player with the ball causes the contact. Do not reward a player who is the cause of contact when going to the basket or going in the air to shoot with free throws.

Collisions. In some games, there have been a number of collisions clearly in front of the basket that have gone uncalled. In most cases, these plays are either blocking or charging – not a no call.

Mechanics

Lead officials must continue to move across the lane to officiate when the ball goes to the low post on the opposite side of the lane.

Center official must “stay home” and officiate rebounds and pressure defenses.

Officials responsible for off-ball coverage must upgrade their concentration on post play and players cutting without the ball.

Many times the lead official can help the trail with the jump shot from the corner by staying “squared up” and be able to check the shooter and defender.

It is important that the responsibility for the last shot at half, end of game and end of overtime (official opposite table) is clearly understood and talked about within the crew. It is also important that the responsibility for the shot clock (official table side) is clearly understood and talked about within the crew.

Web Site

Officiating situations are being posted regularly on www.eofficials.com covering a variety of plays. Officials, conference coordinators and coaches are encouraged to visit the Web site on an ongoing basis.

Cardinal Rules

- Palming is palming regardless of time and score.
- Coaches – be a positive influence in the arena during the game.
- Zero tolerance for unsporting behavior by players.
- STYLE of play will not dictate officiating.

Interpretations

1. Rule 5-7.2.b states...”In games with a 10th of a second game clock display and where an official courtside monitor is used, the reading of **zeroes** on the game clock is to be used to determine whether a try for goal occurred before or after the expiration of time in any period. When the game clock is not visible, the officials shall verify the original call with the use of the red/LED light(s). When the red/LED light(s) are not visible, the sounding of the game clock horn shall be utilized. When definitive information is unattainable with the use of the monitor, the original call stands.”

The intent of the rule is that when officials go to the monitor, they are looking for all zeros on the game clock regardless of where the decimal point (or colon) may be located. All zeros

indicates that time has expired. So in fact, the game clock readings may include, but are not limited to, any of the following: 0.00, 00.0, 0.0 or even, 00:0.

2. Neon, electric or artificially lit signage shall not be positioned on the backboards or backboard supports, nor may they be located near the backboards and/or backboard supports so that the signage affects a player's vision of the basket or backboard or detracts from the visibility of the LED/red light(s) and shot clock. When the signage is improperly positioned or located, the referee shall instruct home contest management to deactivate such signage.

Clarification

Rule 7-5.2 reads: "When the violation is on a throw-in....."

Change to read: "When a throw-in provision is violated, the new throw-in shall be from the same designated spot as that of the original throw-in."

Plays

Play: Team B scores with 1 minute, 30 seconds left to play on the game clock. A1 is in control of the ball for a throw-in when B1 (a) reaches through the plane of the endline and touches or dislodges the ball, or (b) touches A1's in-bound pass before it crosses the plane of the endline, or (c) makes a legitimate attempt to defend the throw-in by A1 but breaks the plane of the endline with a bodily part but does not touch the ball or (d) does not make a legitimate attempt to defend A1's throw-in but rather steps across the plane of the endline to draw a violation call, which would stop the game clock.

Ruling: In (a) and (b), an indirect technical foul shall be assessed against B1 since B1 reached through the endline plane and caused a delay in play. In (c), B1 has committed a violation and the throw-in shall be re-administered. In (d) B1 attempted to violate to stop the game clock and gain an advantage in setting up the team's defense. B1's action was illegal since he prevented the ball from being promptly put in play and prevented continuous play. When this type of act can be determined, B1 shall be assessed an indirect technical foul for delaying the game. In (c) and (d), when the violation does not interfere with play, it shall be ignored and play shall continue.

Play: The ball is at the disposal of A1, who is attempting his first of two free throws. Before the release of the ball, A2 pushes B2.

NCAA MEMORANDUM

February 14, 2007

Page No. 5

Ruling: Charge A2 with a team control foul. The team control foul shall not negate the penalty for a previously committed foul. The lane shall be cleared and A1 shall attempt his merited free throw(s). When the final free throw attempt was successful, Team B shall be awarded the ball along the endline with the privilege to run the endline. When the try was unsuccessful, the ball shall be awarded to Team B at a designated spot on the endline.

Play: Player A1 (a) falls to the playing court on one knee while in control of the ball or (b) receives a pass with one knee in contact with the playing court.

Ruling: When a player falls on one knee while holding the ball or receives a pass with one knee in contact with the playing court, it is traveling when the pivot foot moves.

HON/EB:bw

cc: Athletics Directors of Independent Division I Institutions
NCAA Divisions I, II and III Conference Commissioners
NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee
NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee
Selected NCAA Staff Members