

MEMORANDUM

December 17, 2002

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. 1 and December 10, 2002 Teleconference Follow-Up.

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

Points of Emphasis

Officials have not performed as well as to be expected regarding the points of emphasis. It is disappointing to see inconsistency and in some instances complete disregard for the instructions given to officials at the preseason clinics. After great strides made the past several seasons the slippage witnessed thus far must not continue. Officiating coordinators have been instructed to call to task officials who do not enforce the points of emphasis as instructed. Furthermore, the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee has strongly reaffirmed that selection of officials to the 2003 Tournament will be predicated on their performance of correctly enforcing the points of emphasis throughout the entire season.

Post Play. Despite the heavy emphasis during the preseason clinics on the offensive post player's use of an illegal lower arm to prevent a defensive opponent from gaining a fronting position, officials have not addressed the issue very well. In addition offensive post players continue to displace their defensive opponents by backing them down illegally with few fouls being called. Officials must do a better job of observing these situations from the beginning and **CALL THE FIRST FOUL!**

Players moving without the ball. Another aspect of officiating the points of emphasis that has been disappointing. Last season much progress was made in this area but for some reason there has been slippage in off-ball coverage and the illegal holding, "chucking" and body bumping has been enforced inconsistently. Off-ball coverage must improve and fouls must be called on defensive players who illegally impede cutters.

NCAA MEMORANDUM

December 17, 2002

Page No. 2

Hand-checking. Hand-checking has been addressed somewhat adequately but there have been too many aberrations. There have been some games that officials allowed far too much hand and body contact by defensive players guarding a player with the ball. We cannot afford to back-track on the great progress made by officials during the past several seasons and officials must stay consistent in enforcing the hand-checking officiating guidelines. Remember, bodying the player with the ball is a foul.

Screening. One area officials have continued to address well and have been very consistent in penalizing illegal screens. Obviously this must continue.

Offensive players causing contact. Players attempting a try for goal and then being rewarded with free throws must be better addressed. Officials must not penalize the defender when he does nothing illegal and the offensive player's momentum causes contact. Remember, the defender can jump straight up and still be in legal guarding position. Anticipate the play but not the call and watch the defensive player in these situations to determine whether he is in legal position when contact occurs. Do not reward the offensive player when he initiates contact.

Granting a time out. Officials have done a good job in making certain a player definitely has possession of the ball before granting a time out. Keep it up. Remember if there is any doubt about possession it should be considered no possession.

Palming. Far too many plays when the dribbler obviously lets the ball come to rest in his hand and then continues the dribble (actually starts a new dribble) have gone uncalled. Officials must at least call the blatant illegal dribbles.

Game Jerseys. Officials must not be lax in making players tuck in their game jerseys. Remember, habitual offenders can be sent out of the game for a tick of the clock if necessary to get compliance.

Coaching Box and Bench Decorum. It is a mystery why some coaches are allowed to be out of the coaching box repeatedly, in some instances for the entire game. The rules committee, the NCAA Tournament Committee, the coordinators of officiating and the vast majority of coaches want the rule enforced. Officials, DO IT! Coaches are expected to stay in the coaching box and exhibit reasonable bench decorum.

Officials challenged. Officials were challenged at the preseason clinics to be better officials this season than ever before. It is not apparent at this point in the season that the majority of officials have decided to meet that challenge. To be better each official must seriously challenge himself to actually think about it and concentrate to improve off-ball coverage, improving on getting in a position to see plays from the beginning (especially in post-play situations) and seeing the whole play. Most important, do a better job of self evaluation regarding each game's performance.

Floor Mechanics. The lead officials must do a better job of moving to get better angles on drives to the basket and offensive rebounds. The lead must also move to the opposite side of the lane when necessary to officiate low post play and rebounding.

Off-ball coverage. Off-ball officiating will not improve until officials quit “ball watching” when their primary area is off ball coverage. Get your eyes where they are supposed to be. Officials have to make a conscious effort if this extremely important aspect of the game is to be officiated correctly. Anybody can watch the ball, good officials cover their off-ball responsibility.

Somebody should call it. If a foul should be called on any given play, somebody should call it. Everyone knows that when an official says, “it’s not my call” the official is admitting the he saw it but did not call it. Why would an official not call an obvious foul if he saw it clearly and for some reason his partners did not? Obviously there is no logical reason for this to happen.

Reminders

- Do not let style of play dictate how the game is officiated.
- Zero tolerance for unsporting conduct by players.
- Do not let a player in the second lane space during free throws push the player in the first lane space toward the base line and rebound missed free throws. Call the foul!
- Officials were challenged to be the best they ever were this season. Meet the challenge!

[Note] Many of you have not sent me your master officiating schedules. Please do so as soon as possible. Also, it will be a great help if you can send me your schedules of what game and where you are planning to attend throughout the season.

Rules and Interpretations

Rule 3-4, Substitutions

Play: Players A-1 and B-1 collide and (a) are injured; (b) are bleeding; and (c) are evaluated and it is determined that their uniforms are saturated with blood. The coach from Team A requests and is granted a time out.

Ruling: When a time out is requested and granted to either team, one or both players are permitted to remain in the game after the expiration of the time out. No bleeding can be in evidence and a uniform that is saturated with blood must be changed.

Rule 10-3.5, Artificial Noisemakers

An artificial noisemaker can be any object that is used to manufacture noise by contact with another object or surface. (This also includes inflatable noisemakers, whistles etc.) The use of artificial noisemakers while the game is in progress is prohibited. Once the game has started, it is “in progress” except for time outs and during intermission.

The official shall exercise the same discretion regarding artificial noisemakers as is used for any other non-compliance to the rules problems emanating from the followers of a team.

The responsibility for compliance to the rule can be generally shared between the officials and contest management. The officials shall request that contest management utilize the public address system to elicit cooperation with the rules and inform the public of the penalty for non-compliance. Continued use of the noisemakers shall constitute an indirect technical foul.

If, in the opinion of the officials, the use of artificial noisemakers creates a **major** problem, the official shall immediately assess an indirect technical foul.

Rule 3-10-3.20, Indirect Technical Fouls

Play: With the score 67-66 in favor of Team B, A-1’s two-point try for goal is successful. Two seconds remain on the game clock. Assuming that the successful try was a game ending and winning goal, players and fans from Team A go on to the playing court to celebrate.

Ruling: When the celebration causes a delay by preventing the ball from being promptly made live or prevents continuous play, an indirect technical foul shall be assessed. Any player from Team B shall attempt the two free throws and play shall resume at the point of interruption. When the celebration does not delay or interfere with play, the celebration shall be ignored.

Huddles

Prior to the start of the game, the second half or any extra period, bench personnel and/or players who are huddling shall locate themselves inside an imaginary rectangle formed by the boundaries of the sideline (including the bench), end line and an imaginary line extended from the free-throw lane line (nearest the bench area) meeting an imaginary line extended from the coaching box line.

Whenever possible, the officials shall take preventative measures and direct players to their restricted areas. When huddles occur outside these boundaries, the officials shall assess an indirect technical foul.

Reminder

The penalty for indirect, direct, intentional and flagrant technical fouls is two free throws awarded to any member of the offended team.

PREVIOUS OFFICIATING UPDATES

Posted on NCAA Officiating Web Site October 24, 2002.

Basketball Rules on Noisemakers and Shot Clocks.

As the season approaches, two items have surfaced for which we need to provide some clarification to prevent any unintended breaches of the rules. One is artificial noisemakers; the other is the red light for indicating the end of a period that is required for Division I schools this season.

Regarding artificial noisemakers, Rule 10-3.5 of the 2003 Men's and Women's Basketball Rules and Interpretations states on page BR-122 that "the playing of musical instruments and/or amplified music and the use of artificial noisemakers while the game is in progress shall be prohibited," along with the clarification that the only time that a game is not "in progress" after it has started is during a timeout or during intermission. A penalty for violation of this rule is an indirect technical foul. Please be aware that an artificial noisemaker is interpreted as being any object that is used to manufacture noise by contact with another object or surface. Nothing prohibits schools from distributing or selling such items to fans; however, if they do so and those fans with the items choose to use them as artificial noisemakers at times other than during timeouts or intermissions (something that would be very difficult for game management to control), they could be charged with an indirect technical foul under Rule 10-3.5. Member schools that advance to the NCAA championship tournament in any division should be mindful that restrictions on artificial noisemakers are more strict for those games than they are for the regular season. Possession and/or the use of artificial noisemakers is prohibited at all times during NCAA tournament games.

As members of Division I know, a red warning light that indicates the end of a period is required to be placed behind each backboard starting this season. It has come to our attention that some shot clocks are being manufactured that include a red warning light as part of the face of the shot clock. While this is not an illegal piece of equipment, institutions must be aware that this type of device does not meet the intent of this rule; therefore, if a school has one of these shot clocks, it must also have a separate red warning light mounted behind the backboard.

Posted on NCAA Officiating Web Site on November 4, 2002

REMINDERS

1. Team-control foul. When a member of a team in possession of the ball during a throw-in commits a common foul, that foul is a team-control foul. Remember, the throw-in begins when the ball is at the disposal of the player entitled to the throw-in and the official has started his throw-in count. The throw-in ends when a passed ball touches or is legally touched by a player in bounds. Any common foul committed during this period shall be a team-control foul.
2. Jump stop. When a dribbling player initiates a jump, ends his dribble with both feet off the floor and lands simultaneously on two feet (jump stop), he is permitted to establish a pivot foot. When there is doubt as to how many feet were off the floor when the dribble ended, the official shall assume that the dribble ended with both feet off the floor. Consequently, the player, after executing the jump stop, is allowed to establish a pivot foot. When the official does not allow the player to pivot after a jump stop, he shall be absolutely sure that the player ended his dribble with one foot off the floor.
3. Rule 4-13.4.b states: There shall be no team control during a throw-in. NOTE: A team-control foul or an inadvertent whistle when a team is in possession of the ball during a throw-in are exceptions to this rule.

CORRECTIONS

1. Rule 4-26.12, A.R. 20, BR-67. The approved ruling is incorrect and should not be located under "false double foul." The ruling should read: A2's foul is a team-control foul since it occurred when a team was in possession of the ball during a throw-in. The foul is charged to A2 and the ball shall be awarded to Team B at a designated spot nearest to where the foul occurred.
2. Rule 5-10.3.h, BR-90. Reads: A team-called 30-second timeout or a 60-second timeout (excluding the first timeout of the game that becomes an electronic-media timeout). Change to read: (excluding the first timeout in the second half that becomes an electronic-media timeout).
3. Question No. 45, Men's Rules Quiz. Correct answer is "no." The scorer shall set the arrow in the direction of Team A's basket when the official hands or his bounced ball is caught by the player making the throw-in.
4. Rule 9-2.1, A.R. 6, BR 113. The ruling should read: The foul by A2 causes the ball to become dead immediately. A3 did not commit a violation because the ball became dead when A2 fouled. A1 shall attempt the free throw with no player on the lane. The foul by A2, which created a false double foul, is a team-control foul. Play shall be resumed as though the last personal foul of the false double personal foul was the only one administered (award Team B the ball at a designated spot).
5. Rule 8-4.5. Change Art. 5 to read: After the penalty for an indirect or direct technical foul is assessed before the start of the game or before the start of the game or before

any extra period. Play shall resume with a jump ball. (Exceptions: intentional technical foul, flagrant technical foul, flagrant technical foul [women: flagrant foul].)

TEAM-CONTROL PLAYS

Play 1: A1 drives to the basket and (a) releases the ball and charges into B1, or (b) passes the ball to A2 and then charges into B1.

Ruling: In (a), charge the foul to A1 and when the bonus is not in effect, award the ball to Team B at a designated spot. When the bonus is in effect, award B1 the appropriate penalty free throw(s). This is not a team-control foul since the try for goal was in flight. In (b), A1 has committed a team-control foul. A1 is charged with the foul and the ball is awarded to Team B at a designated spot.

Play 2: A1 is in possession of the ball during a throw-in and (a) A2 commits a foul; or (b) legally inbounds the ball and while the pass is in flight, A2 commits a foul; or (c) his throw-in is deflected, controlled by A3 and A2 commits a foul; or (d) after the ball is legally in-bounded, the ball is deflected and A2 commits a foul.

Ruling: In (a), (b) and (c), A2 has committed a team-control foul. A2 shall be charged with the foul and the ball shall be awarded to Team B at a designated spot. In (d), A2's foul is a common foul but not a team-control foul. The deflection (touch) ended the throw-in. During the period that follows, when the ball is being batted from the vicinity of other players, there is no team control. Charge the foul to A2. When the bonus is not in effect, the ball is awarded to Team B at a designated spot. When the bonus is in effect, appropriately administer the penalty free throw(s).

Play 3: A1 is in the act of shooting and A2 commits a foul (a) before the ball was released, or (b) after the ball was released.

Ruling: In (a), A2's foul caused the ball to become dead. A2 has committed a team-control foul. A2 shall be charged with the foul and the ball shall be awarded to Team B at a designated spot. In (b), since the try for goal was in flight, there was no team-control foul. A2 shall be charged with the foul. When the bonus is not in effect, the ball shall be awarded to Team B at a designated spot. When the bonus is in effect, the appropriate penalty free throw(s) shall be administered. When the try is successful, count the goal.

Play 4: A2 commits a foul (a) while A1 is holding or dribbling the ball, or (b) during an interrupted dribble, or (c) while a pass from A1 to A3 is deflected.

Ruling: In (a), (b) and (c), A2 has committed a team-control foul. A2 shall be charged with the foul and the ball shall be awarded to Team B at a designated spot.

Play 5: After a successful try, A2 commits a foul after A1 retrieved the ball, which had passed through the net and while he was heading directly out of bounds for the throw-in.

Ruling: Since the ball was dead when A2 committed the foul, an intentional technical foul shall be assessed against A2. However, when A1 takes an indirect route to put the ball in play from out of bounds, that causes a delay in the game, (e.g., heads toward a far sideline), the official shall start a throw-in count. When A2 commits a foul during this action, since the ball was at A1's disposal and the official started a throw-in count, causing the throw-in to begin, A2's foul becomes a common foul that was committed during a throw-in. Consequently, A2's foul was a team-control foul.

SUMMARY

1. Throw-in begins (ball at player's disposal and official starts his throw-in count); throw-in ends (ball is touched or legally touches a player in bounds). Any foul committed by a teammate of a thrower-in during this period, shall be a team-control foul.
2. Throw-in ends (ball is touched or legally touches a player in bounds); no player gains control of the ball. Any foul committed during this period is not a team-control foul.
 - a. When a foul is committed and the bonus is not in effect; award ball at designated spot.
 - b. When a foul is committed and the bonus is in effect; award the appropriate free throw(s).
3. Throw-in ends (ball is touched or legally touches a player in bounds); player gains control of the ball. Any foul committed by a teammate of a player in control shall be a team-control foul.

Posted on NCAA Officiating Web Site on November 19, 2002

CORRECTIONS

There is a mistake on A.R. 13 on page BR 103. The ruling for C should be:

"Although there was no team control when the whistle was blown, play shall resume with another jump ball."

Posted on NCAA Officiating Web Site on November 25, 2002

CLARIFICATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Inadvertent Whistle

After an inadvertent whistle, play shall be resumed:

- At a designated spot nearest to where the dead ball occurred when a team was in control of the ball. The ball shall be awarded to the team in control.
- At the original throw-in spot when the throw-in has not ended. The ball shall be awarded to the team in possession of the ball during the throw-in.
- With the use of the alternating possession arrow when there is no team control before the whistle.

Play: With 1:48 on the game clock and after a successful try, A1 throws a down court pass from the end line to A2. While the ball is in flight the official inadvertently blows the whistle.

Ruling: Since the throw-in had not ended when the whistle was blown, Team A shall be awarded the ball at the original throw-in spot, which was the end line. When the official has definite knowledge as to the elapsed time during the throw-in and before the whistle, the official is permitted to put the correct time back on the game.

Throw-in

Play: A1 throws an errant in-bound pass to A2. A2 touches the pass but does not control the ball. While the ball is loose, in the vicinity of other players who are attempting to secure control, the official inadvertently blows the whistle.

Ruling: Since the throw-in ended when it was touched by A2 and neither team gained control of the loose ball before the official's whistle, play shall resume with use of the alternating- possession arrow. The shot clock shall be reset.

Play: With four seconds left on the game clock, A1 is inbounding the ball to A2. The timer incorrectly started the game clock before the passed ball touches or is legally touched by an in-bounds player. The official recognized the timer's mistake and immediately blows his/her whistle the while the passed ball is in flight.

Ruling: Since the timer has made a mistake, the official, with definite knowledge shall place the correct time on game clock. Since the throw-in never ended, play shall be resumed with a throw-in by Team A from the original throw-in spot. Using the alternating-possession arrow, because there was no team control would be an unfair procedure that would penalize the throw-in team as a result of the timer's mistake.

Simultaneous Personal Foul

Play: During a throw-in by A1, a simultaneous personal foul is committed (a) while the throw-in pass was in flight or (b) after A2 touched the pass but with neither team controlling the ball.

Ruling: In (a), award the ball to Team A at a designated spot nearest to where the foul by the player from Team B occurred. The shot clock shall not be reset. In (b), since there was no team control when the simultaneous personal foul occurred, play shall resume with the use of the alternating-possession arrow. The ball shall be awarded at a designated spot nearest to where the foul by the opponent was committed. There shall be a reset of the shot clock.