



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

December 8, 2004

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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. 1 and December 7, 2004, 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 Basketball Officiating Information Web page at http://www.ncaa.org/champadmin/basketball/officiating_bulletins/.

Sporting Behavior

Recent volatile situations make it necessary to focus on the roles of coaches, officials and game administrators regarding emphasizing to players and fans what behavior is expected before, during and after basketball games.

Coaches must hold their players to a level of conduct that does not allow for unsporting behavior by flagrant fouling, physical retaliation or taunting against any opponent.

Officials must continue to have zero tolerance for unsporting behavior by players and assess technical fouls for unsporting acts including calling flagrant fouls and ejecting players when warranted. Excessive contact by a player on an opponent is by rule an intentional foul. When contact goes beyond excessive to the severe or dangerous level, by rule flagrant fouls should be assessed with the penalty of two free throws and ejection.

Game administrators must be pro-active in their efforts to deal with unruly fans and do everything in their power to keep the fans in the stands and not on the court during and after games.

Equal Opportunity/

Affirmative Action

Employer

National Collegiate Athletic Association

An association of 1,200 colleges, universities and conferences serving the student-athlete

For your information, attached is a memorandum sent from the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) to all NCAA Division I head men's basketball coaches regarding steps the NABC recommends coaches take to ensure acts similar to those that occurred in the NBA game between the Detroit Pistons and the Indiana Pacers do not happen in college basketball.

NCAA Basketball Officiating Information Web Page

As has been the case for the last few years, the NCAA Basketball Officiating Information Web page is available at http://www.ncaa.org/champadmin/basketball/officiating_bulletins/. It is strongly encouraged that all officials visit this Web page frequently throughout the year to see important information that will help you be the best official you can be. The Web site provides information such as:

- Officiating bulletin and teleconference follow-ups
- Rules interpretations and updates
- Important reminders
- Information regarding the regional officiating clinics
- NCAA legislation regarding men's basketball
- Information regarding experimental rules

New this year, the Web site will provide video clips from recent college basketball games highlighting plays involving the points of emphasis and plays that may require interpretation or additional instruction. PowerPoint slides will accompany these video clips providing comments, interpretations and instructions regarding the play being highlighted.

Points of Emphasis

Rough Play. Officials have done well in adjudicating the rules and points of emphasis regarding rough play. Post play, hand-checking, screening and players moving without the ball have been our focus for several seasons and fouls are being called when warranted on a fairly consistent basis. This effort must continue throughout the rest of the season through post season play with no slippage.

Palming. It appears that many officials have simply forgotten that palming is a point of emphasis outlined during the preseason clinics. While some officials have called illegal dribble violations when they occurred, most have chosen to ignore it. This is unacceptable. When a player lets the ball come to rest in his hand and then dribbles again to outmaneuver his defensive opponent, a violation must be called.

Hanging on the Rim. Officials have done well with calling violations, but there should be no letup as the season progresses.

Intentional Fouls. Officials must do a better job of calling intentional fouls when warranted, especially near the end of the game. When a player simply grabs and holds an opponent away from the ball to stop the clock, it is an intentional foul and must be called as such. Many of these have been called common fouls thus far this season but should have been called intentional.

Coach and Bench Decorum. Good communication between officials and coaches during the game can enhance the playing of the game and provide a positive atmosphere in the arena. Communication that takes the form of questioning every call, using hand signals to signify traveling or fouling, exhibiting facial expressions that show anger and raising voice levels is bad communication and does not lend anything positive to the conduct of the game. When good communication turns to bad communication, officials should disengage from conversation and inform the coach that it will not be tolerated.

Assistant coaches and players must remain seated during play except to react spontaneously to an outstanding play (Rule 10-11;BR 134). Officials must be diligent in enforcing this rule.

Conversations between coaches and officials during halftime intermission should not take place unless both head coaches are present.

Head coaches and officials are reminded that the coaching box rule is to be strictly enforced. Officials and coaches have not been consistent in meeting their respective responsibilities to adhere to this rule.

Three-Seconds. Officials are reminded that the three-second rule should be officiated with as much diligence as other rules.

Mechanics

Free Throw Shooter Designation. It is important that officials designate the shooter when a time out is called after a foul is called that will result in free throws.

Lead Official. Close down and move to get best position on weak side rebounds and “put back” shots by offensive players.

Trail Official. Double team sideline on a throw-in when going from trail to lead position.

Officiating Reminders

- Cardinal Rule – Style of play will not dictate officiating.
- See the whole play.
- Zero tolerance for taunting, baiting or other unsporting behavior by players.

Rules and Interpretations Reminders

1. Any bands worn by players are illegal and not in compliance with Rule 3-7.7, since they are a form of jewelry
2. Indirect technical fouls as described in Rule 10-3.1 through 10-3.7 and 10-3.20 shall be charged to the head coach of the offending team. Note: These indirect technical fouls do not count toward the coach's ejection.
3. As stated in the rules book, Rule 3-4.3 and Rule 3-4.10 are in conflict with each other. The intent of Rule 3-4.10 was to eliminate the delay associated with substituting during multiple free throws. Since substitutions during a timeout, but before the warning signal, do not contribute to any delay, Rule 3-4.3 shall be the prevailing rule.
4. Rule 5-10.6 also includes a technical foul. Go to the media timeout and then attempt the tries for the technical foul.
5. Officials shall not use a courtside monitor or courtside video tape for judgment calls such as:
 - a. Who committed a foul.
 - b. Basket interference.
 - c. Goal tending.
 - d. The release of the ball before the activation of the red light or red lights (Exception: Rule 2-5.2.a & .b)
 - e. The release of the ball before the sounding of the shot clock horn (Exception: Rule 2-5.2.c&.d).

Note: Some officials seem to be developing a dependency on the use of the monitor when it is not permissible by the rules. When dealing with the human factor, mistakes are made. Human judgment is an important element of the game. To "err is human," and a fear of committing a mistake should not foster an illegal dependency.

6. A violation has not been committed when a player goes out of bounds, as permitted by Rule 7-5.8.a, does not receive a pass from his teammate making the throw in, returns to the playing court, and is the first to touch the ball upon his return.

7. When a player commits his fifth disqualifying foul which causes the ball to become dead after one of the specified time marks on the game clock for electronic media timeouts and the electronic media immediately breaks away, the following procedure shall be administered:
 - a. The officials shall notify the player and the coach of the disqualification.
 - b. The coach shall be informed that he has a 30 second time limit to replace the disqualified player.
 - c. The officials shall instruct the timer to start the stopwatch for a 30 second time limit. A signal shall be sounded both 15 seconds before the expiration of this time limit and at the end of the time limit, with the latter indicating the expiration of the 30 seconds permitted for a replacement.

Plays

PLAY

A1 is in control of the ball, and A3 is positioned in the corner of the frontcourt. A3 moves toward the end line and then leaves the playing court under his own volition. A1 passes the ball to A2. A3 returns to the playing court a) after or b) before A2 was in possession of the passed ball from A1.

RULING

In (a), A3 has committed a violation since he was the first to touch the ball upon his return to the playing court. In b), since A3 returned to the playing court before A2 was in possession of A1's pass, he was not the first to touch the ball and A3 has not committed a violation.

PLAY

In a game involving electronic media, A1 is fouled in the act of shooting after the eight minute mark. A1's try for a goal is unsuccessful. B1 reported to the scorer before the foul and was waiting to enter the game. When is B1 permitted to enter the game?

RULING

B1 is permitted to enter the game after the electronic media timeout ends and before A1 attempts the first try of the multiple free throw sequence.

PLAY

In any game involving electronic media, there has been no dead ball after the 16-minute mark. After the 12-minute mark, a foul is committed that causes a dead ball.

RULING

An electronic media timeout shall be taken and then the free throws shall be administered after the timeout. When the final attempt is converted, the electronic media timeout for the 12-minute

mark shall be taken during the next dead ball after the game clock has been properly started. When the attempt is not successful, the next dead ball will be used for the 12-minute mark, electronic media timeout.

PLAY

A1 is attempting the second of two free throws. B2 violates the lane followed by a lane violation by A2. The official inadvertently blows his whistle which stops play before A1 releases the ball for his attempt. The officials resume play by placing the ball at the disposal of A1 for his free throw attempt. Prior to A1's release of the ball for his try, B3 commits a lane violation.

RULING

When A1's free throw attempt is unsuccessful, he shall be awarded a substitute free throw. When A1's attempt is successful, B2's and B3's violations shall be ignored.

PLAY

A1 commits his fifth disqualifying foul with 3:59 on the game clock. The electronic media breaks away for their media timeout. After being notified by the officials of the disqualification, the coach of the Team A substitutes A6 for the disqualified A1. Before the signal for the expiration of the 30 second time limit for a replacement, the coach from Team A changes his mind and wants A7 to report for the disqualified player A1.

RULING

A7's substitution is legal since it occurred within the 30 second time limit.

PLAY

A6 and A7 have reported to the scorers and are waiting to enter the game. Team A commits a violation and during the dead ball period, Team B calls a timeout. The coach from Team A changes his mind and wants A8 and A9 to report and enter the game rather than A6 and A7.

RULING

A8's and A9's substitutions are legal when they have reported to the official scorer before the warning signal. A8's and A9's substitutions shall not be permitted after the warning signal. During an electronic media timeout, the same change is permissible when they have reported to the official scorer before the warning signal.

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



FACSIMILE MEMORANDUM

To: **NABC Division I Head Men's Basketball Coaches**

From: Pat Kennedy, President
Jim Haney, Executive Director
Reggie Minton, Deputy Executive Director

Re: NBA Brawl

The fallout of the brawl in Detroit in the last minute of the Detroit Pistons vs. Indiana Pacers game will be newsworthy for months to come. Despite the fact that the incident involved NBA teams (and recognizing that many of you have already discussed the issue of fighting with your team), we believe NABC coaches should be proactive to insure the similar kinds of incidents do not repeat during the thousands of collegiate basketball games remaining to be played during the 2004-05 season.

We would like to recommend you take the following steps:

1. Review with your team the acceptable protocol if a fight breaks out between players during a game emphasizing the roles and proper restraint of your coaches, team members and bench personnel seated in the bench area.
2. Review with your coaches, players and team personnel their conduct on the road where they will be the targets for debris and/or verbal taunts by fans, emphasizing the necessity of not leaving the bench area and retaliating with fans. Needless to say, it is not the actions of the fans that are newsworthy; the headlines in the newspapers and on television will name you and your team members as the ones who acted improperly.
3. We are particularly concerned about the moments after a game when fans, particularly students, pour onto the court in a mad rush. Just last year we witnessed a college student throwing a punch at a visiting player running off the court during one of these post game celebrations. If a player turns and retaliates against a fan, we could have a melee that would make the Pacers/Pistons brawl look minor. Every time the crowd mobs the floor in celebration it is just one punch away from becoming a street fight with you and your team in the middle.

With this in mind we encourage you to do the following:

- a. Meet with your director of athletics as soon as possible to discuss the problem in your arena and when you go on the road. In particular, review the plans to secure the safety of the visiting coaches, players and bench personnel that will be playing in your arena with a particular emphasis of securing the visitors bench area and the route the visiting team will follow to exit the court and return to the locker-room. Encourage communication by the appropriate athletic department staff member responsible for game management with the visiting coach on the protocol the he, his coaches, players and bench personnel should follow when the buzzer sounds ending the game. Consideration may need to be given to eliminating the traditional hand shake between competing teams to ensure the safety of the visitors.
- b. When you travel to another institution's arena, be certain that you know what the strategy is for protecting your team at the end of the game. Ask for the name of a contact person from the host institution who you can seek out in case of questions or a need arises. Review with your coaches, players and bench personnel the protocol to follow at the end of the game.

You will note we have not addressed the safety of the game officials. We have done so based on a security plan already in place for their departure from the court at halftime and at the end of games.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. It is unfortunate that we have to address this matter, but it is important that we, as coaches, are proactive and help protect the game for student-athletes, officials, coaches and fans alike!