



## **NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Interpretation**

**December 21, 2004**

### **Reminder:**

Any team member or bench personnel, other than the head coach, who leaves the bench area when a fight may break out or has broken out shall be ejected. No direct technical foul(s) shall be assessed. This applies to a fight on or off the playing court.

### **Interpretation:**

A flagrant non-contact technical foul shall be assessed to a player who leaves the playing court when a fight may break out or has broken out off the playing court or in the stands. The penalty shall be two free throws awarded to a player of the non-involved team and possession of the ball to the offended team at a designated spot at the division line. The offender(s) shall be ejected.

### **Commentary:**

A competitive game of basketball is imbued with a variance of emotional levels. Consequently, players occasionally get "worked-up," in playing the game. This can manifest itself in negative forms of behavior. The officials must responsibly observe questionable behavior between opponents. When a minor behavioral problem occurs, which in the judgment of the official does not call for a penalty, the official should address it by instructing the player(s) to properly play the game. A "talking with" the player(s) can assist the official in controlling the situation before it escalates into a major problem. The "talk," should be brief and to the point.

When a major problem presents itself in a player's behavior, it shall be penalized without discourse. To ignore a major problem may lead to subsequent negative behavior such as fighting.

It is important for the officials to preventatively appraise the character with which the game is being played by the opponents in order to maintain control in a positive direction.

Happy Holidays.