



NCAA Women's Basketball Rule Interpretation

December 17, 2004

Rule Interpretation:

Due to what has happened in the NBA with fighting and players going into the stands and college players leaving the playing court to go into the stands because a fight has broken out, an interpretation has been added to rule 10-13.2. We will add a new c. as follows:

10-13.2.c – It is a flagrant non-contact technical foul when a player leaves the playing court and goes into the stands when a fight may break out or has broken out.

This means that a player does not have to participate in the fight, just leaving the court and going into the stands leads to ejection, two shots for the opposing team and the ball put back into play at the division line.

Our rules already cover if a team member or bench personnel leave the bench area (10-11.4)

Reminder, the definition of an intentional personal foul (Rule 4-26.6) is:

A personal foul that, on the basis of an official's observation of the act, is not a legitimate attempt to directly play the ball or a player. Determination of whether a personal foul is intentional shall not be based on the severity of the act. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- a. Fouling a player who is away from the ball and not directly involved with the play.
- b. Contact with a player making a throw-in.
- c. Holding or pushing an opponent in order to stop the game clock.
- d. Pushing a player from behind to prevent a score.
- e. Causing excessive contact with an opponent while playing the ball.

The intentional foul is clearly defined. Coaches have been utilizing a strategic foul for many years which is to commit a foul to stop the game clock and thereby prolong the game. The hope is the opponent will miss the free throw(s). If the player makes an honest attempt to play the ball or the player away from the ball, it is a personal foul. However, if the player does not make a legitimate attempt to directly play the ball or the player away from the ball, then the official is responsible to call an intentional personal foul. It is incumbent upon the coach to constructively use the strategic foul within the spirit and intent of the intentional personal foul rule. The coach who does otherwise takes a shortcut that circumvents the purpose of the rule.