



MEMORANDUM

April 12, 2019

VIA EMAIL

TO: All NCAA Game Officials and Conference Officiating Coordinators.

FROM: J.D. Collins
NCAA National Coordinator of Men's Basketball Officiating.

SUBJECT: Summer teaching points – mechanics.

Greetings to all Game Officials and Coordinators!

The CCA Mechanics Committee met during the Final Four in Minneapolis. This is a rules change year; thus the number of mechanics changes will be minimal. However, our focus should be on perfecting our current mechanics. Any changes to our Mechanics Manual will be explained during the fall regional clinics. As we prepare for summer camps and the 2019-20 basketball season, the Mechanics Committee would like to offer the following mechanics teaching points from the Mechanics Committee:

1. **Foul reporting:**

- a. Make sure that you clear the players, clear the 3-point arc and have line of sight with the scorer (**page 23 of the 2017-18 Mechanics Manual**). Walking to the table from lead is unacceptable, put some zip into your movement to report.
- b. When you call a foul in your primary area, report the foul to the table. We need to force switches in order to get officials in different positions on the floor.
- c. Pausing at the scene of the foul is critical to the process. It will help insure no unsporting behavior happens and allow you to know the number of the fouler.

2. **Stopping the clock** – The 2017-18 manual made stopping the clock mandatory. Stopping the clock will make us better officials, allow ourselves additional time to gain insights on each play as they happen and eliminate blarghes from our game (**page 25**).

3. **Communication** – It is very important after a foul is called that we communicate effectively. Often times, our officials have a favorite “signal” that they use at the scorer’s table or at the spot of the foul. It is the official’s responsibility to communicate “what happened” on each play using the appropriate signal (**pages 82, 91-93, 96, 127, 129, 133, 135-136 and 162-172**).

4. **Staying at trail after a foul** – Again this year, staying at trail after reporting a foul will be an option if the official thinks that he may have a chance to defuse a coach. Officials need to be aware of the coach’s reactions and utilize this mechanic as needed to help the game.

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5. **“Legally walled up signal”** – The legally walled up signal was overused and misapplied during previous seasons. The “legally walled up signal” will NOT be used during the 2019-20 season.
6. **Clock awareness** – The 2018-19 mechanics manual stressed the importance of clock awareness. Officials did a great job of being clock aware last season. The off official should point to the “shot clock at/under 10 seconds” momentarily. We do not want the on-ball official to take his eyes off the active matchup. This signal should not be prolonged.
7. **Lead position – Throw-ins:**
 - a. During a half court throw-in, the lead should position himself according to **page 67** of the Mechanics Manual. We have chosen to go inside the player too often. The lead official will now be given the option to position adjust inside the thrower-in (baseline 3’ outside the lane) during the last few seconds of a period or shot clock period. This could allow the lead official to be in better position on imminent scoring plays. It is also important to know when a 3-point shot is imminent and position outside the thrower-in to assist the trial.
 - b. The lead official has secondary responsibility to assist the trial on shots that are taken in the corners of the front court (**page 75**). In addition, the lead official will have secondary sideline coverage (near the end line) for out of bounds plays the trail is unable to observe.
8. **Positioning:**
 - a. **Trail official:**
 - (1) Should have an initial starting position at or inside the 28’ hash.
 - (2) Should close down to get the best angle to officiate each play (**pages 29-30**). In addition, it is important that our trail official does not “bail out” to begin covering a play at the other end.
 - (3) Should move 1-2 steps high or low to obtain a better angle between players depending on the movement of the ball. It is important to move with a purpose and not get straight-lined by your movements.
 - (4) Should release plays that curl away to the new primary official.
 - (5) Should focus on obvious “reset the feet” travels on the perimeter and travels in the post.
 - (6) Should be even with or a ½ step behind the ball handler in the back court and should not allow a gap between the ball handler and the trail official. This action will better position the trail official when arriving in the front court.
 - (7) On sideline throw-ins, should hand the ball to the thrower-in, unless there is an active matchup that requires protection further back. In this case, the official should back away from the thrower-in to protect the active matchup and bounce the ball to the thrower-in.
 - b. **Center official:**
 - (1) Should move in transition from FT line extended to half court and pause to see if the ball is coming C-side. If the ball is not coming C-side, then the center should move to FT line extended in the front court.

- (2) Should have an initial starting position at or inside the free throw line extended.
- (3) Should close down to get the best angle to officiate each play (**pages 31**).
- (4) Should move 1-2 steps high or low to obtain a better angle between players depending on the movement of the ball. It is important to move with a purpose and not get straight-lined by your movements.
- (5) Should not leave a “good view” of an active play just because the lead rotated. After the “active play” has changed rotate to proper position.
- (6) Should officiate primary defenders on block/charge plays to the rim from center side.
- (7) Should officiate the restricted arc line on secondary defenders on block/charge plays to the rim from center side.
- (8) Should release plays that curl away to the new primary official.
- (9) Should focus on obvious “reset the feet” travels on the perimeter and travels in the post. Find the pivot in the post!

c. **Lead official:**

- (1) **Should mirror the ball at Lead.** It is imperative that we begin to close down as the ball moves toward the opposite side. This will allow us to be in a better position to rotate, if a rotation is needed (**pages 26-28**).
- (2) Should officiate all primary and secondary defenders on block/charge plays to the rim down the lane and from strong side.
- (3) Should officiate secondary defenders on block/charge plays initiated from weak side.
- (4) Should “take fouls to the table” on all plays to the rim in his primary area of responsibility when calling a foul.

9. **Free throw administration:**

- There is significant pressure from the stakeholders to reduce the total game time and number of stoppages in the game. Officials should be aware of this and discourage delays during free throws. In addition, officials should generally administer free throws in a timelier fashion.

10. **Traveling:**

- When a player catches the ball, officials should officiate from the floor up. Find the pivot foot and then move your eyes up to officiate potential contact.

11. **Foul calling procedure:**

- Officials should post a foul (stop the clock), give a preliminary signal (if needed) and pause before leaving to report the foul. We have been leaving the scene too quickly to report a foul. Slowing this process down will put officials in a better position to discourage unsporting behavior.

12. **Mechanics rules quizzes:**

- The Mechanics Committee encourages coordinators of officials to give mechanics quizzes during classroom sessions at camp. It is all about positioning. If we can teach our officials

to dig into the Mechanics Manual, we will naturally be in a better position to get the calls right.

13. Rules Committee action: The rules committee will meet May 7 – 10, 2019 in Indianapolis. All rules changes and impacted mechanics will be shared with you during the fall clinics.

As we all look toward the fall, I offer the following information for your future planning:

1. Coordinators rules meeting/clinic – September 6, 2019, in Indianapolis, Indiana, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (approximate). The Mechanics Committee will meet the afternoon of September 5, 2019.
2. 2019 Officials' regional clinics:

<u>City</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Phoenix, AZ	Marriott Phoenix Airport	Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019
Atlanta, GA	Atlanta Airport Marriott	Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019
Indianapolis, IN	Fairfield Inn/NCAA Office	Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia Airport Marriott	TBD

Please note: Information regarding the clinics and hotel accommodations will be sent out at a later date. Do not contact any of the hotels until this information is officially made available.

I hope you have a great off-season! My contact information is shown below. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions, comments or input.

Best regards,



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