



This year's basketball rules have emphasized the importance of good sportsmanship throughout the regular season. The Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee wants to have clear expectations moving into postseason competition.

***The highest level of respect and integrity, which embody good sportsmanship, must be exhibited throughout the 2018-19 Division I Women's Basketball Championship.***

We have a mutual responsibility to serve as leaders and role models in this regard. Basketball is a competitive game, which, by its very nature, may lead to adversarial relationships between opponents. However, the relationship should not foster a negative interaction. Individuals should employ a behavior that respects the skill level of an opponent and should not create an atmosphere that negatively influences the attitude of the game.

The Women's Basketball Oversight Committee expects all game officials to strictly and consistently enforce the bench decorum and the coaching box rule. As outlined in Rule 10, Section 12, Articles 3 and 4, and Appendix III of the 2017-18 and 2018-19 Women's Basketball Rule Book, the committee expects the following:

**For the coaching box:**

- The coaching box rule shall be enforced, and technical fouls called for infractions.
- Coaches shall remain in the coaching box.
- After a warning, a technical foul shall be assessed when a coach is clearly and completely outside the box.

**For behavior of coaches:**

- Coaches engaging in minor conduct infractions should receive a warning from officials. A subsequent violation results in a technical foul.
- Any egregious (blatant) conduct violation, while inside or outside the coaching box shall be properly penalized **without warning**, with a technical foul.

**For assistant coaches and other bench personnel:**

- All bench personnel, except the head coach, are required to be seated on the bench while the ball is live, except to react spontaneously to an outstanding play. They are then to immediately return to sitting on the bench.
- When assistant coaches or bench personnel violate bench decorum rules in a minor way, the official shall inform the head coach and request that the coach handle the situation. **This is an official warning. Any further violation by bench personnel shall result in a technical foul assessed to the offender.**
- Any egregious (blatant) conduct violations by assistant coaches or bench personnel need no warning and **shall immediately result in a technical foul.**

Examples of unsportsmanlike behavior by student-athletes and/or coaches include, but are not limited to:

- Comments directed at or referring to any game official that question the integrity of an official (for example, repeated references to the number of fouls called against each team; suggesting an official is "cheating" a team, etc.).

- Profane, vulgar, threatening or derogatory remarks or personal comments relating to race, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation directed at or referring to any game official or opposing player/bench personnel.
- Prolonged, negative responses to a call/no-call, which is disrespectful or unprofessional and includes, but is not limited to, thrashing the arms in disgust, dramatizing contact by re-enacting the play, or running or jumping in disbelief over a call/no-call.
- A negative response to a call/no-call including, but not limited to, approaching and/or charging an official in a hostile, aggressive or otherwise threatening manner; emphatically removing one's coat in response to a call/ no-call; or throwing equipment or clothing onto the floor.
- Continual criticism during a game regarding the same incident after receiving a warning from an official.
- Taunting, baiting, ridiculing, finger-pointing, trash talking or inappropriate gestures (obscene, provoking and intimidating).

When these behaviors are witnessed by fans in attendance or by those watching a broadcast, such actions also damage the image of the game. This is a concern to all who support the principles of sportsmanship. All stakeholders must agree that behavior exhibited by coaches, student-athletes and institutional personnel should portray the highest ideals of higher education and intercollegiate athletics.

In closing, please note that the Women's Basketball Oversight Committee will monitor decorum throughout post season competition as they have done during the regular season. With your leadership, we can demonstrate our personal and collective commitment to ensuring that the season will continue to be a great experience for student-athletes and fans alike.

We fully anticipate and appreciate your cooperation to further enhance sportsmanship throughout postseason competition.

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*This email was sent to Ms. June Courteau, Mr. Jon Levinson, NCAA Committee on Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct, NCAA Division I Board of Directors, NCAA Division I Conference Commissioners, NCAA Division I Conference Coordinators of Women's Basketball Officiating, NCAA Division I Directors of Athletics, NCAA Division I Head Women's Basketball Coaches, NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee, NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee and NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee based on contact information in the [NCAA Directory](#).*

