



Post Clinic Comments, Interpretations and Case Plays

By Art Hyland, Secretary-Rules Editor, NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee

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In preparation for the start of the 2020-21 men's basketball season, please note the new comments, interpretations and case plays that have been clarified since the NCAA Officiating Clinics on October 4 and 10, 2020.

Men's Basketball Rules Committee – The rules committee has met twice since the officiating clinics and has authorized the following rules waivers and interpretations:

1. **Scorers' and Timers' Table** – As set forth in the NCAA Men's Basketball Bulletin dated October 28, 2020, it is permissible for institutions to relocate the team bench to the side of the court opposite the Scorers' and Timers' Table. Please review that document to be sure that you understand the procedural changes that are necessary with this relocation.
2. **Team Bench Area** – The October 28, 2020, bulletin also addresses changes to the definition of the "bench area". For the 2020-21 season, the bench area begins at the 38' lane and extends down the sideline to a point beyond the end line. Teams have an option to make an "L" shaped turn at a point at least 6 feet beyond the end line. The "L" shaped line may not extend further than a point 3 feet outside the nearest lane line. Also, when a team elects to have an "L" shaped bench area, the head coach may move to that area behind the end line to communicate with bench personnel but otherwise may not stand in that area to view the game or communicate with players and officials on the court. Violations of this rule may be penalized by assessing a Class A technical foul.
3. **Technology on the Bench** – Many conferences have requested a waiver of Rule 10-4.2.d to permit teams to obtain live stats in the bench area without the necessity of having paper stats delivered to the bench. A maximum of four iPads or laptops are permitted in each bench area. If a malfunction causes one team to lose the ability to receive stats on all their devices, then the other team must shut down their devices also. However, as long as a team has at least one device working, the other team is not required to discontinue use of any devices.

As an alternative to the waiver for the use of iPads or laptops, the home team may provide either printers or monitors at the ends of the Scorers' table for the purpose of providing stats only to each team.

4. Games With Less Than Two Officials – Per Rule 2-1.1.a, there must be at least two officials to begin a game. The game may not begin or continue with only one official present (Rule 5-3.7). However, the rules committee has amended its prior interpretations of this rule by now permitting a game to be officiated by one official if the game began with at least two officials. Under the “Interrupted Game” rule (Rule 5-4), the procedures for continuation of the game when there is only one official shall be determined by applicable conference rules for conference games or by the two teams for non-conference games. When developing procedures for continuing an interrupted game, the rules committee suggests that the conference consider the following:
 - a. Assign a standby official to all home games.
 - b. Direct officials to adjust the mechanics of officiating to accommodate an injured official who is unable to continue at 100% capacity.
 - c. Delay the continuation of the game for a reasonable time to allow the conference to assign a replacement official.
 - d. If the two competing teams are located within a reasonable distance of each other, reschedule the game on a mutually convenient date to be continued at the point of interruption.
 - e. If the two teams are scheduled to play a return game at the visiting team’s home court, the teams may complete the interrupted game at the visiting team’s home court before the start of the return game.
 - f. Develop a formula considering both time remaining and the score differential of the game to determine when one official would be permitted to finish the game.
 - g. If the game is never completed under any of these alternatives, it becomes an “interrupted game” and neither the score nor any statistics associated with the partially completed game shall count.
 - h. Conferences may always contact me if there are questions in formulating procedures for finishing interrupted games.
5. Artificial Noise in the Arena – The rules committee has approved the use of “piped in” crowd noise during the 2020-21 season under the following conditions:
 - a. The decibel level shall not exceed 85 db and shall remain constant when the ball is live.
 - b. Artificial noisemakers such as “Thundersticks”, whistles, bells or horns may not be part of the artificial crowd noise.
 - c. Bands, amplified music or artificial noisemakers are permitted only during timeouts, intermissions and instant replay reviews by officials.
 - d. No loudspeakers or amplifiers shall be placed in close proximity to team benches.
 - e. Artificial crowd noise shall not disrupt the officials’ ability to manage the game. The referee is authorized to regulate or eliminate artificial crowd noise in the event that the referee determines that the noise is interfering with the reasonable conduct of the game.
 - f. No artificial boos or other negative crowd reactions shall be permitted.

- g. None of these restrictions shall prevent a conference's or institution's media partner(s) from adding artificial crowd noise to their broadcasts provided it is inaudible within the facility where the game is being played.
6. Video Boards/Walls – Pictures of fans, flags or other appropriate scenes are permitted on sideline or behind the baseline video boards when static. Images or videos on the video boards shall not be changed when the ball is live.
7. Interpretations.
- a. Play – With 59.9 seconds or less remaining in the second period, A1 attempts a try which is unsuccessful. An official stops the game to use Instant Replay to determine if there was goaltending by a Team B player. After review, the officials determine that 1) goaltending occurred or 2) there was no goaltending.

Ruling – The officials should permit substitutions by either or both teams. Rule 3-6.1.h.1.
 - b. A.R. 212 – There is still some confusion regarding A.R. 212 #2 as to when the violation occurs. Per Ruling 2, the violation does not occur until A1 is first to touch the ball after releasing it while airborne. Until A1 touches the ball, it is impossible to determine if the dropped ball was a pass or the start of a dribble. This ruling was previously clarified in the NCAA Men's Basketball Bulletin dated March 5, 2019.
 - c. Play – A1 has possession of the ball in his front court near the division line. A1 takes a step backwards and steps on the division line. An official blows his whistle and calls a backcourt violation on A1.

Ruling – The ball is awarded to Team B for a throw-in from a designated spot at the division line. Rule 7-3.2.d states, "When the offensive team commits a foul or violation in the backcourt." In this play, A1 stepped on the division line which is in Team A's backcourt. The rule goes on to say, "and the defensive team gains control in its front court", the throw -in shall be determined by using the procedures in Rule 7-3.2.b (i.e. the four spots). However, in this play, Team B (the defensive team) gains control at the division line which is also Team B's backcourt. Therefore, Rule 7-3.2.b is not applicable and the ball shall be put in play with a throw-in by Team B at the division line.
 - d. Shot Clock Malfunctions – The rules committee approved an interpretation regarding procedures following the malfunction of one shot clock. If there are replacement floor clocks, activate both and allow the one remaining shot clock to function also. If there are no replacement clocks, deactivate the one remaining shot clock and use the stopwatch and public address procedures set forth in Rule 1-19.3.

- e. Correcting Timing Mistakes- Rule 11-1.c.1.d permits an official to correct the time to be placed back on the game clock “when the referee blows the whistle, signals for the game clock to be stopped, and in his judgment, time has elapsed before the game clock stopped.” However, if an official is using Instant Replay to review a play permitted under another rule (e.g. 11-2.1.b.4) and determines that a game clock mistake also needs to be corrected, the official make the necessary timing correction.
- f. Flopping- Under our revised interpretation on the enforcement of the flopping rule (4-10.1.c.4), the official must first determine if the contact by the offensive player or defensive player is illegal or incidental contact. If the contact is illegal, call the foul and there can be no flop warning or penalty assessed. If the contact is incidental, the official must judge whether a warning (first warning delay) or technical foul (second or more delays) is merited.

Please contact me at art.hyland@comcast.net if you have questions.