In preparation for the start of the 2021-22 men’s basketball season, please note the approved COVID-19 waivers.

Men’s Basketball Rules Committee – The rules committee has authorized the following rules waivers:

1. Scorers’ and Timers’ Table – Due to COVID-19 issues, it is permissible to have the Scorers’ and Timers’ Table on the opposite side of the court from the Bench Area. If this option is selected, it will most likely mean moving the team bench areas rather than the Scorers’ and Timers’ Table due to all the electronic connections necessary to operate the equipment at this table.

When this option is selected, the host institution should have either an “X” or an NCAA logo at the division line across from the Scorers’ and Timers’ Table as an indicator as to where incoming substitutes should sit or stand until beckoned into the game by an official. Incoming substitutes should stand, face the Scorers’ and Timers’ Table and wave at the Scorer to ensure proper entry into the game. While awaiting entry into the game all substitutes should maintain adequate spacing.

Except where specifically stated above, all other Team Bench and Scorers’ and Timers’ Table provisions of Rule 1-21 remain in full force and effect.

In addition, institutions that elect to move team benches to the sideline opposite the Scorers’ and Timers’ Table should also use tape on the court to designate the limit of the 28’ bench area and the 38’ coaching box per the Court Diagram on Page 12 of the 2021-22 NCAA Men’s Basketball Rules Book. This will ensure adequate spacing for incoming substitutions.

2. Team Bench Area – For the 2021-22 season, it is permissible for the bench area to begin at the 38’ lane and extend 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. The team bench may consist of multiple rows where space is available to allow for increased social distancing.

3. 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). The rules committee has permitted 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:

- Assign a standby official to all home games.
- Direct officials to adjust the mechanics of officiating to accommodate an injured official who is unable to continue at 100% capacity.
- Delay the continuation of the game for a reasonable time to allow the conference to assign a replacement official.
- 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.
- 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.
- As a last resort the committee suggests, a conference should consult with their coordinator of officials before instituting a policy that contemplates the ability for the one official to complete the remainder of the game. This could include developing a formula considering both time remaining and the score differential of the game to determine when a game is complete and when one official would be permitted to finish the game. As a reminder, the official maintains the authority to end the game when game conditions warrant.
- If a conference has a policy in place to complete a contest with one official, that official may utilize instant replay for unlimited monitor reviews on any call or no-call when only one official is able to complete the game but only in the last two minutes of the second period and the entire overtime period(s).
- 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.
- Conferences may always contact me if there are questions in formulating procedures for finishing interrupted games.
4. Artificial Noise in the Arena – The rules committee has approved the use of “piped in” crowd noise during the 2021-22 season under the following conditions:
   - Artificial crowd noise is only permitted in venues where no fans are allowed.
   - The decibel level shall not exceed 85 db and shall remain constant when the ball is live.
   - Artificial noisemakers such as “Thundersticks”, whistles, bells or horns may not be part of the artificial crowd noise.
   - Bands, amplified music or artificial noisemakers are permitted only during timeouts, intermissions and instant replay reviews by officials.
   - No loudspeakers or amplifiers shall be placed in close proximity to team benches.
   - 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.
   - No artificial boos or other negative crowd reactions shall be permitted.
   - 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.

5. Masks or Face Coverings - Masks or face coverings worn by players may be any solid color. Teammates’ masks/face coverings need not be similar in color to each other. Any logo on a mask/face covering must meet the size restriction found in Rule 1-25.1. For other information concerning masks/face coverings, please consult the current resocialization document found on the NCAA website’s main COVID page: http://www.ncaa.org/sportscience-institute/covid-19-coronavirus.

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