



Post Clinic Comments, Interpretations, and Case Plays
By Art Hyland, Secretary-Rules Editor, NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee
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The last of the NCAA Officiating Clinics was completed on October 14, 2018. In addition, officials must have completed the rules exam by October 29 and all coaches must watch the NCAA Rules video by no later than November 5. These three requirements have generated numerous rules issues. This commentary is intended to further explain many of the rules issues which were discussed or raised by interested parties over the last few months.

1. Nike Hyper Elite ball – Per Rule 1-16.3, the ball “shall consist of tiny raised protrusions densely spaced over the entire surface of each panel so as to form a pebbled appearance.” The Nike Hyper Elite ball does not meet this requirement and cannot be used this season in NCAA competition. This does not affect all Nike balls – only the Hyper Elite model.
2. Delays/Enforcement – Per Rule 4-10, there are three kinds of delays: administrative, coach, and player.
 - a. Enforcement of Administrative delays requires no warning. When they occur, they should be enforced without warning.
 - b. Coach delays require that a single warning be given. Thereafter, if a coach commits any of the coach delays, a Class B technical should be assessed. An exception to this rule is when bench personnel enter the court before player activity has been terminated and prevents the ball from being made live or prevents continuous play. Enforcement of this delay does not require any warning.
 - c. One warning shall be given to each team for any player delays. Thereafter, a technical foul shall be assessed against the player who commits a second player delay of any type.
3. Throw-in Spots – Rule 7-3.2
 - a. As a general rule, all throw-ins following an out of bounds violation by either the offense or the defense in the front court or backcourt will be from a designated spot closest to where the violation occurred. (7-3.2.a, c and d). However, when a throw-in provision is violated, the new throw-in shall be from the same designated spot as that of the original throw-in (7-4.2).
 - b. When a team calls a live ball time out in their front court, the throw-in spot is the nearest of the four spots designated by Rule 7-3.1.d and 7-3.2.a.

- c. When the ball is deflected out of bounds in the front court by the defense and thereafter the offense calls a timeout before the ball is legally touched inbounds, the subsequent throw-in point shall be from the original spot Rule 7-3.2.a (Exception).

4. Backcourt – Rule 9-12.5

Play situation – Team A has control of the ball in its front court when B1 deflects the ball across the division line toward the backcourt. After the deflected ball crosses the division line but before it touches the court, A1 leaps from the front court and catches the ball while airborne and then returns to the floor in the backcourt. Ruling – backcourt violation. The deflected ball still has front court status when A1 catches the ball. When A1 lands in the backcourt, he causes the ball to go into the backcourt. Therefore, Rule 9-12.4 applies, not Rule 9-12.5. Any prior interpretations of this play situation should be disregarded.

5. Illegal screens and related defensive tactics – The rules now permit officials to call a double foul when the screener and the defensive player both commit illegal acts at approximately the same time (Rule 4-35.6).

In addition, we continue to see more and more plays on the perimeter where the dribbler passes the ball to a teammate rather than make a handoff. When this occurs, the officials must continue to referee the passer and determine if he becomes a screener or a cutter. If he continues in the general direction of a player defending his teammate, he is a screener and must conform to all the provisions of Rule 4-35 (e.g., excessively wide screens, moving screens and screens outside the visual field of the defender, etc.).

On the other hand, if after passing the ball to a teammate, he makes a cut clearly away from the defender and more toward the basket, he becomes a cutter and is entitled to all of the freedom of movement requirements of Rule 4-17.5, including time and distance, to avoid contact but no more than two steps.

Finally, be aware of so-called “blow-up” tactics which may occur when the defender sees a screen coming and elects to run directly into the screener. This could result in a foul on the defender or a double foul if the screener was also illegal. As with all judgment calls, the official must determine if the contact results in a foul or is incidental.

6. Instant Replay – Rule 11 – The following play situations are intended to clarify replay rules on various types of unusual plays:

- a. Restricted Area (last 2 minutes of the second period or last 2 minutes of any overtime period).

Play – In the last 2 minutes of the second period, the lead official makes a blocking call on B1 who is grounded in the RA. The calling official either a.) does point or b.) does not point to the RA following the call. Then:

- (1) The Team B coach appeals for a review claiming that B1 was positioned outside the RA.
- (2) The Team B coach appeals claiming that B1 was airborne and made a legal vertical jump to block the shot.
- (3) The Team B coach appeals claiming that B1 was not a secondary defender and, as a result, the RA rule was not in effect.

Ruling – In a.) (1), the officials may review the monitor to see if B1 was in or outside the RA. If the call is confirmed, Team B is charged a timeout. If B1 was outside the RA, the call must be reversed with the offensive player being assessed a player control/charging foul. In a.) (2) or (3), none of the plays may be reviewed.

In b.), none of the plays may be reviewed since the official did not point to the RA following the call. By not pointing, the official is saying that his blocking call was correct regardless of where it occurred.

- b. Cylinder Plays – Rule 4-39.1.c defines the space each player may legally occupy. While a defender may occupy space as close to the offensive player as possible short of contact on either the side or on the back, the offensive player is entitled to additional space in the front but not further than the hands/arms when the arm(s) are bent at the elbow.

If the defender has invaded the space of the offensive player and the offensive player attempts a “normal basketball play” (defined as attempting to shoot, pass, dribble, or pivot) by moving his elbows from side to side either above the shoulders or below the waist with the forearms more vertical than horizontal, any resulting contact (other than incidental contact) to a defensive player caused by the swinging of the elbow shall result in a foul on the defense.

Play – B1 invades the vertical space of A1 while defending A1 from the front. A1, with two hands on the ball, attempts to make a normal basketball play by moving the ball from side to side over his head and with his forearms more vertical than horizontal. A1’s elbow hits B1 in the face and an official immediately blows his whistle and signals a player control foul on A1. What are the instant replay options for an official?

- (1) The officials may use instant replay to determine if A1’s foul was flagrant. (11-2.1.d.1).
- (2) The official may not use instant replay to see if B1 committed a flagrant foul (11-2.1.d.1.a). There is no plausible reason to think that B1 committed a flagrant foul.
- (3) If, after review, the official determines that there was no flagrant foul on A1 and that the foul should have been assessed to B1, they may reverse the player control foul with no foul to be charged (11-2.1.d.1). No foul may be assessed to B1.

- c. Hook and Hold Plays – These plays often result in an injury and also constitute an attempt to deceive the officials. The 2018 rule change now requires all hook and hold fouls to be assessed as flagrant fouls. The enforcement of these fouls as flagrant permits the use of instant replay to call or verify these fouls.

Play – B1 is legally boxing out A1 and both are attempting to rebound a missed shot. A1 hooks his arm under the arm of B1 and pulls B1 down as B1 attempts to secure the ball. Both players fall to the ground. An official calls a foul on B1. What are the officials' options if they elect to use instant replay?

- (1) If the official receives information that A1 may have committed a hook and hold foul (fellow official, player, coach) he may elect to use instant replay to determine if A1 committed a flagrant foul (11-2.1.d.1). If the review indicates that A1 committed a hook and hold foul, the officials should assess A1 with a flagrant 1 or 2 foul. However, the common foul on B1 may not be reversed.
- (2) If the officials go to the monitor to see if B1 committed a flagrant foul and see that A1 actually committed a flagrant foul and that B1 committed no foul, they may reverse the foul on B1 and may charge A1 with a flagrant 1 or 2 foul (11-2.1.d.1). In this play situation, A1 cannot be charged with a common foul.
- (3) It is important for officials to understand and determine the purpose for going to the monitor. If it is to see if they missed a flagrant foul on a specific player, that foul may be assessed if confirmed. If they use instant replay to confirm a call made against one player, they cannot charge the other player with a common foul (11-2.1.d.1).

- d. Flagrant fouls discovered during halftime

Play – During the last live ball of the first period, B1 commits a flagrant foul on A1 which is undetected by the officials. The period ends and all players, coaches and officials leave the court. As players, coaches, and officials come out for the second half, 1.) The officials explain to the coaches that they believe that a flagrant foul may have been committed within the statute of limitations prescribed by Rule 11-2.1.d.2 and that they are going to the monitor to review the play or 2.) A coach tells the officials that he believes a flagrant foul occurred just before the end of the period.

Ruling – In both cases the officials may review the play and penalize the appropriate offender if a flagrant foul occurred. With respect to the coach's appeal, if no flagrant foul occurred or the foul did not occur within the statute of limitations, the appealing coach shall be charged a timeout. (Rule 11-2.1.d.2 and 11-2.1.d.4).

7. Bench Decorum – All officials should review the language of Appendix III of the NCAA men's basketball rule book which sets forth many of the unsporting acts which should be penalized consistently by officials. To reiterate, the discussions at the clinics regarding

enforcement of the bench conduct rules was not intended to create a contest as to who can call the most technical fouls. It is a sincere attempt to treat all coaches fairly and to have equal enforcement of the bench decorum rules. Let's try to reach this goal!

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me at art.hyland@comcast.net.