



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

December 13, 2007

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TO: NCAA Divisions I, II and III Coordinators of Men's Basketball Officials.

FROM: Henry O. Nichols  
National Coordinator of Men's Basketball Officiating.

SUBJECT: Bulletin No. 1 and December 11, 2007, Teleconference Follow-Up.

Because of the importance of this information, we appreciate your consideration and effort in providing this bulletin directly to all officials and head coaches in your conference. We believe that providing this information to each institution demonstrates a continuing commitment to maintaining and improving the officiating in every game. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

This information will also be available on the NCAA section of the Excel Sports Officiating Web site at [www.eofficials.com](http://www.eofficials.com).

Coaches are to be congratulated for their tremendous effort and cooperation regarding bench decorum and the coaching box. The self discipline and professionalism exhibited by the vast majority of coaches has been extraordinary and is providing an atmosphere around the game that eliminates negative distractions and lends a dignity to the competition.

Officials are also commended for their efforts in working with the coaches and adjudicating the rules concerning bench decorum and the coaching box fairly and consistently.

I am confident that both coaches and officials will continue the outstanding beginning we have had throughout the entire season.

**Points of Emphasis**

**Bench Decorum and Coaching Box.** It is crucial that coaches and officials continue to attend to their responsibilities each and every game as the season progresses.

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Palming. There has been more consistency in calling palming violations. It appears that coaches emphasizing proper dribbling techniques and players adjusting to the increased calling of palming violations during the past two seasons have resulted in fewer palming violations being committed, but officials must not ignore these violations when they do occur regardless of time and score.

Blocking and charging near the basket. It is heartening to observe officials' efforts in this area. There has been a marked decline in the "no calls" that have been prevalent in the past and officials are making the calls. It is imperative that officials stay consistent and keep calling the blocks or charges when they occur. Remember, referee the defensive player in these situations and anticipate the play, not the call.

Post Play. Officials in the lead position have done a much better job of "stepping up" and calling the first foul. Post play will always be one of the more difficult aspects to officiate, but if officials concentrate on off ball responsibilities and, when in the lead position, do what they are supposed to do, post play can be kept in good order and the game will flow on a more even keel. Use the officiating guidelines and Call the Fouls – the players will adjust.

### **Areas of Concern**

Assistant coaches are to remain seated on the bench except for the exceptions listed under Bench Area Restrictions in Rule 10. Prolonged standing or kneeling is not permitted.

Intentional fouls. Whether because of excessive contact or obviously not making a play on the ball, officials cannot be reluctant to call intentional fouls when they occur. Officials must stay consistent and call these types of fouls without hesitation.

Players with the ball causing contact. Officials must not reward an offensive player with free throws when he causes the contact during a drive to the basket or when leaning in on a try for a field goal. Obviously, the shooter must be protected but do not call fouls on a defender when he does nothing wrong.

### **Mechanics**

Officials in the lead position must do a better job of moving along the baseline to obtain the proper angle on drives to the basket, especially when the play occurs in the restricted area or on the opposite side of the lane. As instructed several times in the preseason clinics, the official should move quickly into the paint or to the opposite side of the lane for the best look. Too many times in the lead position when the official stays stationary, he is straightlined and questionable calls come from the center or trail official on plays that the lead should be taking.

Double whistles. On plays with double whistles, especially on block/charge situations, using the age old philosophy of the official with the play coming toward him taking the call is an excellent guideline.

Last-second shots. At the end of a half and at the end of a game, the official must make a call when the play happens. The monitor is to be used to verify the call is correct or to change the call, but a call must be made on the play initially.

Coaching box warnings. The official must make it clear and obvious that the warning has been given. If the violation occurs during a live ball, at the next dead ball, the official should then clearly demonstrate to the coach that he has been warned. Do not leave any doubt to the coach or officiating partners that a warning has been given.

Signals. When calling a foul that will result in 2 free throws for a player fouled while attempting a try for goal (including continuous motion), the calling official should not immediately signal “two” with his fingers in the air. If the attempt is touched close to the basket and the outside officials do not judge goal tending or basket interference, the two fingers in the air could give the false impression that the goal counts. In these situations, do not signal two free throws until it is clear that there is no goal tending or basket interference.

Timeouts. Regardless if a team has no timeouts remaining, officials must grant the timeout request.

Putting the ball in play. In some instances officials have been lax in making certain that both teams have the appropriate number of players on the court before putting the ball in play after a timeout or other delay during the game. All three officials should count the players before the ball is put into play.

### **Web Site**

Officials, coaches and coordinators are encouraged to check the plays posted on the Web site at [www.eofficials.com](http://www.eofficials.com).

### **Cardinal Rules**

- Zero tolerance on unsporting behavior by players.
- Palming violations are to be called regardless of time and score.
- Bench decorum and coaching box violations are to be strictly enforced.

- Communication between coaches and officials during the game should be professional and brief.

### **Interpretations**

*Play:* Team A calls a timeout when play resumes, Team A had only 4 players on playing court. The official discovered the infraction and assessed Team A with a technical foul. Is the official correct?

*Ruling:* The official was correct in assessing an administrative technical foul to Team A. After a timeout or intermission, all players are required to return to the playing court at approximately the same time. Failure to do so results in an administrative technical foul. Team A's players failed to do so. Consequently, an administrative technical foul shall be assessed to Team A. This technical foul does not count toward the team foul total, nor toward disqualification or ejection.

*Play:* A1 is assessed an unsportsmanlike technical foul (1) before the start of the game in which he was listed as a starting player. (2) After the 1<sup>st</sup> half clearly ended in which he was a player.

*Ruling:* In (1) and (2) when A1 was assessed a direct unsportsmanlike technical foul, he was not a player since he was not legally participating on the playing court but was a team member and a member of bench personnel. As a result, A1's technical foul shall count toward his disqualification. Also, A1's technical foul shall be indirectly charged to the head coach. Furthermore, A1's technical foul shall count toward the team foul total in the half which was to be played. Finally, two free throws shall be awarded to any player from team B and play shall be resumed from the point of interruption.

**Clarification.** The following was omitted in the 2008 rulebooks but the rule is still in effect.

Armsleeves. The use of an armsleeve is permissible for medical reasons but its utilization shall be verified by either the individual's coach or trainer.

HON/EB:jjr

cc: Athletics Directors of Independent Division I Institutions  
NCAA Divisions I, II and III Conference Commissioners  
NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee  
NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee  
Selected NCAA Staff Members