



2015-2016 NCAA Women's Basketball
RULE INTERPRETATIONS/CLARIFICATIONS
As of 11/24/15

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11/24/15 – Supplemental Apparel

Officials are being told by team personnel, such as a head coach or athletic trainer, that a player must wear a certain item, such as a sleeve or knee pad whose color differs from those worn by teammates, or are wearing an undershirt which does not meet the color requirement set forth in Rule 1-23.1, for "medical reasons".

The only procedure that exists for a player to wear an article of apparel or a piece of equipment not normally permitted in basketball is for the institution to request a waiver from the NCAA. This waiver is issued by the secretary-rules editor and the team it is issued to is required to have the waiver with them at each game and to inform the opposing team and game officials of its existence.

Rule 2-5.1 requires the referee to inspect and approve all players' uniforms and all equipment before the game starts. When teams wear warmups before the start of the game, players' apparel/equipment will need to be reinspected once the warmups are removed. Any player who is not properly attired shall not be permitted to play until they rectify their apparel. Do not instruct anyone to remove anything; simply inform the head coach that the player may not play until they are properly attired.

If the head coach, trainer or other personnel informs the officiating crew that the item is for a medical reason, the officials are to ask to see the waiver which permits the article to be worn. If the team does not have a waiver, do not permit the player to play if they are not legally attired.

11/10/15 - Option to Advance interpretation (revised)

Rule 5-14.2.b states that a team may exercise the option to advance the ball when, in the last 59.9 seconds of the game, after a player of that team secures "the ball from a rebound in the backcourt and before any advance of the ball." In developing the Option to Advance quiz, the question was raised as to whether this applied to an offensive rebound as well. **On October 29, an interpretation was released which dealt with offensive rebounds and when the option to advance would be available. That interpretation has been discarded.** What is ultimately important is what is written in the rule book. Interpretations should either clarify what is already in the written language of the rule book or deal with situations not specifically covered by rule. Based upon the written language of the rule, there is no differentiation between an offensive or defensive rebound.

A rebound occurs "when a player secures control of the ball after a try for goal (Rule 4-30.1)." A rebound may be secured by an offensive or defensive player. When any player secures control of a rebound in her team's backcourt, and there is 59.9 seconds or less remaining in the game when her

team is granted and charged with a timeout, the option to advance is available.

Additionally, when a defensive player blocks a try for goal, the player who first secures control of the ball has, in fact, rebounded the ball. If this player is located in her team's backcourt, and there is 59.9 seconds or less remaining in the when her team is granted and charged a timeout, the option to advance is available.

Play 1: With 23.2 seconds remaining in the game, A1's try: a) strikes the ring or b) misses the ring but strikes the backboard and rebounds into Team A's backcourt. A2 secures control of the ball and Team A's coach immediately requests a timeout before A2 dribbles the ball or makes a pass. Team A's coach wishes to advance the ball. **Ruling 1:** In both a) and b) Team A may advance the ball to the 28-foot line in the frontcourt

Play 2: With 43.5 seconds remaining in the game, A1's try is blocked by B1. The ball bounces into Team A's backcourt where it is recovered by A2. Team A's coach immediately requests a timeout before A2 dribbles the ball or makes a pass. Team A's coach wishes to advance the ball. **Ruling 2:** Team A may advance the ball to the 28-foot line in the frontcourt, as A2 secured a rebound from the unsuccessful try.

Play 3: With 15.4 seconds remaining in the game, A1 attempts a pass to A2. B1 deflects the ball into Team A's backcourt. A3 secures control of the ball. Team A's coach immediately requests a timeout before A3 dribbles or passes the ball. Team A's coach wishes to advance the ball. **Ruling 3:** Team A does not have the option to advance the ball available, as A3 did not secure a rebound.

10/19/15 Shot-Clock Violation and the use of instant replay

A question was raised at one of the regional clinics concerning the use of instant replay to determine whether or not a shot-clock violation has occurred. Rule 11-2.1.e permits officials to use instant replay in the last two minutes of the game (fourth period and any extra period) to determine if shot-clock violation has occurred. The use of instant replay in this situation is not required, but is available to the officials. Rule 11-3.1.a.1 states that officials **shall** use instant replay to determine whether or not a shot-clock violation has occurred prior to the reading of zeroes on the game clock at the end of any period. These rules are not in conflict with each other. In the last two minutes of the game (fourth period or any extra period), officials **may** use instant replay to determine whether or not a shot-clock violation has occurred, but if it is a question of whether or not the shot-clock violation occurs before the reading of zeroes on the game clock, the officials **shall** use instant replay to determine whether the goal shall count or not.

Play 1: Team A inbounds the ball following a goal with 30.5 seconds on the game clock in the (a) first period or (b) fourth period. A1's try for goal is near the expiration of the shot-clock period and the end of the period. The goal is successful.

Ruling 1: In both (a) and (b), the officials shall use instant replay to determine whether or not a shot-clock violation occurred before the reading of zeroes on the game clock. If replay determines that the ball was still in A1's hand(s) when the shot-clock period expired, this is a shot-clock violation and the goal shall be cancelled. The correct time shall be placed on the game clock and a throw-in awarded to the opposing team at the out-of-bounds spot nearest to where the violation occurred.

Play 2: Team A inbounds the ball following a goal with 55.9 seconds on the game clock in the (a) first period or (b) fourth period. A1's try for goal is near the expiration of the shot-clock period. The goal is

successful.

Ruling 2: In (a), the use of instant replay is not permitted to review the possible shot-clock violation. In (b), the officials may use instant replay to determine if a shot-clock violation occurred because there is two minute or less remaining in the game.

Additionally, a rule change this year (Rule 11-1.3) permits the officials to use the reading of zeroes on the shot-clock, when the shot-clock horn is inaudible, to determine whether a shot-clock violation has occurred as in Rule 11-2.1.e.1. For consistency in the adjudication of shot-clock violations prior to the reading of zeroes on the game clock at the end of a period, the use of zeroes on the shot clock, when the horn is inaudible, is permitted in those situations as well.

10/1/15 Post Play – Legal Contact (clarified 10/25/15)

This season, the rules committee revised the guidelines for determining legal and illegal contact on a post player in control of the ball in the lane area with her back to the basket. The new guidelines state that in this situation, the defensive post player “may place a forearm or *one* hand on the offensive player”. Additionally, in this same scenario, it is illegal for the defensive player to contact the offensive post player with her body, leg or knee.

It is important to remember that, in either case, it is the defensive player who initiates the contact with the offensive player. If an offensive post player with the ball causes contact with the defensive post player and the contact is with non-permitted body parts, this is not a foul on the defensive player. Also, a defensive post player is never required to vacate a legally established position because of the movement of an offensive player (Rule 4-18.3).

Officials have to know which player initiated the contact. When the defensive player places body parts in excess of what is permitted on the offensive post player with the ball, a foul shall be called on the defensive player. When the offensive post player causes contact with the defender and this contact is incidental, a foul shall not be charged to the defender; when this contact is illegal, a player-control foul shall be charged to the offensive player.

Play: Offensive post player A1, without the ball is defended by B1. Both players are legally entitled to their spot on the playing court. There is full body contact and neither player is illegally contacting her opponent. A1 receives an entry pass and both players are maintaining their position on the playing court. **Ruling:** B1 may maintain her legally established spot on the playing court and the contact shall not be ruled a foul unless B1 commits illegal contact by pushing or displacing A1 from her spot on the playing court. **While B1 is not required to leave her legally established position on the playing court, after the initial contact B1 must now legally contact the offensive post player with one forearm away from the body or one hand with a bend in the elbow. It was the intent of the rules committee to create space between the offensive post player with the ball and the defensive player.**

9/22/15 Bench Decorum

The rules committee continues to identify bench decorum as an area of concern. It has been observed that players are often held to a higher standard than the coaches and other bench personnel. Coaches and bench personnel are expected to adhere to Rule 10-4. Prior to the 2012-13 season, the rules committee provided some examples of what constitutes egregious behavior, which should be properly and consistently penalized with a technical foul without warning. These examples continue to be applicable today.

*Examples of egregious conduct violations include, **but are not limited to**, the following:*

1. Comments directed at or referring to any game official that question the integrity of an official (e.g., repeated references to the number of fouls called against each team; suggesting an official is “cheating” a team, etc.).
2. 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.
3. Prolonged negative responses to a call/no-call which is disrespectful or unprofessional and includes, but is not limited to: thrashing of arms in disgust, dramatizing contact by re-enacting the play, or running or jumping in disbelief over a call/no-call.
4. A negative response to a call/no-call including, but not limited to: approaching/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 on to the floor.
5. Continual criticism during a game regarding the same incident after warning by an official.

Officials should permit certain behavior by the **head coach** who engages in spontaneous reactions to officiating calls/no-calls provided the head coach remains in the coaching box and the reaction is not prolonged, profane, vulgar, or threatening. At the official’s discretion, recurring spontaneous reactions by the head coach may result in a warning with subsequent incidents resulting in a technical foul. When complaints become more public or the attacks personal, there should be less discretion exercised by the official.

9/16/15 Post Player vs. Ball Handler/Dribbler

With this year’s rule change reducing the amount of contact a defensive player may have with a post player in control of the ball (holding or dribbling) in the lane area, it will be important for all stakeholders to better understand when the player in control is a post player and when she is a ball handler/dribbler.

A post player is defined as any offensive or defensive player in the lane area with or without the ball with her back to the basket (Rule 4-29). The lane area is the three-second lane and approximately three feet outside the lane. When a post player in control of the ball faces the basket, she is now a ball handler/dribbler (Rule 4-2). While this appears to be clear-cut, the question has been raised as to when a post player becomes a ball handler/dribbler.

In order to be considered “facing” the basket, the offensive post player must have both of her shoulders “square” to, or facing, the basket. Regardless of the movement of this player, until both of her shoulders are square to the basket, she remains a post player and a defender may contact her with one forearm away from the body or one hand with a bend in the elbow. Once her shoulders are square to the basket, she is now a ball handler/dribbler and the defender may only contact the ball handler/dribbler with a one hand “measure up” touch.