

Subject: (none)

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From: Jack Watford



NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Court Markings Update

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update regarding potential playing rules changes that involve court markings.

During last week's NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Oversight Committee and NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee meetings, the committees took the following action:

Distance of the three-point line. Both committees voted to support a recommendation to extend the distance of the three-point line by approximately 1' 5", making the line the same distance as the international three-point line (22' 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " at the top of the key and to 21' 7 and 7/8" in the corners). The recommendation includes an effective date of 2019-20 for Division I institutions.

The rationale for recommending this change to the Men's and Women's Basketball Rules Committees is:

- Make the lane more available for dribble/drive plays from the perimeter;
- Curb the trend of the three-point shot becoming too prevalent in college basketball by making it a bit more challenging while at the same time keeping the shot an integral part of college basketball; and
- Assist in offensive spacing by requiring the defense to defend further away from the basket.

Width of the lane. The Oversight Committees also agreed to recommend keeping the width of the lane at 12 feet. The committees noted that although widening the lane might allow for more freedom for cutters and drivers, such a change might also reduce the effectiveness of the back-to-the-basket post play and, in the long-run, eliminate post play – which has been a traditional and integral part of college basketball. The Oversight Committees also agreed to wait two years to evaluate the impact of extending the three-point line before reconsidering any change to the width of the lane.

Next steps – consideration by the Men's and Women's Basketball Rules Committees and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP). The Oversight Committees will forward the recommendation to extend the three-point line to the Men's and Women's Basketball Rules Committees for further consideration as noted below:

- May 7-10: The NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Rules Committees will consider the recommendation to extend the three-point line during their annual meetings.
- May 15-28: If the rules committees support this recommendation, Divisions I, II and III head coaches, athletics directors and conference commissioners will have the opportunity to provide feedback to the rules committees during a two-week comment period.
- Week of May 27: The rules committees will review the results of the two-week comment period to determine if the committees want to forward the recommendation to PROP for final consideration.

- Week of June 3: PROP will meet by teleconference to make a final decision on all playing rules changes recommended by the rules committees.

Effective Date: As noted, the Oversight Committees' recommendation includes an effective date of 2019-20 for Division I institutions. However, the Oversight Committees acknowledge that the rules committees and PROP may favor an effective date of 2020-21 for Divisions II and III institutions.

This information is being provided to assist institutions in planning for any possible court marking changes. Please note that if the recommendation to extend the three-point line is approved and an institution is unable to paint the line for the upcoming season (due to budget or facility-access issues), temporary lines (e.g., tape) could be used.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Dan Calandro (dcalandro@ncaa.org), liaison to the Men's Basketball Rules Committee, or Rachel Seewald (rseewald@ncaa.org), liaison to the Women's Basketball Rules Committee.

Rich Ensor, chair
NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee

Jeff Hathaway, chair
NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Oversight Committee.

This email was sent to NCAA Divisions I, II and III Men's and Women's Basketball Conference Commissioners, Directors of Athletics and Head Men's and Women's Basketball Coaches based on contact information in the [NCAA Directory](#). It was also sent to NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Oversight Committees, NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Committees, NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Competition Committees, NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Rules Committees, NCAA Division I Conference Men's and Women's Basketball Sports Administrators, NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Conference Coordinators of Basketball Officials and selected NCAA staff members.

