

A. Heightened Awareness: Being mindful of situations when players are most volatile and may engage in inappropriate or unsporting behaviors –contentious match ups, taunting, baiting, tempers flaring and non-basketball plays. Officials must observe players at all times (live and dead balls) and move closer to plays when opponents are in close proximity to one another. Inappropriate behaviors must not be ignored and must be assessed the proper penalty to avoid further escalation.

B. Officiating in the Paint: No officiating within the paint of the key, ever!

C. Mirroring the Ball: The position of the L moving along the end line; one step wider than the position of the ball to maintain an angle to referee the defense. Generally, while mirroring the ball, the L should not go beyond the wide-angle position. *Pre-game discussion should include coming strong side in 2 person system. Pre-game discussion should include “early and often” in a 3 person system.*

D. Home Positions: The proper starting position for each official on the court.

Trail: At the 28-foot mark and one to two steps off the sideline.

Center: Straddling the free-throw line extended and one to two steps off the sideline.

Lead: In close-down (ball in middle or C’s side of court) or wide-angle position (ball is on L’s side of court); one to two steps off the end line.

2. Resumption-of-Play Procedure. To provide further uniformity in performing officiating duties, more detailed guidelines have been established to perform the resumption-of-play procedure. The proper procedure follows (also see Section 3.2.4):

A. Resumption of play is the method of putting the ball in play by placing it at the disposal of a player. This procedure is in effect for the entire game except to start the second half or any extra period, and is typically used following a timeout. No warning for delay of game accompanies this procedure.

B. If a team is moving slowly toward the resumption area, follow the procedures stated in C. below, EXCEPT C.4. Teams tend to move a bit faster when the administering official performs the actions that precede putting the ball at a player’s disposal. If there is movement, AVOID PUTTING THE BALL ON THE FLOOR. Be even more patient and deliberate when the situation would give the offensive team the ball with no team to defend.

C. If a team continues to delay (i.e. huddles at the bench following the second timeout horn) and is making NO movement whatsoever to resume play, the administering official should adhere to the following, slowly and deliberately:

1. Give a long, sharp blast of the whistle to indicate play is about to begin.
2. Verbally indicate the color of the team awarded the ball.
3. Signal the direction of the team awarded the ball.
4. Put the ball at the disposal of the thrower (put the ball on the floor if the offensive team is delaying or give the ball to the thrower if the defense is delaying).

D. If play is delayed after a timeout due to chairs or water being on the floor, the resumption-of-play procedure is not used for safety reasons. When that occurs, the team is assessed a delay-of-game warning (first offense), followed by an administrative technical foul (second offense).

Held Ball (Jump Ball). To provide further uniformity in performing officiating duties, more detailed guidelines have been established when play is stopped with a held ball. The proper procedure follows (also see Section 3.4.4):

A. While the primary official is more likely to make the call, any official may recognize and sound the whistle for a held ball.

B. Give the signal for a held ball immediately. There is no need to raise a hand for the stop-clock signal.

C. The closest official moves in and toward the action; use your voice or whistle to ensure players’ stop their activity; this may help prevent dead-ball contact or rough play.

D. The non-calling officials supervise other players and bench activity –move in and toward the action if necessary.

E. Only after ensuring that all play has stopped, check the possession arrow. The calling official then verbalizes color and signals in the proper direction.

F. After completion of the throw-in, ensure the possession arrow is switched.

Mechanics Points of Emphasis:

1. Positioning and Primary Court Coverage.

There has been much discussion over the past several years regarding the “best” mechanic and court coverage to be utilized for officiating the women’s collegiate game. While every system has its strengths and vulnerabilities, when the basic tenets of the system in place are emphasized, more consistency can be achieved. Officials at every collegiate level will be held accountable for the mechanics supported by the Women’s CCA Manual.

The following are to be emphasized:

A. Body Language. By turning your head and shoulders to the play in your primary area of responsibility, a clear message is sent to your partners regarding where you are focused. While aware of your secondary responsibilities, this will enable your partners to assist if required.

B. Lead Position.

1. “Mirroring the ball” is considered a good concept and is being reinstated in the manual. Mirror the ball is being one step wider than the ball going no further than the wide-angle position.

2. Use strong body language to indicate primary coverage responsibility. Example: The ball is clearly below the free-throw line extended in the Lead’s primary, but there is considerable action going on in the post. The Lead must demonstrate strong body language to indicate the Lead’s on-ball coverage so the Trail officiates in the post.

C. Trail Position.

1. Establish home position at the 28’ mark, one to two steps off the sideline.

2. Adjust your position to obtain an open angle and cover the play but return to home position, as soon as possible.

a. When there is defensive pressure on the perimeter, before the ball clearly crosses the lane line closest to the Center, the Trail will step onto the court a few steps to get a better angle/open look at the play. As a guideline, imagine a line drawn the length of the floor and parallel to the sideline from where the three-point arc intersects with the end line –the Trail should rarely cross that line when moving onto the floor to get an open angle.

b. Go where you need to go to see the play, but be aware of passing lanes. Once that play is over, the Trail should move quickly back closer to the home position.

c. Poor habits have been developed in coming too far onto the floor and staying above the 28’ mark and not being involved in play calling.

3. The Trail must remain engaged for this system to work! When the ball is clearly below the free-throw line extended and the Lead is on-ball an active Trail is necessary:

a. Trail must referee the post.

b. Trail is responsible for the secondary defender on drives to the basket.

c. Trail is responsible for strong-side rebounding.

4. Step down toward the end line, one or two steps, to ensure good rebounding coverage. Make no movement toward transitioning until the defense has clear possession –don’t bail out!

D. Center Position.

1. Establish home position by straddling the free-throw line extended one to two steps off the sideline.

2. Adjust your position to obtain an open angle and cover the play but return to home position, as soon as possible.

a. Movement up towards the tip of the free throw circle and down to the second lane space may be necessary to cover primary and secondary coverage areas. As a guideline, imagine a line drawn the length of the floor and parallel to the sideline from where the three-point arc intersects with the end line –the Center should rarely cross that line when moving onto the floor to get an open angle.

b. Do not initiate a rotation –officiate the play in your primary until completion, or until the Lead completes the rotation. Don’t be too quick to rotate out of Center. Leaking or rolling out too soon is creating a rotation and putting partners in difficult situations and calls are being missed.

c. Officiate your play from the best angle, but don’t make it automatic that you roll out to topside.

3. Step down one or two steps for weak-side rebounding coverage. Make no movement toward transitioning until the defense has clear possession –don't bail out!

Personal Professionalism:

Be aware of your personal habits and how they might be construed as being/looking unprofessional. Several examples have been expressed by administrators and coaches that you should be aware of:

A. Gum. Chewing gum is certainly a personal choice. However, the manner in which many officials chew their gum gives an unprofessional appearance. If you choose to chew gum, it should not be noticeable to those watching you officiate.

B. Jewelry. Officials should NOT wear jewelry; this includes a wedding ring. Even though the risk of injury is unlikely, it is still possible to injure another participant with a wedding ring. Protect yourself from liability and remove all jewelry.

C. Stretching. When arriving at least 30 minutes prior to tip-off, officials have ample time to adequately stretch and physically prepare for the contest. The crew is also permitted to leave the playing court prior to the game (between 10 and 3 minutes) to put jackets in the locker room and conduct last minute stretching. Officials should avoid performing any public stretching!

Communication:

Officials should always strive to be effective communicators; a few reminders:

A. Pregame. The pregame handshake with coaches should not turn into a clinic regarding what will and will not be called. If you are engaged in that type of conversation, simply reinforce to the coach that all rules and points of emphasis will be enforced. If the conversation gets prolonged, suggest that the opposing coach join in so that both are hearing the same message.

B. Head Coach. The head coach is the voice for the team at the bench. Others may speak and address an official in a professional manner. However, if it becomes inappropriate or distracting, officials should work with and through the head coach to solicit the desired behavior. In addition, for years we've heard the adage, "respond to questions –not statements." However, officials must not follow that so strictly that head coaches are being ignored. Rather, the adage should likely be adjusted to "respond to questions and acknowledge statements. Certainly not all statements need acknowledgement, but for many, it only takes a nod of the head or an "I hear you, coach" to diffuse a coach who is feeling ignored.

C. Game Changes. When a change is made to a throw-in spot, the team being awarded a throw-in, the shot/game clock or any other significant modification to the game –especially if that change occurs during a timeout –get both coaches together and explain the change and why it occurred.

4. Opening Jump Ball. Since there is typically only one of these in a game –be mentally and physically prepared for anything. There is a perception among coaches and administrators that officials aren't yet prepared for fouls, violations and non-basketball plays during the jump ball and plays are being missed. Some teams run "trick" or special plays off the tip –don't let them catch you off guard. Discuss these situations in your pregame conference and cover as many "what-ifs" as possible.

5. Ball to Backcourt –Touch Signal. Some officials are erroneously using the "touch" signal anytime a ball is deflected into the backcourt. If the defensive team deflects the ball, but it is last touched by the offensive team prior to going in the backcourt –do NOT give the touch signal! If the offense is the first to touch the ball in that situation, a violation has occurred. You could be giving incorrect information by showing the touch signal.

6. Losing a Fouler. It's happened to most officials at least once in their career –losing the player that committed the foul. Maintaining your focus can certainly help to prevent this from occurring, but unforeseen distractions inevitably occur. Don't make it up; a foul attributed to the wrong player can have a significant impact on a team and the game. The following tips may provide some assistance when you've lost your fouler:

A. Always check with your partners first to determine if they know the fouler or can at least help you narrow down the possibilities.

B. Check with the official scorer and/or any other table official, including play-by-play personnel and statisticians.

C. The players for that team can actually be of assistance if you can catch them off guard with your question – “hey, which one of you committed that last foul?” More often than not, the correct player will instinctively tell you it was her or a teammate will provide the answer. If there has been a substantive delay and/or the outcome has a significant bearing on the game, the chances of this producing the desired and correct result are minimized.

D. If you have exhausted all possible resources and there is still some uncertainty, go with the original call or the one you believe to be the most likely. If this happens, bring both coaches together and explain to them what happened.

1. Contact on and by the Ball Handler/Dribbler

Illegal contact by defenders on the ball handler/dribbler and illegal contact on the defender by the ball handler/dribbler will once again be a point of emphasis for women’s basketball. Much progress has been achieved in application and consistency in enforcement; however, there remains room for improvement. A ball handler/dribbler is any player with player control (holding or dribbling) outside the lane area, either facing or with her back to the basket; or a player with the ball in the lane area facing the basket. Coaches must teach players proper offensive and defensive techniques to be utilized in this situation. Officials must continue to enforce these guidelines to promote consistency. By doing so, players/coaches adhering to the rules will be rewarded and the desired outcome of a more “free-flowing” and “wide-open” game will be achieved.

A. Contact on the Ball Handler/Dribbler. The defender is permitted one touch with one hand (front or back) on the ball handler/dribbler in order to “measure up” – this has been called a “hot-stove” touch. This one-time measure-up is the only defensive touch permitted on the ball handler/dribbler. Previous guidelines will again be enforced for this basketball season. A foul shall be called on the defender when:

1. She contacts the ball-handler/dribbler: with an arm-bar (contact with the forearm that is away from the body); more than once with the same hand or alternating hands; with two hands; or with one hand and keeps it on.
2. She uses the hands/arms to hold or push the ball handler/dribbler.
3. She uses her body to hold, reroute, impede or displace the ball handler/dribbler.
4. Any holding, pushing or displacement occurs.

B. Contact by the Ball Handler/Dribbler. Again, emphasis will also be placed on the illegal actions of the ball handler/dribbler as she attempts to create distance between herself and her opponent, resulting in an advantage that was not intended by rule. A foul shall be called on the ball handler/dribbler when:

1. She contacts and holds off her opponent by extending the non-dribbling arm or creates space by displacing her defender.
2. She initiates contact and dribbles (charges) into her legally established defender.
3. She “backs down” and displaces her legally established defender.
4. Any holding, pushing or displacement occurs.

2. Traveling

This is the third year traveling will be a point of emphasis. Great progress has been made in nearly all aspects of the game that involve traveling; however special emphasis still is needed in two areas: the spin move to the basket and perimeter shooters taking an extra ‘hop’ just after they receive the ball or just prior to releasing the try.

A. Spin Move. A spin move is typically utilized by a ball handler/dribbler in an effort to create separation from her defender and close the distance to the basket. It is an exciting and athletic move; however, the rules regarding traveling must still be followed. When the player gathers the ball – usually with two hands – by rule, she has ended her dribble. When she ends the dribble, she establishes a pivot foot. That pivot foot may be lifted but it must not be returned to the playing court before the ball is released on a pass or try for goal. Many players are performing this move illegally when they gather the ball and establish a pivot foot, spin on the other foot and then return the pivot foot to the court as a ‘plant’ foot before releasing the ball on a pass or try for goal. This is likely done to change the player’s momentum from horizontal to vertical and propel her upward for a jump shot. Once that pivot foot is returned to the court without releasing the ball, a traveling violation has occurred.

B. Shooter's Hop. When a stationary perimeter shooter receives a pass while in contact with the court a pivot foot has been established. When after receiving this pass the shooter then immediately hops with both feet to achieve a desired shooting position, she has violated the provisions of the travel rule. The shooter may legally perform a jump stop prior to releasing the try if she is moving or dribbling, and with one foot on the court, she jumps off that foot and simultaneously lands on both feet. From that position she may jump and release a try, but may not pivot on either foot.

3. Sportsmanship – Player/Bench Behavior

A. Player. For the third consecutive year player technical fouls for unsporting behavior have increased. This trend continues to concern stakeholders in the game of women's basketball. Excitement, passion and emotion continue to be desired qualities in our players, but they must be harnessed and displayed appropriately. Some specific areas of concern are:

1. Players' taunting and attempting to intimidate opponents with words and/or gestures during live and dead balls.
2. Non-incident dead-ball contact with/on an opponent. (NOTE: Contact that occurs after a whistle has blown, that is not incidental and cannot be ignored, by rule, must be penalized with a technical foul.)
3. Opponents' posturing up or squaring off as if to fight – or actually engaging in a fight.

B. Bench. Head coaches are expected to stay within the confines of the coaching box; wandering beyond the box and on to the court is dangerous to players and distracting to the game. Assistant coaches and all bench personnel are to remain seated while the ball is live, except to spontaneously react to an outstanding play, immediately sitting down afterward. The head coach should be the spokesperson for the team and address officials appropriately with questions and/or concerns.