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# Men's and Women's Committee Actions for 2008-09

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This year the men's and women's basketball rules committees reviewed over 45 rules change proposals. Feedback gathered during the year was vital to their decisions regarding rules changes and both committees were very encouraged with the response they received when feedback was solicited. Almost 70 percent of men's coaches responded to the rules survey and the women's committee hosted *Rules Forums* and gathered feedback on rules issues from more than 20 conferences. In addition to the *Rules Forums*, approximately 50 percent of all women's coaches responded to the rules survey.

During the 2007-08 season, the committee identified a number of teams with illegal uniforms. It is important that institutions take responsibility for their uniforms to ensure that the design is legal within the rules. In conversations with manufacturers and member institutions, the committee has come to understand that market pressures exist to produce uniforms that are exciting and new for consumers and for student-athletes. Consequently, a subcommittee has been formed to review the uniform rules and report back to the joint committee with recommendations at the May 2009 annual rules meeting.

A significant rules change for the upcoming season is the moving of the men's three-point line to 20 feet 9 inches. The women's three-point line will remain at 19 feet 9 inches. These lines must be two separate solid two-inch lines which contrast in color and have no form of embellishment or belt between them. Survey results indicate that constituents from women's basketball were not interested in adopting or experimenting with the men's three-point distance at this time.

As a reminder, Divisions II and III institutions will be required to have 10th-of-a-second game clock displays, red lights or LED lights, and shot clocks mounted and recessed behind the backboard for the 2010-11 season. These have been requirements in Division I since 2002-03 but were not

required in Divisions II and III because of financial concerns. (Financial hardship is the only reason playing rules can be federated.)

This is the last one-year rules book for men's and women's basketball as next year begins the two-year rules book cycle. The committee believes that the two-year cycle will allow them to continue to make necessary adjustments to the game while providing more time for discussion, experimentation, data collection and gathering feedback.

### Men's Changes for 2008-09

*Each changed or altered segment is identified in the rules text by a gray shaded background.*

**Court and Equipment** 1-3.3. The restraining line shall be a solid, interrupted or mathematical line formed between two colors. The line may be a color that is either the same or different from that of the end lines. When space is not available for a 6 foot restraining line, the line should be marked using the maximum available distance. Non-playing personnel shall not be permitted in this area.

**Three-Point Line.** Rule 1-7. From the center of the basket to the outside edge of the three-point field goal line, the men's line shall be a distance of 20 feet 9 inches. The three-point field-goal lines shall be two separate solid 2 inch lines that contrast in color and have no form of embellishment or belt between the two lines. The lines may be the same color as or a different color from the free-throw lane boundary lines and the semicircles.

**Court and Equipment** 1-14.3. *Note:* Effective 2009-10, movable rings shall be required and the rings may flex both to the front and the sides.

**Logos** 1-16.4. There are no restrictions on NCAA, team or conference logos, names or abbreviations on the playing court, provided they do not obscure any of the required lines.

**Officials' Jurisdiction.** 2-4.4. When all three officials leave the visual confines of the playing area at the end of the game, the officials' jurisdiction has ended and the score has been approved.

**Duties of Timer.** 2-10.9. Sound a warning horn 15 seconds before the expiration of the 20-second time limit to replace a disqualified or injured player. The signal also shall be sounded at the end of the 20 seconds to replace a disqualified or injured player.

**Uniforms.** 3-5.10. Opposing team uniforms shall be of contrasting colors. The home team shall wear light game jerseys and the away team shall wear dark game jerseys. *Note:* This rule may be altered by mutual consent of the competing institutions.

**Uniforms.** 3-5.13. The use of an arm sleeve, knee sleeve, and lower leg sleeve is permissible for medical reasons but, their use shall be verified by either the individual's coach or team medical personnel.

**Uniforms.** 3-6.1. A single manufacturer's or distributor's normal logo, label or trademark may be worn on the game pants, and all other items of apparel excluding the game jersey and undershirt (e.g., warm-ups, socks, headbands, and wristbands). Game pants and warm-ups may bear a single manufacturer's/distributor's normal logo/label/trademark, an institutional logo/mascot, and a conference logo/mascot

**Goaltending.** 4-34.3. When the entire ball is above the level of the ring during a field-goal try and contacts the backboard, it is considered to be on its downward flight. In such a case, it is goaltending when the ball is touched by a player.

**Timeouts.** 5-13.10.f. *Note:* For all NCAA tournament games, the electronic-media timeout format may be used without the presence of paid advertising.

**Foul and Penalties.** 10-3 and 10-4. Reorganization of Rule 10-3 and 10-4 (now 10-5 and 10-6) in reference to infraction and penalty.

#### Men's Approved Experimentation

There will not be any experimental rules this season.

#### Women's Changes for 2008-09

*Each changed or altered segment is identified in the rules text by a gray shaded background.*

**Court and Equipment.** 1-3.3. The restraining line shall be a solid, interrupted or mathematical line formed between two colors. The line may be a color that is either the same or different from that of the end lines. When space is not available for a 6 foot restraining line, the line should be marked using the maximum available distance. Non-playing personnel shall not be permitted in this area.

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**Timeouts.** 5-13.4.k. *Note:* For all NCAA tournament games, the electronic-media timeout format may be used without the presence of paid advertising.

**Flagrant Technical Foul Penalty.** 10-3.13-17 Penalty and 10-4.8 and 9 Penalty. For any single flagrant technical foul, the ball shall be awarded to the offended team at the point of interruption.

Women's Approved Experimentation

There will not be any experimental rules this season.

## Points of Emphasis

In each edition of the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Rules, there are several areas that are given special attention. These are identified as points of emphasis. While they may not represent any rules changes, their importance must not be overlooked. In some cases, the points of emphasis are more important than some of the rules changes. When a topic is included in the points of emphasis, there has been evidence during the previous year(s) that there has been inconsistency in administering these areas.

### Points of Emphasis for Men

#### Illegal Contact; Screening

Attention by the officials must be directed toward eliminating rough physical play and illegal contact. Although progress has been evident in attaining this objective, there is room for continued improvement. It is imperative that we do not move in an opposite direction and allow rough play and illegal contact to become undesirable characteristics associated to playing the collegiate game.

Rough physical play and illegal contact must be addressed in the following areas:

1. In the low post by players with and without the ball.
2. Off the ball or on the defensive weakside.
3. In cutting situations.
4. During hand checking anywhere on the playing court.
5. In screening situations.

Of special concern is the illegal contact that is occurring in the two screening situations that are prevalent in today's style of play. These situations are the high screen set within the opponent's field of vision and a screen set outside the opponent's visual field (blind screen).

#### **SCREEN SET WITHIN THE OPPONENT'S VISUAL FIELD**

1. Illegal action by the screener:
  - a. Makes contact in setting the screen.
  - b. Makes contact while moving in an attempt to set a screen.

- c. Causes contact as a result of establishing a stance outside his vertical plane (feet no wider than shoulder width apart).
  - d. Makes contact by leaning into the path of the opponent or extending the hip, shoulder or knee into that path even though the feet are stationary.
  - e. Causes contact with the illegal use of hand(s), arm(s), leg(s) or body that pushes or holds an opponent from his intended path around the screen.
2. Illegal action by the defender:
    - a. The use of arm(s), hand(s), shoulder or hip to fight or force through a screen.
    - b. To hold or push the screener and prevent him from performing his normal offensive movement.
    - c. Causes contact that places the screener in an unfavorable position to perform his normal offensive movements. A defender or screened player is expected to avoid contact by going around the screen.

### **SCREEN SET OUTSIDE AN OPPONENT'S VISUAL FIELD (BLIND SCREEN)**

1. Illegal action by the screener:
  - a. Causes contact by setting a screen that does not allow a stationary opponent a step for normal movement.
  - b. Makes contact while moving or sliding in an attempt to set the screen.
  - c. Causes contact because of a stance established outside of his vertical plane (feet no wider than shoulder width apart).
  - d. Makes contact by leaning into the opponent's path or by extending the hip, shoulder or knee into that path even though the feet are stationary.
  - e. Causes contact with the illegal use of hand(s), arm(s), leg(s) or body that pushes or holds on opponent from his desired path around the screen.
2. Illegal action by the defender:

- a. Causes contact that places the screener in an unequal or unfavorable position to perform his normal offensive movements. The defender or screened player is expected to stop, attempt to stop or avoid contact by going around the screen. When after contact, the screener has maintained an equal or favorable position to perform his normal movements, the screen has accomplished its purpose and the contact shall be ruled as incidental.

### Coaching Box Restriction/Coach's Behavior

A concern of the rules committee is the lack of compliance to the coaching-box rule. By rule, a head coach may leave his place on the bench but, in doing so, shall stay within his team's coaching box. The coach is permitted to coach within the prescribed box but when he leaves the coaching box, he gains an advantage that is not within the spirit and intent of the rules. After receiving a warning and when the coach is completely and clearly out of the coaching box, he shall be assessed a CLASS B technical foul. Legally, the only circumstances a head coach is allowed to leave the coaching box are:

1. To seek information from the official scorer or official timer during a timeout or an intermission.
2. To point out a scoring or timing mistake or to request a timeout for a correctable error.
3. To prevent a fight situation from escalating.

Another concern is the unacceptable forms of behavior by the head coach and other bench personnel. Coaches and other bench personnel who engage in the following behaviors violate the bench decorum rule and shall be assessed a CLASS A technical foul:

1. Questioning the integrity of an official by words or gestures.
2. Physically challenging an official.
3. Directing personal, vulgar or profane remarks or gestures toward an official.
4. Excessively demonstrating by the use of gestures or actions that indicate displeasure with the officiating.
5. Publicly demonstrating officiating signals such as traveling, holding, blocking, etc., that indicate displeasure with the officiating.

6. Voicing displeasure about officiating through continuous verbal remarks.

### Palming (Illegal Dribble)

“Palming” or “carrying” the ball places the defensive player at a distinct disadvantage while according the dribbler a sizeable advantage inconsistent with the spirit and intent of the rules. The dribbler, who during a high or hesitation dribble, causes the ball to come to rest and then pushes or pulls the ball either to the side or in front of him commits an indefensible violation that must be called.

“Palming” is an illegal maneuver. When the ball comes to rest in the dribblers’ hand, by rule, the dribble has ended. Continuing to dribble after the ball has come to rest in the hand is a violation that should be called and eliminated from the skill of dribbling.

### Charge/Block

A basic tenet of the game of basketball is that a player is entitled to his spot on the playing court no matter where it is, providing that he established that spot first without illegally contacting an opponent. When a player impedes the progress of an opponent with illegal contact, that player has committed a blocking foul. When a defensive player has established legal position on the playing court and an opponent illegally contacts the defender’s torso by pushing or moving into the defender, he has committed a charging foul.

Again, this year, the charge and block situations occurring at the basket area are the points of emphasis. Any illegal contact that occurs at the basket area by either the offensive or defensive player (block, charge, player control fouls) shall be accordingly penalized as prescribed by the rules. Only when the following occurs shall the penalty not be applied:

1. The force of the contact by the offensive player is such that it is inconsequential, but the defensive player fakes a foul.
2. When the defensive player has legally established a position under the basket and contact occurs after the ball passes through the net, unless the defensive player has been placed at a disadvantage (e.g., inability to rebound, unable to put ball in play without delay.)

Although this year’s points of emphasis are concerned with fouls occurring at the basket area, there are no exceptions to the charge/block rules as to where the illegal contact occurs on the playing court.

## Points of Emphasis for Women

### 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 continue to concern the women's basketball rules committee, coaches, players, administrators and other stakeholders in our game. 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.

Contact on the Ball Handler/Dribbler. For the past several years, defenders have been very restricted in the amount and manner in which they were permitted to "touch" a ball handler/dribbler. The defender is permitted one touch with the 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 the 2008-09 basketball season. A foul shall be called on the defender when:

- a. 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.
- b. She uses the hands/arms to hold or push the ball handler/dribbler.
- c. She uses her body to hold, reroute, impede or displace the ball handler/dribbler.
- d. Any holding, pushing or displacement occurs.

Contact by the Ball Handler/Dribbler. With the emphasis over the past several years regarding contact on the ball handler/dribbler, the offensive player in this match-up, has been permitted to illegally contact her opponent without being whistled for a player-control foul. More emphasis must 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:

- a. She extends her non-dribbling arm and holds off her opponent or creates space by displacing her defender.
- b. She initiates contact and dribbles (charges) into her legally established defender.
- c. She “backs down” and displaces her legally established defender.
- d. Any holding, pushing or displacement occurs.

### Traveling

In large part due to last year’s traveling point of emphasis, tremendous progress was made in penalizing illegal moves and permitting legal ones. Even with these improvements, more accurate and consistent enforcement of the traveling rule can be obtained. Players’ skills will improve in this area when officials enforce the rules as written.

Traveling occurs when a player holding the ball moves a foot or both feet, in any direction, in excess of prescribed limits described in Rule 4-68. Uncalled traveling infractions provide a distinct advantage to a ball handler; exponentially so when the no-calls are followed by a score, a defensive foul or both. Of specific concern are:

- a. The spin move to the basket.
- b. Rebounders repositioning for put-backs.
- c. Perimeter shooters taking an extra “hop” just after they receive the ball or just prior to releasing the try.
- d. Perimeter ball handlers lifting the pivot foot prior to releasing the ball on the dribble.

On a positive note, players have performed and officials have recognized legal “step-through” moves on a more accurate and consistent basis.

### Sportsmanship – Player Behavior

Last year’s emphasis on sporting behavior addressed both players and coaches. Coaches were expected to stay within the confines of the coaching box and address officials appropriately. Officials were expected to enforce the stricter bench-decorum guidelines or risk loss of regular- or post-season assignments. The vast majority of coaches and officials met those

expectations, and generally speaking, bench decorum improved. Proper behavior and coaching within the box should be adhered to, even without a specific point of emphasis.

Unfortunately, unsporting behavior among players, and consequently, player technical fouls, increased during the 2007-08 season. This is an alarming and disturbing trend, especially in a game that prides and markets, itself as having an exemplary sportsmanship environment. Excitement, passion and emotion are desired qualities in our players, but they must be harnessed and displayed positively. Of specific concern are:

- a. Players' disrespectfully addressing and/or gesturing at an official after a call is made on the court.
- b. Players' taunting and attempting to intimidate opponents with words and/or gestures during live and dead balls.
- c. 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.)
- d. Opponents' "posturing up" or "squaring off" as if to fight – or actually engaging in a fight.

All of these behaviors and situations, in varying degrees and frequency, occurred last season. Players must control their emotions and display appropriate behaviors toward officials, opponents and teammates. Coaches must set proper behavioral expectations of team members and confront those who fail to meet expectations. Officials must heighten their awareness during all game activity – especially during off-ball and dead-ball situations. Officials must also continue to penalize unsporting actions without regard to score, time of game or foul count(s). Failure to do so only exacerbates the situation and intensifies negative emotions.