



2015-2016 NCAA Women's Basketball
RULE INTERPRETATIONS/CLARIFICATIONS
As of 10/2/15

Prepared by Jon M. Levinson, Women's Basketball Secretary-Rules Editor

10/1/15 Post Play – Legal Contact

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. B1 is not required to leave her legally established position on the playing court.

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.