



2016-2017 NCAA Women's Basketball  
**RULE INTERPRETATIONS/CLARIFICATIONS**  
As of 7/11/2016

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**07/11/2016 – Ten Seconds in the Backcourt (A.R. 223 in the 2016 Case Book).** At the May 2016 rules committee meeting, the rules committee revised the interpretation for the play presented in A.R. 223. Last season, when there was a stoppage in the game (*i.e.*, for an out-of-bounds violation) and the officials subsequently recognized that there should have been a ten-second violation, the ruling stated that it was too late to penalize the violation. The rules committee decided to change this interpretation and permit the violation to be penalized when this specific situation occurs. Below is the play scenario with the revised interpretation as it will appear in the 2017 Case Book.

Play: With 5:30 on the game clock and 30 seconds on the shot clock, Team A inbounds the ball from their own end line. The shot clock starts when A2 legally touches the ball in the backcourt. With 17 seconds showing on the shot clock and the ball still in Team A's backcourt,

- (1) B1 slaps the ball out of bounds
- (2) B1 or A1 commits a common foul
- (3) B1 or A1 commits a player/substitute technical foul
- (4) B1 commits a flagrant 1 or 2 personal foul against A1, or
- (5) Team A's head coach requests a timeout.

The official checks the clocks after the whistle and both the game clock and the shot clock stop on the whistle, so there is no timing mistake. The official realizes that the shot clock displays 17 seconds and that there should have been a 10 second backcourt violation when the shot clock reached 20 with Team A still in control in the backcourt.

**RULING:** The officiating crew has erred in not stopping the shot clock when it reached 20 seconds and failing to call a 10 second backcourt violation. Any activity after the violation and until it is rectified shall be cancelled, excluding a flagrant 1 or 2 foul or any technical foul.

In (1), the ball should be awarded to Team B at a designated spot where the out-of-bounds occurred.

In (2), The common foul by B1 or A1 is cancelled and the ball should be awarded to Team B at the out of bounds spot nearest to where the foul occurred.

In (3) and (4), technical and flagrant fouls cannot be cancelled. In (3), a technical foul by either team shall be penalized. Following the free throws for the technical foul, play will resume with a throw-in by Team B at the out-of-bounds spot nearest to where the ball was located when the technical foul was called. In (4), A1 will be awarded two free throws for the flagrant foul committed by B1. Team A will be awarded the ball at the out-of-bounds spot nearest to where the flagrant foul occurred. When Team A's throw-in is touched in the backcourt, Team A will receive a new 10 seconds to advance the ball into their frontcourt.

In (5), the officials shall penalize the 10 second backcourt violation and award the ball to Team B at the out-of-bounds spot nearest to where the ball was located when the ball became dead. Following the ruling of a 10 second backcourt violation, if Team A does not want the timeout, it shall not be granted.

For plays (1) through (5), the game clock will reset to the time when the violation occurred (5:20).

**NOTE:** When an official rules that a 10 second backcourt violation has occurred, but is late in making the call and the violation causes the ball to become dead, there shall be no adjustment made to the game clock (as no timing mistake has occurred).

**Suggested mechanic:** In a different situation, when the 10-second backcourt count is nearing the 10th second and a foul or violation occurs very near the 10-second violation, officials must check to see if the backcourt violation occurred prior to the foul or violation and make an immediate decision.

**(Rule 9-10)**