2018-2019 NCAA Women’s Basketball
RULE INTERPRETATIONS/CLARIFICATIONS
As of 11/28/18

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

11/27/18 - Monitor Review - Shot-Clock Violation and 2- or 3-point try (Rules 11-2.1.b.1 and .4).
In May 2013, the rules committee adopted the rule for when a monitor review is required to determine whether a try was a two- or three-point attempt. The review would take place at the next electronic-media timeout provided that the error was recognized within the correctable-error timeframe in Rule 2-12.3. When there are no electronic-media timeouts remaining in the fourth period or the entire extra period(s), the review must occur within the timeframe in Rule 2-12.3. Two years ago, the rules committee approved a rule change permitting a monitor review at any time during the game to determine whether a successful try was released prior to the end of the shot-clock period. Separately, the rules are clear, and their application has been consistent; however, there exists the possibility that there will be a need to apply both rules simultaneously. When this situation occurs, the officials are permitted to review both the counting and value of the goal at the same time.

Play: With 7:28 remaining in the first period and the shot clock winding down, A1 releases a try near the three-point line as the shot-clock horn sounds. The ball enters the basket and the official sounds the whistle during the dead-ball period to review whether the try was released in time. Using the available courtside monitor, the officials determine that the try was released prior to the shot-clock period ending. At this time, may the officials use the courtside monitor to also review whether the goal is worth two or three points?

Ruling: Yes, the officials may also review for whether the successful try was worth two or three points. The intent of reviewing the value of a successful goal at the electronic-media timeout is to reduce the number of stoppages for monitor reviews; it is with that spirit that both reviews may be conducted at the same time.

10/22/18 – Fouls of Equal Gravity – Monitor Review (A.R. 357; Rules 4-22.1.e, 11-2.1.d.2).
The rules committee approved a change to how play is resumed in A.R. 357, which is an example of an unobserved contact disqualifying foul followed by an unsportsmanlike foul which stops play. Both of these fouls occurred during a live ball. Here is another play which illustrates another possible situation:

Play 1: During a live ball, officials fail to observe A1’s contact disqualifying foul against defender B1 on a play under Team A’s basket. Play continues to the opposite end of the court where B2 scores. Team A inbounds the ball and quickly moves into their frontcourt when an unsportsmanlike foul is called against B2 for illegally contacting A2 above the shoulders with an elbow. After the official reports the foul on B2, the Team B coach informs an official that B1 is
bleeding because B1 was flagrantly fouled by A1. The official chooses to review the monitor to determine if a contact disqualifying foul occurred when they were not looking.

**Ruling 1:** The officials may use the monitor to determine if a contact disqualifying or unsportsmanlike foul occurred against B1. When the officials determine that this illegal contact by A1 is not a disqualifying foul, but it is an unsportsmanlike foul and they are within the time frame to penalize this foul, the officials may assess an unsportsmanlike foul. Since the review of the foul occurred during the first dead-ball period following the illegal contact by A1, they are within the time frame to penalize this foul. As opponents have committed fouls of equal gravity (two free throws and possession of the ball) during a live-ball period, the fouls are charged to A1 and B2. The equal penalties are cancelled. Play is resumed at the point of interruption.

The officials were still within the “window” to review the unobserved contact disqualifying foul because the review was conducted during the first dead ball after the clock was properly stopped (Rule 11-2.1.d.2.b.1). The fact that there was a dead-ball period between the unobserved act and the clock stopping for B2’s unsportsmanlike foul does not alter the time frame because this dead-ball period was the result of a successful goal by B2. Also, the two fouls need not have occurred during the same live-ball period.

Last season, play resumed using the alternating-possession procedure; now, play will resume at the point of interruption. Both last season and this season, when fouls are of equal gravity, the foul penalties cancel. This is consistent with Rule 7-4.10 and the Fouls of Equal Gravity document posted on the Central Hub, which states that when there are nonpersonal fouls of equal gravity committed by opponents at approximately the same time, or double or simultaneous fouls, play resumes at the point of interruption. The only difference in the approved ruling is the first live-ball foul is detected through the use of the courtside monitor.

A situation not addressed by the approved ruling involves an unobserved unsportsmanlike or contact disqualifying foul which occurs during a dead-ball period. Example:

**Play 2:** A1’s try is successful. During the dead-ball period following the successful goal, B1 commits an unsportsmanlike foul against A2 which is unobserved by the officials. B2 inbounds the ball to B3, who dribbles into her team’s frontcourt. A2 commits an unsportsmanlike foul against dribbler B3 which is ruled by the official. Team B’s head coach requests the officials review for the unobserved unsportsmanlike foul by A2. The officials use the available courtside monitor and determine that the play is reviewable and that A2 committed an unsportsmanlike foul.

**Ruling 2:** The officials may use the monitor to determine if a contact disqualifying or unsportsmanlike foul occurred against B1 as they are within the time frame to review and penalize the foul. Charge A2 and B1 with unsportsmanlike fouls. Since the foul penalties are equal (two free throws plus possession of the ball for a throw-in), the penalties cancel. Play will resume at the point of interruption (a throw-in to Team B at the out-of-bounds spot nearest to where B3 was in control of the ball).

The intent of the rule change creating fouls of equal gravity and the cancellation of equal foul penalties
was to simplify foul administration and increase pace of play. In that light, when there is an unobserved unsportsmanlike or contact disqualifying foul followed by a called unsportsmanlike or disqualifying foul, it does not matter whether the unobserved act occurred during a live- or dead-ball period.

10/22/18 – Ten Seconds in the Backcourt (Rule 9-10).

There are four stoppages of the game which may occur with a team having control in their backcourt which do not give the team in control a new ten seconds to advance the ball into their frontcourt: an out of bounds caused by the defense, a technical foul assessed to the team in control, a held ball with no change in team control, and a timeout granted to the team in control. However, situations may arise when the shot clock may be reset but the team in control is not granted a new ten seconds.

Last season, an interpretation was issued that addressed a play concerning an out-of-bounds violation caused by the defense followed by a technical foul assessed to the defensive team. In that situation, while the shot clock is reset to 30 seconds, the ten-second count is not reset (see A.R. 241), as the throw-in spot is at the point of interruption (Rule 4-22.1.f). However, there exist additional situations which need to be addressed concerning infractions by the defensive team during the dead-ball period caused by one of the four exceptions to the ten-second rule:

**Play 1:** A1 is dribbling the ball in her team’s backcourt when B1 knocks the ball out of bounds. During the dead-ball period after the out-of-bounds violation by Team B:

(a) B1 is assessed an unsportsmanlike foul or
(b) B1 is assessed a disqualifying foul.

**Ruling 1:** Following the free throws awarded to Team A, Team A will be awarded the ball for a throw-in at the division line opposite the scorers’ table. The shot clock is reset to 30 seconds. In these scenarios, because the throw-in spot is not at the point of interruption, when Team A’s throw-in is legally touched by any player in Team A’s backcourt, Team A will have a new ten seconds to advance the ball into their frontcourt.