Currently, a majority of Conferences sponsor a women’s basketball officiating observers program. Data reflects commitments of varying degrees in these programs. In order to measure and impact the progression of officiating as the game evolves, it is necessary to implement standards in order to support, unite, and elevate the sport of women’s basketball. This document shows both acceptable ends of the spectrum in supporting officiating efforts at the conference level.

The WCBO, LLC recommends that all conferences implement an observer’s program. The minimum standards program can be implemented with minimal costs, while the model program requires additional resources. The ultimate goal of the program is for each conference to have a model observers program.

MINIMUM STANDARDS vs. MODEL PROGRAM

The following segments reflect the building blocks of an Officiating Observers’ Program. The information gathered and presented below includes research by the CCA Coordinators of Women’s Basketball Officials, taken from their Model Division I Program (2004), in conjunction with a current extensive survey completed by all Division I conferences. The following recommendation has been crafted and endorsed by the WCBO, LLC.
### Minimum Standards

- Conferences should select at least one observer to evaluate a select number of conference games (in-person or via videotape).
- Conferences are encouraged to select more than one observer to ensure that an adequate number of games are observed.

### Model Program

#### Number of Observers Utilized per Season
- One per institution

#### Selection Criteria
- Proximity to the game site
- Basketball experience (player, coach, or official)
- Cannot be an active official on any level

#### Balanced Longevity Recommendation
- Important to have Observers in each of the following categories
  - Veteran/longest consecutive observer: 10-20 years
  - Rookie/newest observer: 1-3 years
  - Average observer: 6-10 years

### Certification / Education

- Conference will register observers with Arbiter and provide an overview of the educational materials available through Arbiter’s website
- Observers are required to take the NCAA rules test
- Observers are required to take the NCAA quizzes throughout the season

### Conference Membership for Arbiter includes Conference personnel and officiating observers at no charge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Standards</th>
<th>Model Program</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Selection</strong></td>
<td><strong>Orientation</strong></td>
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<td>• Conferences should select at least one observer to evaluate a select number of conference games (in-person or via videotape).</td>
<td>• In September, a packet of training materials and video clips are sent to each observer for review</td>
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<td>• Conferences are encouraged to select more than one observer to ensure that an adequate number of games are observed.</td>
<td>• A teleconference is conducted before the first non-conference game to review responsibilities, discuss how to fill out evaluations, discuss judgment of officials’ calls and no calls</td>
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<td><strong>Continuing Education</strong></td>
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<td>• Observers are to use the Arbiter website and conference web site for informational and educational updates</td>
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<td>• The coordinator is responsible for tracking frequency of observers’ web site access</td>
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### Expectation

**Minimum Standards**
- Observers are required to view video footage of a select number of home games assigned by the conference coordinator
- Evaluate officials’ on court performance using the standardized evaluation instrument
- Submit game reports per the established timeline

**Model Program**
- Observers must attend every home game of assigned school or identify a replacement that also meets selection criteria listed including non-conference and conference games during the season
- Use of observers at a conference championship to be at the discretion of the conference

**Role of an Observer**
- The role for an observer is to “OBSERVE” the pre-game conference that the officials are required to have one hour before game time
- Listen and provide input when requested by officials
- Report to coordinator if the pre-game is not done on time or if there are deviations from the mechanics manual
- Evaluate officials’ on court performance using the standardized evaluation instrument and post-game video review
- Analyze areas beyond the officials’ on court performance including game management, coaches’ behavior, fan behavior, and compliance with NCAA rules
- Submit game reports per the established timeline
- Game reports are compiled and analyzed by the coordinator to determine trends

### Benefits

**Per Game Benefits**
- Per game fee at the discretion of the conference

**Per Game Benefits**
- Per game fee at the discretion of the conference (attend all home games at assigned institution during season)
- Mileage reimbursement if travel requires driving long distance
- Credential for game
- Access to media meals