



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Mechanics Committee: COVID-19 Safety Practices

Updated: 1/20/2021

The women's basketball mechanics committee would like to provide the following guidance on best practices and allowances for officials to work games in the 2020-2021 season. These materials have been reviewed by the rules committee. The goal is to offer suggestions to officials to minimize risk and reduce the potential for harm.

These practices apply to the mechanics within the game and are not intended to replace any guidelines that are provided by the NCAA Sport Science Institute. Local, county, state and federal and CDC guidelines should take precedence.

Additional information that addresses the testing of officials; the communication to officials about testing and venue information; travel; and actions taken pregame, in-game and postgame can be found in the [Guidance and Considerations for Men's and Women's Basketball Officiating](#) release.

For the betterment of college basketball, officials are expected to model behavior that bears the utmost level of safety, caution, and concern for all involved, on and off the court at all times.

- 1. Physical Distancing:** Officials should physically distance from players, coaches, and other officials whenever appropriate and possible. Being in position to get open looks and referee effectively is appropriate. Mechanics that typically would place officials close to players or coaches unnecessarily should be adjusted. Examples of areas to make adjustments would be: lead on first free throw situation, trail on free throw situations should move on to the floor away from the team bench and coach, bounce the ball to the thrower-in over handing it, etc. Handshakes and fist bumps should be avoided, all greetings should be non-contact. The captains' meeting (1 per team max) can be held optionally. The coaches meeting/introductions are optional.
- 2. Monitor Reviews:** Officials at the monitor should continue with existing protocols. The two officials at the monitor may apply masks to collaborate at the monitor review, two at a time per the review protocol. **To minimize close contact, the crew chief can cue up the play with the replay tech, find the best angle(s) and then call in their partner officials to conduct the review.** Monitor controls and headphones should be sanitized between use or limited to use by one official. Crew conference pre and post review should be

held with physical distancing. Officials should always carry a mask for usage during monitor reviews.

3. **Conflict Resolution- Player Altercations:** Officials should limit/avoid physical contact with players when an altercation occurs. Use voice and whistle with multiple sharp blasts to aid in restoring order. Team personnel should enter the court as peacemakers to assist in this resolution.
4. **Held ball Situations:** Officials should limit/avoid physical contact with players when a held ball occurs. Officials should use their voice and multiple sharp blasts of the whistle to stop the play.
5. **Whistles:** Consider requiring officials to cover all sides of a whistle to prevent displacement of spit into the air. Consider asking officials to arrive at the event with an adequate supply of spare coverings. Consider allowing electronic whistles as a substitute for a traditional whistle.
6. **Face Covers/ Masks:** Some form of face mask/face covering may be utilized by officials. Face covers/masks should be predominately black, unadorned and may bear one manufacturer's logo of appropriate size dimensions (does not exceed 2¼ square inches)." To maintain effectiveness, all cloth coverings should be kept dry or replaced as needed.
7. **Eye Protection:** Shatterproof goggles or glasses may be worn to protect eyes.
8. **Gloves:** Officials may choose to wear gloves. Recommended: If gloves are worn, color should be neutral (i.e. black, white, clear, beige).
9. **Game Official Arrival Time:** Arrival time may be adjusted to best facilitate social distancing and minimize risk. Conference and institutional policy and/or preferences should direct this. Officials may arrive and/or leave the game site dressed to officiate.
10. **Pre-Game Conference:** The referee should coordinate a pre-game conference with the officiating crew. This may be done prior to arrival at the game site and can be done in person or virtually.
11. **Table Crew Conference:** The referee should coordinate a pre-game conference with the table crew. It is suggested that this be held in a location where social distancing is available. The conference can be held on the court.

12. **Post-Game Conference:** The referee should coordinate a post-game conference with the officiating crew. This may be done on-site if social distancing is an option, or may be done virtually.

This information is subject to updates as additional information becomes available.