Proposed to: NCAA Men’s Basketball Rules Committee

The Men’s Basketball Mechanics Committee requests an addendum to the 2020-21 Mechanics Manual to include the following:

The Mechanics Committee would like to provide the following guidelines, best practices and allowances for officials to work games in the 2020-21 season. The goal is to offer these guidelines to officials to minimize risk and reduce potential harm.

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

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. **Masks**: Game officials should carry a mask/face coverings in order to properly adjudicate monitor reviews and facilitate any special dead ball communication such as a coaches’ conference. To maintain effectiveness, all cloth coverings should be kept dry or replaced as needed. See item #8 for more information.

2. **Physical distancing**: Officials should physically distance themselves from players, coaches and other officials when appropriate and possible. Being in position to get open looks and referee effectively is necessary. Mechanics that typically place officials close to players or coaches unnecessarily may be adjusted. Examples of such adjustments: the trail official on free throw situations may move out on the floor away from the team bench and coaches, bouncing the ball to the thrower-in on all throw-ins, etc. Handshakes and fist bumps should be avoided. Officials should use non-contact greetings only with players, coaches and table personnel.

3. **In-game sanitation protocols**: Conference policies will determine game operation protocols and will be followed by all game officials. Every attempt should be made by game management to provide officials with a safe working environment.

4. **Conflict resolution – player altercations**: Officials should limit physical contact with players when an altercation occurs or may occur. Officials should use their voice and multiple sharp blasts of the whistle to aid in restoring order.

5. ** Held ball situations**: Officials should limit 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.
6. **Monitor reviews:**
   - Officials should use existing protocols while at the instant replay monitor. The two officials at the monitor should apply mask/face coverings to collaborate at the monitor. Monitor controls and headphones should be sanitized between uses and/or limited to use by one official. Officials should maintain social distancing during the pre-review and post-review discussions. Officials should always carry a mask/face coverings for usage during monitor reviews.
   - Where applicable have the instant replay technician operate the monitor review controls.
   - Where possible relocate the monitor review station in a separate area near the court allowing for proper social distancing while at the monitor.

7. **Whistles:** Whistle with covers/bags/pouches are preferred. Electronic whistles are permissible.

8. **Face cover/whistle cover:** Some form of mask/face coverings or whistle covering must be utilized by officials.
   - Any face/whistle cover must be unadorned and black in color.

9. **Eye protection:** Eye protection may be worn and must be shatterproof goggles or glasses.

10. **Gloves:** Gloves may be worn and must be unadorned and black in color.

11. **Game official arrival time:** Conference policy or game management protocols may be adjusted to best facilitate social distancing and to minimize risk and reduce potential harm.

12. **Pre-game conferences:**
    - Game officials may be required to come to the game dressed to officiate and plan to leave the facility in the same attire. Officials should prepare not to shower at the game facility in certain situations.
    - When possible limit pre-game captains meeting to one player per team.
    - The referee should coordinate a pre-game conference with the officiating crew prior to arriving at the site. This can be done in person or virtually.
    - The locker room should only be accessed by the game officials, medical personnel and the game manager or designee.
    - The referee should coordinate any pre-game meetings with table personnel on the floor. Pre-game meetings in the locker room should be avoided.
    - Per Rule 1-26.1 & Rule 2-5.1, it is the referee’s responsibility to make sure all player equipment is not a danger to other players including Covid-19 safety equipment.

13. **In-game protocols:**
    - Game operation conference policies will be followed by all game officials.
    - Conference policies may be adjusted to best facilitate social distancing and sanitization in order to minimize risk and reduce potential harm.
• Per Rule 2-1.1a, games will be officiated by a crew of three officials or in emergency situations by two officials. It is permissible for Division II & III to begin games with a two-person crew. A game cannot start with one official. If a game starts with multiple officials and the situation changes whereby only one official is available, the game will be deemed an interrupted game per Rule 5-4.

14. Post-game conferences:
   • Game officials should meet in the official’s locker room briefly to review the game. Any additional discussions should be held outside the game facility.
   • The locker room should only be accessed by game officials, medical personnel and the game manager or designee.

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