NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee
2011 Annual Meeting Report

This document serves as a report to the women's basketball community from the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee. The committee met May 1-4 in Indianapolis and is using this opportunity to inform the membership of its main topics of discussion and to communicate rules changes, experimental rules and areas of concern. The Playing Rules Oversight Panel approved all items in this report on May 23, 2011.

1. **Major Rules Changes.**

   a. **Three-Point Line.** After significant discussion and a review of data that was collected over a two-year period, the committee approved moving the three-point line from its current distance of 19'9" to 20'9" (the current distance in men's basketball).

   b. **Secondary Defender/3-foot Restricted Area Arc.** To eliminate collisions involving blocks/charges under the basket, the committee approved a rule that prohibits a secondary defender from establishing initial legal guarding position under the basket when defending a player who is in control of the ball or who has released the ball for a pass or try for goal. The area under the basket is defined as three feet from the center of the basket. The committee also approved a restricted area arc three feet from the center of the basket. Inside this area, a secondary defender will not be able to draw a charge. **The restricted area arc is required for Division I institutions beginning with the 2011-12 season, and for Division II and III institutions beginning with the 2012-13 season.** ***(See Restricted Area Arc Notes at the end of this document.)***

   c. **Change in Foul Designations.** The committee is removing the use of the term 'intentional foul' and replacing it with 'Flagrant 1'. A Flagrant 2 foul replaces the old 'flagrant' foul.

   d. **Timeout administration.** The committee added that an official team warning shall be issued to a team that is not ready to resume play after the second warning horn has sounded after a timeout. After one team warning, the officials are instructed to use resumption of play procedures if that team violates again (e.g., put the ball on the floor and begin the count).

   e. **Coach Review Request:** When a coach requests a review of the monitor to determine whether a Flagrant 1 foul for elbow contact or a Flagrant 2 foul occurred - and no such foul occurred - the team will be charged a timeout.

2. **Experimental Rule.** The committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the 10-second back court rule. Survey results for the past three years indicate that approximately 50 percent of coaches prefer to keep the current rule of no 10-second back court with a 30-second shot clock period.

Nearly 40 percent of coaches indicated a preference for a 10-second back court rule. As a result, the committee voted to allow institutions to experiment next season with a 10-second back court and 30-second shot clock period during closed scrimmages and exhibition games. The committee will be collecting data on turnovers, fouls, points and other factors to determine the effect the rule has on play in all three divisions.

3. **Other Significant Changes.**

   a. **Floor Markings.** The committee clarified that all required markings (boundary lines, division line, center circle, lane lines, arc, etc.) "must be clearly discernable and distinguishable" from anything surrounding them. Shadow lines and alternative patterns, etc. are being used more frequently and the committee believes it is necessary to clarify its expectations with regard to court markings.

   b. **Lane Color.** The color of the lane was also reviewed and it remains highly recommended that the lane be of a single color. However, the committee noted several designs and patterns that appear to meet the intent of the rule, which is to clearly distinguish the lane from the area around it. Therefore, the restriction of only one color has been deleted.

   c. **Media Timeout Format.** To eliminate inconsistencies in the timeout formats, all games will be permitted to use the electronic-media timeout format regardless of whether there is paid advertising present.

   d. **Double Fouls.** When there is a discrepancy in the severity of two live ball fouls called at approximately the same time (one on each team), both fouls will be penalized. Previously, for example, a Flagrant 1 foul on Team A and a common foul on Team B would offset.

   e. **Player/Substitute Technical Fouls.** The committee strengthened the penalty for rough or unsportsmanlike play when the ball is dead. As a result, the penalty for all non-flagrant contact during a dead ball shall be two free throws and the ball awarded to the offended team, regardless of whether the contact involved an elbow above the shoulders of an opponent.

4. **Uniform Note.** The committee was asked to delay the mandatory use of the authenticating mark patch until a suitable architecture for approval/denial of uniform can be developed. This request came from the Division I membership and NCAA leadership.

5. **Areas of Concern/Future Considerations.** While the committee did not establish points of emphasis for the 2011-12 season, they identified several areas of the game that will be monitored throughout the season and reviewed during next year's meeting: freedom of movement, excessive physicality, incidental contact with the elbow, pace of play and traveling. The committee strongly believes that the game should be called as it is written in the rules book.

6. **Committee Chair.** The committee re-elected Leslie Claybrook, Rice University, as chair for the 2011-12 academic year.

RESTRICTED AREA ARC – NOTES

Details of New Rule.

- A restricted area arc will be placed on the floor 3 feet from the center of the basket, starting with the 2011-12 season in Division I and with the 2012-13 season in Divisions II and III.

- This restricted area applies only to secondary defenders who are trying to draw a charge.

- A secondary defender is defined as:

  -A defender who picks up the dribbler who has beaten the primary defender (e.g., help defense);
  -The second defender in a double-teaming situation; and
  -Any defender during outnumbering fast break plays (e.g., 2-on-1 fast break).

Intent/Rationale for Rule.

- The safety of both the offensive and defensive player involved in the block/charge is a concern and the use of a restricted area arc will eliminate some collisions near the basket. It is the committee's belief that an offensive team player driving to the basket should be protected in this area.

- Having a clearly marked restricted area will create clarity as to where the secondary defender is not allowed to draw a charge.

- The committee chose 3 feet since it seemed to fit proportionally compared to other current court marking dimensions.

- The committee believes that defensive techniques may have advanced more quickly in recent years and that this change may be a benefit to the offense.