



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 6222  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206  
Telephone: 317/917-6222

November 3, 2014

Shipping/Overnight Address:  
1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

[www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)

TO: NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Conference Commissioners,  
Coordinators of Officials and Conference Administrators.

FROM: Art Hyland, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee

Jon Levinson, secretary-rules editor  
NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Playing Rules Reminders Pertaining to Court Safety.

We are writing to review certain basketball playing rules regarding the area surrounding the playing court and how game management can further help protect student-athletes at NCAA institutions from injury.

At present, the NCAA men's and women's basketball playing rules provide for the following:

1. Rule 1-3.3: This rule requires a restraining line six feet beyond each end line as shown on the Court Diagram on Pages 17 and 19 of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 men's and women's rules books, respectively. While the ball is live, non-playing personnel (cheerleaders, media, photographers, TV camera operators, etc.) are not permitted in this area. If there is not six feet of space available due to the physical layout of the arena/gymnasium, the rule requires that the restraining line be marked using the maximum available distance.
2. Rule 1-12.2.c: This rule requires any backboard support system which is below or behind the backboard to be at least eight feet behind the plane of the backboard face. Since Rule 1-13.1 further requires the face of the backboard to be four feet from the end line, the backboard support system below or behind the backboard must be positioned at least four feet beyond the end line. In addition, these backboard supports systems must have their bases padded to a height of seven feet per Rule 1-12.1.

National Collegiate Athletic Association

*An association of over 1,200 members serving the student-athlete*  
Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

NCAA MEMORANDUM

November 3, 2014

Page No. 2

---

3. The Court Diagrams referenced above also indicate that there be a minimum of three feet of unobstructed space along the sideline opposite the scorer's table. Non-playing personnel are prohibited from being in this area when the ball is live.

The NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Rules Committees will continue to discuss potential safety-related rules changes at their May 2015 annual meetings. In the meantime, since we all have a common objective to keep our student-athletes as safe as possible in this competitive world of college basketball, we ask you to review with your game management personnel the current playing rules highlighted above, and to take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with them.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [art.hyland@comcast.net](mailto:art.hyland@comcast.net) or [jonlevinson@icloud.com](mailto:jonlevinson@icloud.com).

AH/JL:af

cc: NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee  
NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee  
Selected NCAA Staff Members