

As we approach the end of the men's season, it is important referees remain focused on ensuring the game is being played in a manner which allows players to be the best athletes possible within the NCAA rules of play. This can be best achieved by applying the advantage rule while calling the rules as written.

Please hear me clearly...I am simply reminding all referees to re-focus on their complete duties. Take some time to reinforce your knowledge of the rules to ensure you are prepared for any and all situations which may arise – before, during and after the game as well as in the water and on the benches.

Establish acceptable limits on physical play early and stick to them in all areas of the game – center, perimeter, transition, 6 on 5. Both the offense and the defense must be held accountable for their actions.

Below are a few examples of situations referees need to make certain they are prepared to address, always keeping in mind the advantage rule:

- Center
 - General heaviness off the ball by BOTH the defense and the offense
 - Call early to establish acceptable limits and stick to it for the entire game
 - Transition both into and out of center position by BOTH the offense and the defense
- Perimeter
 - Offense holding off defender
 - Defense laying on offense with hands out of the water but forward
 - Defense spinning with hands out of the water yet making contact with body or head of the offense
 - Initiation of contact to start transition by BOTH the offense and the defense
- 6 on 5
 - Defense not allowed to use offense to push themselves up to block the ball
 - Offense not allowed to pull down defenders attempting to block a shot or pass
 - Offense not allowed to push off of a defender to gain better position or receive the ball
- Simulation
 - Address it early and as often as needed
 - Can be committed by either the offense or the defense

So again, these are a few examples of situations, nothing new, just areas which require a bit more attention as the intensity of the season continues to rise. Just as the coaches and athletes seek to be their best at the end of the season, so shall the referees. Be correct in your application of the rules and be consistent from first whistle to last.