



BASKETBALL

RULES REFERENCE

COLLEGIATE OFFICIALS QUICK GUIDE

2025-26 MEN / 2025-27 WOMEN

CODE & GENDER APPLICATION

Men's and women's NCAA basketball require separate rules and mechanics study.

Study aid only. Always use the current official rulebook, interpretations, mechanics manual, state or conference adoptions, bulletins and assignment instructions.

THE STORIES BEHIND THE CALLS

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UNDER THE STRIPES NETWORK | VERIFIED JULY 23, 2026

1. Know Which Authority Controls

Topic	Collegiate reference
Rules authority	NCAA sport rulebook, approved interpretations and bulletins.
Mechanics authority	Use the current CCA manual when issued for the sport, plus NCAA coordinator/conference mechanics. CCA is not a separate playing-rules code.
NAIA layer	Most NAIA championship sports use an NCAA rules foundation with NAIA-approved modifications. Check the current NAIA sport manual and host-conference instructions.
Assignment control	The assigner/conference may prescribe crew size, replay availability, timing protocols, uniforms, reports and mechanics without rewriting the playing rule.

Pregame authority check

Topic	Collegiate reference
Code	Confirm NCAA, NAIA or another governing code.
Edition	Confirm rulebook year, interpretations and recent bulletins.
Mechanics	Confirm current manual, crew size, rotations and conference exceptions.
Technology	Confirm clocks, replay/challenge, headsets and approved communication.
Administration	Confirm rosters/lineups, timing personnel, reports and protest procedure.

2. Core Contest Reference

Topic	Collegiate reference
Game format	Men: two 20-minute halves. Women: four 10-minute quarters.
Shot clock	30 seconds in both codes; reset and frontcourt timing provisions must be learned from the applicable book.
Backcourt	Men use a 10-second count; women use a 10-second count with code-specific reset details.
Team fouls	Men use half-based bonus administration. Women use quarter-based team-foul administration.
Ball	Men use the larger men's ball; women use the smaller women's ball.
Replay	Availability and initiator/challenge procedures depend on code, timing and approved equipment.

High-priority officiating focus

Topic	Collegiate reference
Coach's challenge	Confirm timeout requirement, challengeable acts, review window and resumption under the applicable code.
Physicality	Judge displacement, legal guarding, freedom of movement, post play and rebounding consistently.
Clock / shot clock	Know reset values, inadvertent resets, timing corrections and end-of-period minimum-time principles.
Monitor	Establish who communicates with the table, what evidence is reviewable and the exact resumption point.

3. Differences and Assignment Notes

Topic	Collegiate reference
Structure	Men: halves. Women: quarters.
Bonus	Men: one-and-one/two-shot bonus structure by half. Women: two free throws after the fifth team foul in a quarter.
Closely guarded	Definitions and counting applications differ; study the current differences chart.
Mechanics	Separate CCA men's and women's manuals; coverage and reporting expectations are not interchangeable.

Postgame self-review

Topic	Collegiate reference
Rule	Which ruling needs a rule/case-book check before the next game?
Mechanic	Did positioning, coverage and communication match the current manual?
Crew	What information improved or delayed the final decision?
Reports	Were ejections, fights, protests, replay issues and unusual incidents reported on time?

Official reference path

Topic	Collegiate reference
NCAA Playing Rules	https://www.ncaa.org/championships/playing-rules/
NCAA Publications	https://www.ncaapublications.com/
NAIA Rules & Policy	https://www.naia.org/membership/legislative-and-policy/
NAIA Sport Resources	https://www.naia.org/membership/resources/coaches-corner/
CCA manuals	Access the current authorized manual through the collegiate officiating/central hub or publisher.