Pre-Conference Championship Clarifications

1. **Working with your Table Official and using the Table Official Module**—Meet with or talk with your table officials and use the Table Official Module as a guide. Remind coaches of the duties of the Table Official and all the things they are managing, and that they may not be able to answer every question, but will get as many of them as possible. Reminder -- on p. 32 of the NCAA Rule Book “The possession clock is started, stopped and reset as directed by the officials on the field.” The table official can be sure this direction from the field is administered correctly.

2. **Leading the discussion with your officiating crew assigned to the Conference Championship Tournament:** We suggest that you use the Head Umpire Module, Mechanics Protocols and the NCAA Supplemental Document to guide your discussion.

3. **Managing Physical Play:** Officials should consider the following criteria when determining which card to assess:

   1. Contact with the stick in the neck or head area.
   2. Cross check on the back of the player.
   3. Does the player have any intent to play the ball.

Emphasizing appropriate carding, helping one another get the call/card right, and reviewing situations where a red card must be administered should be discussed. Contact such as this needs to be managed and called. Head officials should encourage their crews to view the carding videos that are posted on the CWLOA and Arbiter websites.

When one is considering what level of card to administer—is it yellow or is it red, they should consider fouls that are not intended to play the ball, fouls near head and neck area, cross checks around or toward the head and neck. We are not saying to go looking for trouble or looking for red cards, but we are encouraging you to manage these types of fouls appropriately. Melissa, Patty, and your assignor will
support you. We know there are factors in a game the tone, the types of fouls taking place, the tenor of a game….

**Anything that happens after the play, words, fouls after the play, cross check on the back during a dead ball play are rare but need to be managed.** You have managed fouls well….be ready for the big fouls such as these.

**4. Focusing on communication:** We encourage the intentional communication from officials to coaches and the table, of all warnings, cards, and complex foul situations--there should be no surprises out there! We suggest the consistent practice of communication after all officiating huddles--quickly and efficiently--to the table and coaches and using huddles to get the call/card right---help one another to get it right on the field. Help one another be a great crew each game.

**5. Calling shooting space and cross checks with greater consistency:** We encourage officials to concentrate on identifying shooting space in two specific scenarios.

1. Shooting space that occurs when the ball is passed into the CSA and is passed out top to an attacking player. On the catch, look at the defender approaching the player with the ball.

2. Shooting space where a team has layers of defense or a zone, and behind the ball there are defensive players not marking a player who are in shooting space when the attacker steps wide of her defender. We encourage officials to look thru the layers to assess shooting space in these types of situations.

**6. The impact of television**—The cameras are rolling, from pre-game music, to interactions with each other, to players and coaches. Huddles with officials—Meet briefly and communicate to the sidelines after a huddle. Leave no questions on the field by focusing on communication with the table and coaches.

**7. A message from us to you---**“The hardest game to officiate is not the Final 4 semi final or final. The hardest games are those with big scores, blow out scores, uneven games….. No matter the game, bring your best game! Your crews need to get it right, step in and help one another, and vow to run as hard as they can. Save nothing and leave it out on the field. Our wish for you as lead officials of Conference Championships are to have a great tournament and be great leaders and supporters of one another.

**8. Rules Situations and Questions;** Rules Situation—Stick Questions from coaches—

1. Shooting Strings thru side wall and wrapped, not tied. It’s ok if it is not tied. If it comes loose and is not attached that is **not** legal. And, if a stick check is called, and the shooting string is not going thru the side-wall, it is illegal and must be penalized.
2. Rules Situation: Broken shaft of a stick; Stick has to leave the field and the coach/player may put the head of the stick on to a new shaft. This stick can be checked at the next opportunity and does not have to wait for halftime. **This is an equipment malfunction and not an illegal stick situation.**

3. Rules Situation: Coach requested stick check/Team Requested stick check—Do you do a pocket depth check and roll. Yes. The only time you would not perform a pocket depth/roll again is if the coach requested stick check is called on the same stick immediately following the goal that was allowed (pocket depth and roll was just performed). When administering a coach requested full stick check, pocket depth/roll is listed as a criteria and should be performed. **However, if pocket depth is only violation, no two minute penalty is assessed. Change of Possession.**

4. Rules Situation: Blue player out on a card and as card expires, there is a time out for a foul in the CSA. The coach sends a player over the restraining line. Now there are 3 back because card cannot come in yet from the box. The player with the card has not entered the game yet.—the blue player CAN go over and have 3 back since the penalty has been served/the card has expired. With table official, this is easier to manage as she/he can confirm card has expired.

5. Rules Situation: A foul takes place after the shot against the defense and is carded. Procedure: Goal. Time out. Move to clear space and signal foul (card raised). Indicate direction. Check Stick. Card is communicated to the table. Administer card appropriately. **Draw positioning applies and ball given to player if stick is legal. Play begins on the official’s whistle.**

*If, in that same scenario, goal is scored, cardable foul on defender after shot and stick is illegal: Indicate no goal. Same procedure applies for the card. Official will also indicate alternate possession. Alternate possession awarded at the dot. Play resumes on official’s whistle.*