

WNBA fouls rise as league cracks down on physical play

BY DOUG FEINBEG
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

NEW YORK — The WNBA is trying to fix its physicality problem and is going through some growing pains during the opening week of the season.

Fouls are up so far in the first week of the WNBA season with teams averaging 21.6 fouls — that's up slightly less than two per game from the same point last year (19.9). That number dropped over the course of the year with 17.5 fouls on average per game for each team.

"Fouls are up. I don't think if we are going to get rid of rough play that we saw in previous seasons there is any other outcome other than at the beginning fouls will be up," said Monty McCutchen, who is the head of WNBA officiating. "That's a fairly safe assumption."

The increased fouls aren't really leading a major increase in free throws with 21.9 being attempted this season to 21.4 last year at this point. By the end of the year, 18.2 free throws were attempted by each team on average.

The WNBA formed an officiating task force in the offseason as part of the "state of the game" group that included players and coaches. The hope was to clean up some of the league's growing concerns around physicality.

"What came out of our meetings was we didn't really change any rules or change an interpretation," said Sue Blauch, who is the head of referee performance and development for the WNBA. "When we drilled

down to the nitty gritty, it came down to we needed to strictly enforce our current guidelines. So that's what you're seeing more of. A more stricter enforcement of freedom of movement. That will allow the game to open up and the players to showcase their talents."

McCutchen said the task force spent many hours discussing what players, coaches and the league wanted from officials.

"That amount of hours gives clarity to Sue on the day-to-day portion for teaching our staff," he said. "There will be some over calibration when we try to impart freedom of movement. I think we've experienced a little bit of that."

McCutchen said the officiating group will continue to meet frequently to make sure that "our alignment can become finer and finer as we move into our best parts of our season."

Minnesota coach Cheryl Reeve is on the task force and knows it will take a little

bit of time to get everyone on the same page.

"Obviously, we'll continue to work with the league on getting right because we're not the only team sitting here wondering why everything is a foul," she said.

Increased fouls also lead to longer games. The New York Liberty's overtime win over Washington went for 2 hours, 41 minutes.

"It disrupts everyone's flow," Liberty star Breanna Stewart said. "This game was 2 hours and 41 minutes long. That's insane. ... I know it's going to take time of, like, figuring out what's the standard of what's going to be called, but there's calls that are being called that are unnecessary on both sides, and then there's no flow."

Indiana Fever star Caitlin Clark got a technical foul during the team's win on Wednesday night over Los Angeles. After the game, she praised the officials for their efforts.



JAE C. HONG/Associated Press

Indiana Fever guard Caitlin Clark (22) reacts to a call during the first half of a WNBA game Wednesday in Los Angeles.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Elizabethtown Board of Zoning Adjustment will hold public hearings on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 212 W. Dixie Ave., Elizabethtown, Kentucky. The hearings will be held to consider the following:

A conditional use permit request to allow a non-owner occupied short term rental for property located at 201 N Miles St.
Hearing No. 2026-BZA-30

A conditional use permit request to allow a non-owner occupied short term rental for property located at 506 N Mantle Ave
Hearing No. 2026-BZA-31

A conditional use permit request to allow a non-owner occupied short term rental for property located at 111 East Brown St.
Hearing No. 2026-BZA-32

A conditional use permit request to allow a non-owner occupied short term rental for property located at 408 Sandy Circle
Hearing No. 2026-BZA-33

A conditional use permit request to allow a non-owner occupied short term rental for property located at 2416 Birkdale Way
Hearing No. 2026-BZA-34

LEGAL NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BID

The Lincoln Trail Area Development District (LTADD) and member units of government are accepting bids for furnishing, delivery & installation of certain materials or services related to the construction and maintenance of city and/or county roads and streets. Bids are being solicited for Corrugated Metal Pipe, HDPE Culvert Pipe, Pre-engineered Box Culverts, Bridge Packages, Bridge Rehabilitation, Guardrail, Culvert Liners and Erosion Control Products. The invitation for Bid packets can be downloaded from the home page of our website at www.ltadd.org. Proposals, documents and specifications should be returned to by 10:00 AM EST, on Friday, June 5, 2026 and sent to: Charlie Allen, Engineering, Design & Mapping Director, Lincoln Trail ADD 750 S. Provident Way, Elizabethtown, KY 42701. Proposals received after this time shall not be considered for review. LTADD is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages responses from all qualified Contractors.

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AMENDING ZONING MAP FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE WOODLAND CORRIDOR DISTRICT ORDINANCE #09-2026 SUMMARY

This Ordinance amends the official zoning classification for the property located in the Woodland Corridor District (WCD-1) to Neighborhood Commercial (C-2) and Regional Commercial (C-3) to comply with the City's Comprehensive Plan- Envision Elizabethtown 2040.

The change was approved by the Elizabethtown City Council as it was found to be in agreement with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Please find the full Ordinance on the website: www.elizabethtownky.org or by contacting the City Clerk: jessica.graham@elizabethtownky.gov

Summary prepared by:
Ken M. Howard
City Attorney

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