

# NCAA Basketball Championships Best Lighting Practices

**Goals:** **1. Quality TV Broadcasts:** To establish best practices for lighting televised NCAA events, providing quality broadcasts within a reasonable budget. The light level expectations are applicable for both SD and HD broadcast.

**2. Value-based Lighting System:** To provide recommended best practices for lighting college level sporting events with considerations for quality lighting for player safety; reduced energy, maintenance and life-cycle costs; and environmental sensitivity.

**Considerations:** 1. Size of facility, 2. Level of TV broadcast, 3. Validation of light levels, and 4. Cost consciousness.

Broadcast Level	A	B	C	D	E
Horizontal Illumination	250	200	125	80	80
Horizontal Uniformity (Max/Min)	1.35:1	1.5:1	1.7:1	2.0:1	2.0:1
Main Center Camera Vertical Illumination	180	145	100	75	N/A
Max/Min Uniformity Ratio (Main Center Camera)	1.25:1	1.5:1	1.7:1	2.0:1	N/A
End Camera Vertical Illumination	125	100	60	45	N/A
Max/Min Uniformity Ratio (End Camera)	1.35:1*	2.5:1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Typical Seating	70k plus	15k - 20k	3k-10k	3k - 5k	N/A
Site Notes	Typically held in NFL Covered Facility	Site Typically held in NBA/NHL	Site Typically Held in College Facility	Site Typically Held in College Facility	Site Typically Held in College Facility

\*Broadcast Level A - End Camera Max/Min Uniformity Ratio is for the half court nearest the camera.  
 - Field of play to background contrast ratio (for the first 30 rows) should be less than 2:1.

Competition	Broadcast Level
Men's Final Four	A
Men's Division I Regionals	B
Men's Division I First & Second Rounds	B
Men's Division I First Four	B
Men's Division II Elite Eight	C
Men's Division II Regionals	D
Men's Division III Finals	C
Men's Division III Sectionals	E
Men's Division III First & Second Rounds	E

Competition	Broadcast Level
Women's Final Four	B
Women's Division I Regionals	B
Women's Division I First & Second Rounds	C
Women's Division II Elite Eight	C
Women's Division II Regionals	D
Women's Division III Finals	C
Women's Division III Sectionals	E
Women's Division III First & Second Rounds	E

Notes:

1. All footcandle levels are target minimum averages
2. New lighting system designs are recommended to use 0.7 Recoverable Light Loss Factor or Constant Illumination
3. Lamp Characteristics
  - a. Minimum color temperature must be 3600 degrees Kelvin
  - b. Minimum Color Rendering Index (CRI) must be 65
4. Refer to the NCAA Broadcast Lighting Requirements for additional information
5. Refer to sport and broadcast specific documents for design examples and verification forms

**Contact NCAA at 317/917-6222 or [www.NCAA.com](http://www.NCAA.com) with questions.**