



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Doc Rivers Rants, NBA Quivers**

**Washington, D.C., March 20, 2009** – Three nights ago, Boston Celtics Coach Doc Rivers complained to all who cared to listen that NBA referee Bill Kennedy “stared and goaded” him into an emotional on-court tirade that resulted in his second technical foul and ejection from the game. For his lack of self-control and professionalism, the NBA yesterday fined Rivers \$25,000 and upheld the technical foul and ejection.

The league also fined Kennedy for the supposedly dirty look he gave to Rivers.

“In recent years, the NBA has prohibited its referees from speaking harshly to coaches and players, or raising their voices to them, or making any kind of aggressive or intimidating body or facial gestures,” said Lamell McMorris, spokesman for the NBA referees. “The referees have been told that this is too much for them to handle, and that they should turn their backs to them in mid-rant and walk away.”

“But one person’s glare is another person’s final warning. Ask any parent,” said McMorris.

This is not the first time this season Doc Rivers has been fined for being critical of the referees. He received a \$15,000 fine for comments made after a game against the Los Angeles Lakers.

“We have seen a pattern of behavior by Doc Rivers throughout the season. It is disappointing that the NBA is not standing behind its officiating staff, and decided to fine a referee for doing his job,” said McMorris. “They are out on the floor every night attempting to uphold the rules and integrity of the game.”

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### **About the NBRA**

The National Basketball Referees Association represents the referees of the National Basketball Association.