

2021 – 2022 NCAA Women’s Rule Changes

Rules: NCAA

Latest Rules Updates from the NCAA:

1-7.1 Three-Point Field-Goal Line

To move the three-point line to the NCAA men’s/FIBA distance of 22 feet, 13/4 inches from the center of the basket to the outside edge of the three-point field-goal line and 21 feet, 77/8 inches in the corners.

Rationale: To reduce physicality and promote freedom of movement by increasing the spacing of players on the playing court.

2-1.2 Officials’ Uniform

To change the officials’ uniform to a gray and white striped shirt with black side panels, black raglan-style sleeves with blue accents and black pants.

Rationale: To modernize the official’s uniform and establish a style specific for NCAA women’s basketball.

2-11 Duties of Shot-Clock Operator

When an inadvertent whistle occurs during a try for goal, the shot clock is set or reset based on the location of the ball and the team favored by the alternating-possession arrow.

Rationale: This addresses a situation that should have been changed when the 20-second reset was instituted two years ago and makes this situation consistent with other shot-clock resets.

3-6.2 Substitutions

Delete the prohibition for substitutes who report after the replacement of a player who is required to be replaced due to disqualification, injury or blood, or a lost, irritated, or displaced contact from entering the game. This does not apply to the immediate replacement required when a timeout has been granted in order to keep a player in the game.

Rationale: To bring the rule in line with current practice and how these situations have been officiated.

5-14.10.c and .d Timeouts

To permit an instant-replay review to trigger the electronic-media timeout in each period or the floating second half electronic-media timeout.

Rationale: This permits an instant-replay review to trigger an electronic-media timeout which will reduce the number of stoppages in the game and increase pace of play.

10-12.2.a.1 and .2 Administrative Technical Fouls

To reduce the penalty from two free throws to one for an institution not having a properly marked division line and center circle, or a proper game-clock display, red light/LED lights, and mounted shot clock.

Rationale: These situations are outside the control of the coach and student-athletes and is proportionate with the offense.

10-12.2.c.2 and .3 Administrative Technical Fouls

To limit officials enforcement of illegal uniforms (game jersey and shorts) to an illegal number (i.e., 8) and the failure of a team to wear contrasting uniform colors. Other illegalities (i.e., color of the number, size of logos/patches, etc.) will be enforced by the institution's conference office.

To have officials only enforce those uniform rules which have an impact on the playing of the game. It is the responsibility of conference offices to ensure that their member institutions' uniforms are legal, and when they are not, that the issue(s) are corrected.

10-12.4.b Electronic Transmission of Data to the Bench Area

To permit the transmission of live statistical data to the bench area for coaching purposes and to allow conferences to experiment with live video on the bench during conference games and tournaments.

For the past two seasons, the rules committee permitted conferences to experiment with the transmission of live statistical data to the bench. This experimentation was met with approval from the coaches and other stakeholders. Allowing conferences to experiment with video next season will provide the rules committee with additional data and feedback with regard to expanding the use of technology on the bench.

11-1.1 Courtside Replay Equipment

To permit officials to use a stopwatch that is embedded in the instant-replay equipment as long as the video is unaltered and is played at normal game speed.

Instant-replay equipment has seen technological advances and provided that the video being observed by the game officials is being played at normal speed, the embedded stopwatch provides for more accurate timing than a hand-held device subject to the reaction time of the user.

11-2.1.b.4 Instant Replay

To change the time when a review occurs when determining whether a try was released prior to the expiration of the shot-clock period. Similar to the review for whether a goal is worth two or three points, the review will take place during the next electronic-media timeout, except after the last electronic-media timeout of the fourth period or the entire extra period when it must be reviewed before the ball becomes live following the successful goal.

To increase pace of play by reducing the number of instant-replay reviews. Regardless of whether replay determines a shot-clock violation or not, the correct team gained control of the ball following the play.

11-2.1.d and .e; 5-14.1 Instant Replay

(a) In the last two minutes of the fourth quarter and last two minutes of any extra period, officials may review who caused the ball to be out of bounds regardless of the number of players involved provided a ruling was made for an out of bounds.

(b) At any time during the game, a coach may challenge the ruling of an offensive foul or a blocking foul for being within the restricted-area arc when the play involves the location of players involved in a lower defensive box/restricted area play. When the ruling is not reversed, the coach is charged a timeout.

(c) At any time during the game, a coach may challenge the ruling of a successful goal when a foul is committed by a player without the ball or on a player without the ball (i.e., “a foul away from the ball”). When the ruling is not reversed, the coach is charged a timeout. Officials may use instant replay on their own in the last two minutes of the fourth quarter and last two minutes of any extra period.

To increase opportunities for correct rulings on out-of-bounds plays and scoring plays and to provide the ability of the coach to require a replay review.