

NCAA Women's Basketball rules changes

In May, the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committees recommended numerous rules proposals that were approved by the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel in June.

Here are a few for the upcoming season:

- **Periods - Length.** (Rule 5-6.1). Playing time for varsity games shall consist of four ten-minute periods. The intermission between the first and second and the third and fourth periods shall be 75 seconds in a non-media game or 75 seconds or the length of the electronic-media timeout in a media game.
- **Timeouts Granted and Charged - Option to Advance the Ball** (Rule 5-14.2). When a timeout is charged to the offensive team during the last 59.9 seconds of the fourth period and/or any extra period(s), the team has the option to advance the throw-in spot to the 28-foot mark in the front court on the same side of the court as the scorers' table.
- **Timeouts Granted and Charged - Non-media team timeouts.** (Rule 5-14.9). In games not using electronic-media timeouts, each team will have three 30-second timeouts and 2 full timeouts (60 seconds in length).
- **Timeouts Granted and Charged - Media Timeout Format.** (Rule 5-14.10). In games using electronic-media timeouts, each team will have three 30-second timeouts and 1 full timeouts (60 seconds in length). There is one electronic-media timeout in each period. The break between the first and second, as well as between the third and fourth periods, may be used as an electronic-media timeout. The first team-called timeout in the second half will become an electronic-media timeout.
- **Timeouts Granted and Charged - Bands/Amplified Music.** (Rule 5-14.17). Bands and/or amplified music may be played during any dead ball period.
- **Timeouts Not Granted - Monitor Review.** (Rule 5-15.1.f). Timeouts are not to be granted when there is an instant replay review in the last two minutes of the game until the results of the review have been reported to both head coaches.
- **Bonus Free Throws.** (Rule 8-2.1). A team is awarded two free throws for each common foul beginning with the fifth team foul in a period.
- **Violation - 10-Second Back Court.** (Rule 9-11). The 10-second count shall reset on all stoppages of the game clock except when the defense causes the ball to be out of bounds, the offense retains possession after a held ball, or there is a technical foul assessed to the offensive team.
- **Games With Replay/Television Equipment.** (Rules 11-1.3). When an official uses instant replay to determine whether or not a shot clock violation has occurred in the last two minutes of the game, if the shot-clock horn is not audible, the official is to use the reading of zeroes on the shot clock to determine if a violation occurred.
- **Officiating Guidelines - Displacement.** (Appendix III, Section 3). When an offensive post player with her back to the basket in the lane area is in control of the ball, a post defender may only place one forearm or one hand with a bend in the elbow on the offensive player.