



CLARIFICATION OF RULES PERTAINING TO ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT PERMITTED IN THE BENCH AREA

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Recent advances in technology, especially in the area of student-athlete health and safety, have resulted in the reevaluation by the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee of certain rules pertaining to the electronic monitoring of student-athletes during practices and actual competition. In particular, basketball and other sports have seen the growth of certain electronic monitoring equipment using a GPS based system used in practice and game situations. The data collected by these systems may be used to make better-informed decisions on the health of student athletes.

The present NCAA Women's Basketball Rules do not permit the use of electronic transmission to or from the bench area or the knowledge gained from it "for coaching purposes." (Rule 10-4.2) However, as a result of the recommendations of the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (CSMAS) and at the urging of professionals responsible for the training, health, and safety of student athletes, electronic equipment (including wearable technology used to monitor data, which can be used for medical-decision making) is now permissible in the bench area.

However, it is important to note that the rule referenced above does not permit the information obtained from this equipment to be used "for coaching purposes." The sole purpose of this initiative is to permit the use of equipment that may assist health care professionals in enhancing student-athlete health and well-being. In this regard, it is not permissible to share the data collected with the coaching staff while in the bench area for any purpose other than health and safety.

In addition, consistent with other types of equipment worn by players, Rules 1-26.1 and 2-5.1 require the referee to approve the equipment. To assist in this regard, a team should notify the referee prior to the start of the game if a team is using electronic equipment (including wearable technology).

Please feel free to contact me at jonlevinson@icloud.com if you have further questions.