



2016 NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Survey: Executive Summary

PURPOSE

Per the request of the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee, a survey was developed to obtain feedback from head women's basketball coaches, women's basketball administrators, and senior woman administrators (SWAs) from all NCAA member institutions, as well as officials, coordinators of officials, and conference commissioners, in regards to issues with new rules changes, 2016 rules changes and major rules concerns. The results from this survey seek to provide the committee with detailed information on the respondents' opinions regarding current and potential women's basketball rules.

RESPONSE CHARACTERISTICS

	n	N	Response Rate by Position
Coaches	734	1,096	67.0%
Coordinators	51	60	85.0%
Officials	1,692	2,705	62.6%
SWAs	501	1,098	45.6%
Commissioners	76	98	77.6%
WBAs	18	32	56.3%
Total	3,072	5,089	60.4%

	Division I		Division II		Division III		Response Rate by Division	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Coaches	200	48.5%	185	52.0%	333	63.3%	718	55.5%
SWAs	166	40.3%	151	42.4%	167	31.7%	484	37.4%
Commissioners	31	7.5%	18	5.1%	25	4.8%	74	6.0%
WBAs	15	3.6%	2	0.6%	1	0.2%	18	1.4%
Total	412	31.8%	356	27.5%	526	40.6%	1,294	100.0%

	Division I		Division II		Division III		Response Rate by Division	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Officials	353	21.6%	483	29.6%	795	48.7%	1,631	97.0%
Coordinators	13	25.5%	19	37.3%	19	37.3%	51	3.0%
Total	366	21.8%	502	29.8%	814	48.4%	1,682	100.0%

MAJOR FINDINGS

NEW RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS

*Note: The following table shows responses of 50% or more.

When asked whether they would be in favor of the following proposed rule changes, the following responses were submitted:

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE	YES	NO	TOTAL CONSENSUS
Using the NCAA men's basketball.		<i>Coach</i> 93.0% <i>SWA</i> 90.3% <i>Official</i> 91.4% <i>Coordinator</i> 96.1% <i>Commissioner</i> 89.3% <i>WBA</i> 100.0%	No 91.7%
Maintaining the current sized basketball while adjusting the weight and liveliness of the ball to match the NCAA men's basketball.		<i>Coach</i> 88.4% <i>SWA</i> 76.9% <i>Official</i> 80.9% <i>Coordinator</i> 62.7% <i>Commissioner</i> 69.3% <i>WBA</i> 66.7%	No 81.3%
Requiring both teams to be on the playing court from the 15-minute mark before the start of the game until the 10-minute mark, in order to conduct the captains' meeting and to ensure that players are legally equipped and attired.	<i>Coach</i> 69.5% <i>SWA</i> 78.9% <i>Official</i> 87.4% <i>Coordinator</i> 88.2% <i>Commissioner</i> 73.3% <i>WBA</i> 61.1%		Yes 81.2%
Prohibiting head coaches from requesting a timeout while the ball is live.	<i>Coordinator</i> 64.7% <i>Commissioner</i> 53.3%	<i>Coach</i> 94.4% <i>SWA</i> 81.8% <i>Official</i> 61.8% <i>WBA</i> 77.8%	No 72.2%
Expanding the width of the free-throw lane to 16 feet?		<i>Coach</i> 79.3% <i>SWA</i> 88.9% <i>Official</i> 74.7% <i>Coordinator</i> 64.7% <i>Commissioner</i> 72.0% <i>WBA</i> 77.8%	No 77.9%
If the lane is expanded to 16 feet, expanding the restricted area arc to 4 feet.	<i>Coach</i> 76.7% <i>SWA</i> 74.5% <i>Official</i> 79.4% <i>Coordinator</i> 88.9% <i>Commissioner</i> 85.0% <i>WBA</i> 100.0%		Yes 78.9%

New Rules Change Proposals Continued

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE	YES	NO	TOTAL CONSENSUS
If the lane is expanded to 16 feet, a new rule for defensive three seconds.	WBA 75.0%	Coach 69.5% SWA 58.2% Official 64.1% Coordinator 72.2%	No 64.4%
No reset of the ten-second backcourt count when the offensive team is charged a timeout.	SWA 57.5% Coordinator 56.9% Commissioner 66.7% WBA 77.8%	Coach 52.5% Official 57.4%	No 52.8%
Using the FIBA three-point line (22 ft. 1.75 in.).		Coach 79.8% SWA 74.6% Official 71.5% Coordinator 78.4% Commissioner 68.0% WBA 61.1%	No 74.0%
Issuing a player/substitute technical foul to a player who fakes being fouled (flopping).		Coach 70.0% SWA 67.0% Official 68.0% Coordinator 74.5% WBA 77.8%	No 68.1%
Issuing a warning, followed by a player/substitute technical foul, to a player who fakes being fouled.	Coach 58.3% SWA 68.3% Official 61.6% Coordinator 64.7% Commissioner 65.3% WBA 61.1%		Yes 62.0%
Permitting substitutions before the start of a free throw sequence instead of prior to the last free throw in the sequence (i.e., before the first of two free throws as opposed to before the last free throw).	Coach 50.5% SWA 59.0% Coordinator 64.7% Commissioner 53.3% WBA 72.2%	Official 52.8%	Yes 50.5%
Eliminating the substitution opportunity following the last successful free throw in the sequence.		Coach 84.6% SWA 77.4% Official 61.6% Coordinator 56.9% Commissioner 69.3% WBA 77.8%	No 69.9%

New Rules Change Proposals Continued

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE	YES	NO	TOTAL CONSENSUS
Only permitting one set of substitutions following the last successful free throw in the sequence (only those substitutes at the table when the free throw is successful would be permitted to enter).	<i>Official</i> 57.5% <i>Commissioner</i> 61.3% <i>WBA</i> 61.1%	<i>Coach</i> 65.1% <i>SWA</i> 51.5% <i>Coordinator</i> 56.9%	Yes 50.5%
Permitting officials to use instant replay at any time during the game to determine if the ball left the shooter's hand before the sounding of the shot clock horn on <u>successful tries only</u> .	<i>Coach</i> 67.0% <i>SWA</i> 64.4% <i>Official</i> 73.5% <i>Coordinator</i> 76.5% <i>Commissioner</i> 64.0% <i>WBA</i> 66.7%		Yes 70.2%

2015-17 RULE CHANGES

*Note: The following table shows responses of 50% or more. "No Impact" responses are not shown.

When asked to indicate the impact the rule changes had on the game, the following responses were submitted:

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	TOTAL CONSENSUS
Playing time consists of four 10-minute periods.	<i>Coach</i> 71.0% <i>SWA</i> 62.0% <i>Official</i> 95.0% <i>Coordinator</i> 94.1% <i>Commissioner</i> 65.8% <i>WBA</i> 88.9%		Positive 83.1%
Awarding two free throws for the fifth team foul in each period and resetting the team fouls at the end of each period.	<i>Coach</i> 62.8% <i>SWA</i> 59.4% <i>Official</i> 96.1% <i>Coordinator</i> 92.2% <i>Commissioner</i> 81.9% <i>WBA</i> 72.2%		Positive 81.5%
When a timeout is granted to the offensive team in the last 59.9 seconds of the fourth or any extra period, the team has the option to advance the throw-in spot to the 28-foot mark in the frontcourt.	<i>Coach</i> 88.8% <i>SWA</i> 73.7% <i>Official</i> 91.5% <i>Coordinator</i> 96.1% <i>Commissioner</i> 73.2% <i>WBA</i> 88.2%		Positive 87.6%

2015-17 RULE CHANGES CONTINUED

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	TOTAL CONSENSUS
Reduction in the number of team-called timeouts in a media game from five to four.	SWA 64.2% Official 88.0% Coordinator 96.1% Commissioner 93.1% WBA 77.8%		Positive 74.2%
Reduction in the number of team-called timeouts in a non-media game from six to five.	SWA 61.3% Official 88.0% Coordinator 92.0% Commissioner 90.4% WBA 72.2%		Positive 72.9%
Substitutions not being permitted when there is a replay review in the last two minutes of the game until the review is concluded.	Official 67.0% Coordinator 78.4% Commissioner 61.1% WBA 61.1%		Positive 51.5%
Timeouts not being granted when there is a replay review in the last two minutes of the game until the review is completed.	Official 71.1% Coordinator 80.4% Commissioner 63.9% WBA 61.1%		Positive 54.6%
Permitting bands and/or amplified music to be played during any dead ball.	No Consensus		
Reducing the amount of time to replace a disqualified player to 15 seconds.	SWA 64.5% Official 81.5% Coordinator 90.2% Commissioner 90.3% WBA 94.4%		Positive 70.4%
Eliminating a reset of the ten-second backcourt count when the ball is out of bounds due to the defense causing the ball to be out of bounds, a held ball with no change in possession or a technical foul assessed to the offensive team.	Coach 76.0% SWA 68.3% Official 90.6% Coordinator 84.0% Commissioner 84.5% WBA 88.9%		Positive 83.2%
In the last two minutes of the game, when using replay for a shot-clock violation, to permit the officials to use the reading of zeroes on the shot clock when the horn is inaudible.	Coach 53.2% SWA 57.7% Official 85.1% Coordinator 88.2% Commissioner 86.1% WBA 77.8%		Positive 73.0%
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.	Coach 70.0% SWA 70.0% Official 87.5% Coordinator 90.2% Commissioner 81.7% WBA 83.3%		Positive 80.3%

AREAS OF CONCERN

*Note: The following table shows responses of 50% or more. "Somewhat Agree/Disagree" responses are not shown here.

When asked to indicate their level of agreement with these areas, the following responses were submitted:

RULE CHANGE	STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	DISAGREE/STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL CONSENSUS
Officials have enforced the rules as written in the rule book.	SWA 50.1% Official 90.9% Coordinator 74.5% Commissioner 58.2% WBA 77.8%		Strongly Agree/Agree 68.4%
Officials have consistently penalized illegal contact in the post area.	No Consensus		
Officials have consistently penalized illegal contact on cutters.	No Consensus		
Officials have enforced illegal contact on the ball handler/dribbler as outlined in the preseason.	Official 90.2% Coordinator 84.3% Commissioner 52.0% WBA 68.8%		Strongly Agree/Agree 68.9%
Officiating crews have been consistent within individual games in calling illegal contact on the ball handler/dribbler.	Official 84.2% Coordinator 68.0% WBA 64.7%		Strongly Agree/Agree 59.7%
Officiating crews have been consistent from the start of the season to its end in calling illegal contact on the ball handler/dribbler.	Official 78.6% Coordinator 70.6%		Strongly Agree/Agree 54.7%
Defenders who did not establish legal guarding position were penalized accordingly.	Official 83.3% Coordinator 64.7% WBA 64.7%		Strongly Agree/Agree 61.4%
Bench decorum and unsporting behavior was penalized accordingly.	Coach 56.8% SWA 58.2% Official 61.9% WBA 50.0%		Strongly Agree/Agree 59.1%

OFFICIALS ONLY

*Note: The following table shows responses of 50% or more.

Please indicate whether or not the statements below were a positive change:

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE	YES	NO
Making the Lead have primary responsibility for the play to the basket on drives down the lane and below the free-throw line and the Trail and Center prepared to call the illegal infraction, if needed, or have a secondary timed whistle on the play.	80.8%	
The visual and verbal communication protocol to coaches, players and partners of the time remaining for the ball to achieve frontcourt status when the shot clock is turned off and the Trail official displaying the 10-second backcourt signal.	90.3%	
Having the official nearest to the table at the end of the first and third period instruct the timer to start the timing of the end-of period intermission when both teams reached their respective bench areas.	69.7%	
Having the official who recognized the timeout called during the last 59.9 seconds of the fourth and or any extra period(s) ask the head coach if they want a full or 30-second timeout and if they want to advance the ball to the throw-in spot at the 28-foot mark in the front court table side.	93.7%	
Adding the "Two Hands on Ball Handler/Dribbler" signal.	95.0%	