

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL RULES COMMITTEE
May 12-15, 2015, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative Items. The NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee agreed to the following rules change proposals for the 2015-16 season. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items:

a. Rule 1 Court and Equipment.

- (1) Recommendation. Where possible, clear a 3-foot wide lane on both sides of the base of the basket stanchion to allow more room for players falling or running out of bounds to regain their balance.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. To provide an additional safety mechanism for players by increasing the space for players to regain their balance after leaving the court.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhances student-athlete experience by providing more open space for the players near the basket stanchion and further reducing risk of injury.

b. Rule 1-17.1 Logos/Names/Equipment.

- (1) Recommendation. Permit certain decals (e.g., institutional and conference websites, Twitter handles) to be placed on the top edge of the backboard frame.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. To allow limited promotional opportunities on the top edge of the backboard.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

c. Rule 1-17.1 Logos/Names/Equipment – Postseason Play Only.

- (1) Recommendation. Permit an American flag and one conference or NCAA logo in the lower corners on the front of the backboard (not to exceed 5" x 8") for NCAA and conference postseason play.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. To permit postseason conference and NCAA tournament branding (and to continue to permit the American flag to be displayed on the backboard).
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

d. Rule 1-22.4 Uniforms (Game Jersey and Pants).

- (1) Recommendation. A perceptible majority of the game shorts shall be the color of the neutral zone.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. The current rule states that “a majority color of the game shorts shall be the color of the neutral zone.” This language is to clarify that it should be readily apparent that the majority of the game shorts are the color of the neutral zone.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

e. Rule 1-22.7.a.1.a Uniforms (Game Jersey and Pants).

- (1) Recommendation. To add an institutional logo to the items that may appear on the front of the game jersey (neutral zone), in addition to the school name, the school nickname or mascot.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediately.

- (3) Rationale. To provide institutions with flexibility in identifying themselves. The logo shall be placed no closer than one inch from the uniform number (Rule 1-22.7.a.1.c).
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

f. Rule 1-22.7.c Uniforms (Game Jersey and Pants).

- (1) Recommendation. Delete the restriction on the placement of both an institutional and conference logo on the game jersey.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. The current rule permits an institutional logo and/or a conference logo to appear on the game jersey; however, both logos may not appear on the same side of the game jersey. Deleting this restriction would permit a conference logo and an institutional logo to both appear on the front side of the game jersey (e.g., an institutional logo at the apex of the neckline and the conference logo on the shoulder panel). However, both may not appear on the back of the jersey.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

g. Rule 1-22.11 Uniforms (Game Jersey and Pants).

- (1) Recommendation. To allow more than one institutional name, mascot and/or logo on the game shorts.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. The current rule permits one institutional logo and/or one conference logo on the game shorts. Permitting institutions to place more than one of these items on the game shorts, provided that a perceptible majority of the game shorts are the color of the neutral zone, will allow more visibility for the institution and/or the conference.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

h. Rule 1-23.2 Undergarments.

(1) Recommendation. Permit one institutional logo or mascot meeting the restrictions of Rule 1-25.2 to appear on undergarments that appear below the game shorts.

(2) Effective Date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. The institutional logo is permitted on other articles worn by players (game jersey, game shorts, headbands and wristbands). This change would make the rule consistent.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

i. Rule 1-24.4 Headbands and Wristbands.

(1) Recommendation. Permit one institutional logo or mascot meeting the restrictions of Rule 1-25.2 to appear on an arm sleeve, knee sleeve or leg sleeve.

(2) Effective Date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. The institutional logo is permitted on other articles worn by players (game jersey, game shorts, headbands and wristbands). This change would make the rule consistent.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

j. Rule 1-26.9 Players' Equipment.

(1) Recommendation. Move Rule 1-26.9 (information concerning arm sleeves, knee sleeves and lower leg sleeves) from the equipment rule to Rule 1-24 (include with headbands and wristbands).

(2) Effective Date. Immediately.

- (3) Rationale. NCAA bylaws do not restrict the size of the manufacturer's logo on equipment. By removing sleeves from the equipment rule, the size can be regulated (the logo must fit within a four-sided geometrical space that does not exceed 2 ¼ square inches).
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Limited.

k. Rule 2-10.9 Duties of Timer.

- (1) Recommendation. Reduce the time permitted to replace a disqualified player from 20 to 15 seconds.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. To increase the flow of the game.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhances student-athlete experience.

l. Rules 5-6.1 and 5-14.8 Periods – Length and Timeouts Granted and Charged.

- (1) Recommendation. Playing time for varsity games shall consist of four-10 minute quarters with a halftime intermission of 15 minutes. Extra periods shall be five minutes each in length with a one-minute intermission before each. The intermission between the first and second and third and fourth quarters shall be 75 seconds (non-media game) or 75 seconds/the length of the electronic-media timeout for media games.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. Increases the flow of the game by reducing stoppages, aligns with all other levels of play and provides natural breaks that usually occur with current media timeout formats.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhances student-athlete and fan experiences.

m. Rules 5-14.4 and 5-14.9 Timeouts Granted and Charged.

(1) Recommendation.

- a. Media timeouts. There shall be 4 electronic-media timeouts that are the length determined by the electronic-media agreement. There must be one electronic-media timeout in each period that occurs at the first team-called timeout above the 5-minute mark of each quarter or the first dead ball at or below the 5-minute mark. The intermission between quarters may be used as an electronic-media timeout.
- b. Team-called timeouts. Each team is entitled to four (4) team-called timeouts (three 30-second timeouts and one 60-second timeout). The 60-second timeout may be used in either the first half or second half. No more than two timeouts carry over to the second half.
- c. In an extra period, each team receives one 30-second timeout in addition to any timeouts it has not used previously in the second half.
- d. In any extra period, the media timeout is optional (per conference policy and/or the electronic-media agreement) and will be recognized at the first team called timeout.
- e. Appeals permitted under current rule would still be permitted and a team would be charged a 30-second timeout or whatever length of timeout is left when there are no more 30-second timeouts when the appeal does not result in a change.

(2) Effective Date. Immediately.

(3) Rationale. Current timeout rules need to fit into the four quarters format.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhances student-athlete experience.

n. Rule 5-14.8 Timeouts Granted and Charged.

(1) Recommendation. In a non-media game, each team receives three 30-second timeouts and two 60-second timeouts. Four timeouts will carry over to the second half. In an extra period, each team receives one 30-second timeout in addition to any timeouts it has not used previously in the fourth quarter.

(2) Effective Date. Immediately.

- (3) Rationale. Current timeout rules need to fit into the four quarters format.
 - (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
 - (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhances student-athlete experience.
- o. Rules 5-14.17 and 10-2.8.a Timeouts Granted and Charged and Administrative Technical Fouls.**
- (1) Recommendation. To allow for the use of musical instruments and/or amplified music during any dead ball.
 - (2) Effective Date. Immediately.
 - (3) Rationale. This will enhance the fan experience, creating a much more energetic arena environment. As we continue to try to grow our fan base and look to attract students and a wide range of fans to our events, we need to be more entertaining.
 - (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
 - (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhances student-athlete and fan experiences.
- p. Rule 7-4 Out of Bounds, Ball in Play From.**
- (1) Recommendation. If a timeout is charged to the offensive team during the last 59.9 seconds of the fourth period and/or any overtime period and (1) the ball is out-of-bounds in the backcourt (except for a suspension of play after the team had advanced the ball), or (2) after securing the ball from a rebound in the backcourt and prior to any advance of the ball, or (3) after the offensive team secures the ball from a change of possession in the backcourt and prior to any advance of the ball, the timeout should be granted. Upon resumption of play, the team granted the timeout shall have the option of putting the ball into play at the 28' hash mark in the frontcourt (table-side) or at the designated spot out-of-bounds. If the ball is put into play at the hash mark, the ball may be passed into either the frontcourt or backcourt. If it is passed into the backcourt, the team will receive a new 10-second count.
 - (2) Effective Date. Immediately.
 - (3) Rationale. To create end of game excitement.

- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhance student-athlete experience.

q. Rule 9-11 10-Second Back Court.

- (1) Recommendation. Add the following to the current Rule 9-11:
When a team has not gained front court status and the ball goes out of bounds, a held ball occurs with no change in team control, or a technical foul is assessed to the team in control of the ball, that team shall have the remainder of the 10-second count that was started before the ball became dead.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. To reward the defense and to prevent the offense from gaining an advantage that is not intended by rule.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhances student-athlete experience.

r. Rules 8-2.1 and 10-1 Penalty c Bonus Free Throws and Personal Fouls.

- (1) Recommendation. A team is awarded two free throws for each common foul committed by a team, beginning with that team's fifth foul during each period.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. Current foul rules need to fit into the four quarters format.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhances student-athlete experience.

s. Rules 11-2.1.e; 3-6.1.3 (New); and 5-14.1 Instant Replay – Voluntary Use; Substitutions; and Timeouts Granted and Charged.

- (1) Recommendation. During all courtside monitor reviews in the last two minutes of the fourth quarter and the last two minutes of any extra period(s),

substitutions shall not be permitted nor timeouts granted until the results of the monitor review have been reported to both coaches.

- (2) Effective Date. Immediately.
 - (3) Rationale. Allow officials to determine the outcome of the review before allowing coaches to substitute or call timeout. This will also eliminate a situation that may occur if the call is reversed and a player who was substituted for may not return to the game.
 - (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
 - (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhances student-athlete experience.
- t. Appendix III, Sections 3.b and 3.c Officiating Guidelines.**
- (1) Recommendation. When an offensive player with the ball has her back to the basket, the defensive post player may place a forearm or *one* hand on the offensive player. When the defensive post player places one hand on the offensive post player, the defensive post player must have a bend in her elbow. The body or knee is not an acceptable point of contact.
 - (2) Effective Date. Immediately.
 - (3) Rationale. Post play has become increasingly rough, particularly once the offensive player has the ball. In an effort to promote freedom of movement for both the offensive and defensive players, allowing only one point of contact (arm bar or hand) would allow more movement. Once a post player faces the basket with the ball, the ball handling rules will apply.
 - (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
 - (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Enhances student-athlete experience.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Opening Remarks and Review of Meeting Schedule.** The chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for their time. The meeting schedule and agenda were reviewed.

2. **Review of Policies and Procedures.** The following policies were reviewed: Committee Operations Handbook, Conflict of Interest, Committee Guidance Regarding Document Retention, Voting Procedures, Rules Writing Principles, Experimental Playing Rules Guidelines and the Women's Basketball Rules Committee Guiding Principles.
3. **Review of 2014 Annual Meeting Report and February 17, 2015, Teleconference Report.** The committee approved the 2014 annual meeting report and February 17, 2015, teleconference report as written.
4. **Executive Summary of Rules Book Review.** The committee reviewed a report compiled by a former NCAA staff member who reviewed all NCAA rules books and provided a comprehensive report to each rules committee for them to review and consider during the next rules change year. It was noted that several good recommendations were made regarding the book. The secretary-rules editor and NCAA staff liaison will incorporate some of the recommendations in this report into the next edition of the rules book.
5. **National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Report.** The NFHS Basketball Rules Committee recently met and approved a rule stating that excessive contact on any ball-handler, including post players, will be a violation of the rules. The committee also approved a new signal to be used after a basket is made and when there is a stoppage in play. The NFHS rules committee also discussed, but did not approve, using two halves instead of four quarters, as well as the implementation of a shot clock.
6. **Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) Representative's Report.** The WNBA is entering its 19th season and is comprised of 12 teams and 30 officials. The Points of Emphasis for the 2015 season include the following: (1) Illegal screens; (2) Traveling; (3) Continuation; (4) Freedom of Movement; and (6) Respect for the Game. One rule change of note includes the use of instant replay in the last two minutes of the game (finding a foul when reviewing a play).
7. **Active Official's Report.** It was noted that the following rules changes had a positive impact on the game: 10-second back court, closely guarded, non-incidental elbow contact, the lower defensive box, media timeouts, monitor reviews for two versus three point shots and monitor reviews during the last two minutes. Concerns were expressed regarding cutters and screening.

- 8. Conference Coordinator of Officials Report.** Overall, conference coordinators of officials felt the 2014-15 season was a success. The mandatory quizzes and video clips were very helpful in maintaining consistency throughout the season. The coordinators support the continued enforcement of freedom of movement, resumption of play and pace of play. Contact on and by the ball handler should remain a point of emphasis. The issue of flopping was discussed and it was noted that this is not a widespread problem in the game.
- 9. Women's College Basketball Officiating, LLC (WCBO) Report.** The committee received an overview of the WCBO and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA). The committee also reviewed eight rules proposals recommended by the WCBO Board of Managers.
- 10. NCAA National Coordinator of Women's Basketball Officiating Report.** The committee received an update on efforts to educate and train officials. More than 80 video clips were posted throughout the season on the Central Hub. Areas that continue to be emphasized include drives to the basket (forearms on the body), screens, freedom of movement, contact on the shooter and monitor reviews.
- 11. Secretary-Rules Editor Report.** The secretary-rules editor reviewed all of the editorial items that will be incorporated into the next edition of the rules book. In addition, he outlined suggested revisions to Rules 7 and 9 in the rules book. The committee agreed that the suggested revisions should be made.
- 12. Review of 2014-15 Statistics and Trends.** The committee reviewed statistics and trends from the 2014-15 season and noted that the average number of points per game (as compared to the 2013-14 season) increased for Divisions II and III and decreased for Division I. In addition, shooting percentages were the same for all three divisions.
- 13. Review of 2014-15 Rules Survey.** The committee reviewed and discussed the results from the 2014-15 rules survey. It was noted that the response rate for coaches was 67.6 percent.
- 14. Review of Rules Proposals.** The committee reviewed the rules change proposals and discussed each item at length. Proposals that were approved by the committee are included at the beginning of this report.

15. **Review of 2014-15 Interpretations.** The committee reviewed and approved all official interpretations issued by the secretary-rules editor during the 2014-15. All items will be included in the 2016 Case Book.

16. **Identify 2015-16 Areas of Concern.** The committee identified the following items as areas of concern for the 2015-16 season: enforcing the rules as written, post play/three seconds, freedom of movement/players moving without the ball/screening, contact on and by the ball handler/dribbler, block/charge, and sportsmanship/bench decorum.

17. **Future meeting and teleconference dates.** The committee noted the importance of meeting in conjunction with the Men's Basketball Rules Committee next year. The 2016 annual meeting and teleconference dates will be confirmed at a later date and communicated to the committee.

18. **Election of Chair.** The committee elected Brad Duckworth, Alverno College, as chair for the 2015-16 academic year.

19. **Other Business.** Anucha Browne, NCAA Vice President for Women's Basketball, provided an update on the Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee. The committee will convene for the first time in June, 2015.

20. **Adjournment.** The committee adjourned at 11:45 a.m. on Friday, May 15, 2015.

Committee Chair: Michael Shafer, University of Richmond, Atlantic 10 Conference
Staff Liaisons: Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances
Emily Parkins, Championships and Alliances

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Attendees	Absentees
Charlene Curtis, Atlantic Coast Conference	None
Brad Duckworth, Alverno College	

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Becky Endicott, Wichita State University	
Joe Foley, University of Arkansas, Little Rock	
Tanya Haave, Metropolitan State University of Denver	
Greg Harnden, Harding University	
Sam Jones, Waynesburg University	
Candice Lee, Vanderbilt University	
Jon Levinson, secretary-rules editor	
Michael Shafer, University of Richmond	
Curt Smyth, University of New England	
John Thurston, St. Francis College Brooklyn	
Other Attendees:	
<p>June Courteau, National Coordinator of Women's Basketball Officiating Marla Denham, Big Sky Conference Danielle Donehew, Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Dee Kantner, Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) Shelley Russi, active official Theresia Wynns, National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Anucha Browne, NCAA; Greg Johnson, NCAA; Tina Krah, NCAA; Mark Lewis, NCAA; Emily Parkins, NCAA; Rachel Seewald, NCAA.</p>	