



2023-24 and 2024-25 Women's Basketball Rules Changes

The following rules changes were approved by the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee and the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel. All rules changes are effective with the 2023-24 season.

Rule	Rules Change and Rationale
1-8.1	<p>To reduce the restricted area to the area directly underneath the basket and eliminate the lower defensive box.</p> <p>Rationale: The original rule was intended to reduce crashes at the basket and did not accomplish its goal. This change will permit the defense to defend more of the lane in front of the basket while not permitting defenders to take charges under the basket. The change also simplifies the rule as it applies to all defenders who obtain an initial legal guarding position which will lead to greater call accuracy. This change will not require the addition or removal of any court marking.</p>
1-19.4	<p>To permit, but not require, amber lights on the shot clock and/or an amber strip at the top of the backboard only to signal the end of a shot-clock period.</p> <p>Rationale: To address games played in facilities with this equipment and provide another visual tool for officials to recognize when a shot-clock violation has occurred.</p>
1-22 and 1-26.10	<p>To permit additional uniform options, including identifying names of the institution, allowing more space for logos on the jersey front, allowing numbers 0 or 00 through 99, and permitting religious headwear to be worn without a waiver of the playing rule provided it is safe for competition.</p> <p>Rationale: To provide institutions with more uniform options without making previous uniforms illegal. It also eliminates the waiver process that was previously required for a student-athlete to wear religious headwear.</p>
2-7.9	<p>To require officials to use the game clock to administer the 10-second backcourt count when the shot clock is not visible.</p> <p>Rationale: To provide greater accuracy in administering the backcourt rule.</p>
2-11.6.c.3 (NEW)	<p>To reset the shot clock to 20 seconds or the time remaining on the shot clock, whichever is greater, when a foul is committed by the non-shooting team in the shooting team's frontcourt during an unsuccessful field-goal or free-throw attempt that does not strike the ring or flange but is not committed against a player in the act of shooting or an airborne shooter.</p> <p>Rationale: To correct an inequity that exists when the foul is committed following a blocked shot or an "airball" that could cause the shot clock to be reset to 20 seconds when there were more than 20 seconds remaining in the shot-clock period.</p>
4-14 (NEW) and 10-12.3.a.5 (NEW)	<p>To define faking being fouled and, following a team warning, penalize the team by awarding two free throws and the ball to the offended team.</p> <p>Rationale: To provide a penalty for unsporting actions (misconduct) that are meant to cause an official to make an erroneous ruling. These acts are outside the spirit of fair play that is foundational in the women's game. This will disincentivize players from faking fouls (flopping) to make it appear that a foul has been committed; by providing a team warning first, it gives the players and team an opportunity to play the game properly.</p>

Rule	Rules Change and Rationale
10-12.3 (NEW)	<p>To create a new technical foul category that is the result of a subsequent infraction following a team warning. These technical fouls are charged to the team-foul count but are not assessed to any individual. It addresses the four delay situations in Rule 4-9.1.d through .g as well as when a player fakes being fouled during live play.</p> <p>Rationale: To appropriately penalize infractions that occur following a team warning. Players on the court may not be aware they are playing under a specific warning; assessing a technical foul directly to the player was deemed too severe.</p>
10-12.5.b	<p>To permit, but not require, the transmission of live video to the bench area for coaching purposes.</p> <p>Rationale: For the past two seasons, the rules committee permitted conferences to experiment with the transmission of live video data to the bench. This experimentation was met with positive feedback from the coaches and other stakeholders who utilized the rule.</p>
11-1.5	<p>To permit, but not require, a conference to establish an off-site facility to assist and facilitate replay reviews by officials (Collaborative Replay).</p> <p>Rationale: The rules committee permitted a conference, by their request, to experiment with collaborative replay for the past two seasons and it reduced the amount of time for a review to be completed. This proposal aligns with the current men's rule.</p>
11-3.1.r	<p>To change the time when a review occurs when determining whether a goal should be counted or canceled when a foul is committed by or against a teammate of the shooter by conducting the review during the next electronic-media timeout, except after the last electronic-media timeout of the fourth quarter or the entire overtime when it must be reviewed before the ball becomes live following the foul.</p> <p>Rationale: To increase pace of play by reducing the number of replay reviews.</p>