



Memo to NAIA Institutions Regarding Video Allowed in the Bench Area

To: Conference Commissioners, Athletic Directors, and Head Coaches

This past June, the NAC approved all NCAA rules changes for both men's and women's basketball for the 2023-24 playing season. There was one rule change that we would like to bring to your attention regarding what is allowed and not allowed with live/preloaded video in the bench area.

Here is the wording of from each of the rules books with the changes for this year highlighted in blue:

Men's Basketball – Rule 10-4.c Exception 2 (page 101)

Women's Basketball – Rule 10-12.5.b Exception 2 (page 96)

Using electronic transmission (including, but not limited to, headsets, telephones, smart watches, television, radio, audio, or video Internet broadcast, heart monitor devices, computers), or knowledge gained resulting from thereof, for coaching purposes, to communicate to and/or from the bench area or using replay equipment at courtside for coaching purposes.

(Exception 1: Electronic transmission of data pertaining to the health and safety of a player may be transmitted to the medical staff in the bench area, but may not be shared with the coaching staff for coaching purposes.)

(Exception 2: Electronic transmission of live statistical data and/or live video may be transmitted to the bench area for coaching purposes. A conference may develop a policy to provide guidance in handling situations dealing with failure of a team's device(s).)

While our original understanding of the new rule would not allow for iPad, laptops, etc. to be in the bench area showing the game in progress, a new interpretation has recently come out that permits transmission of real-time live video of the game in progress or preloaded video to be allowed in the bench area, with the understanding it is solely to be used for coaching purposes.

It is important to know the utilization of live video in the team bench does not meet the criteria for the official's use of video for Instant Replay as outlined in Rule 11. If video is used for a replay review, it can only be done using a monitor located courtside, outside of the view of the teams.

Coaches and ADs – please know any attempt by a player, coach, or bench personnel to show an official an electronic device or point at a video board to express disagreement with an official's ruling shall result in a technical foul being assessed to the offender.

Commissioners – please note the rule encourages the Conference to develop policy/guidance in handling situations dealing with a failure of team's device.

If it helps, here are our plans for the NAIA Championship Tournament, starting with the opening rounds through the final game:

- Each team will have the option to access live-stream of the game
- Ability to access the live-stream must be the same for all teams (i.e., free vs pay access)
- Prior to the start of the game, the Referee will verify each teams choice to use live video
- One teams choice to not use live video, does not prevent the other team from using live video
- When both teams choose to use live video, if during the course of the game either team experiences a connectivity issues:
 - The Head Coach, during the next dead ball stoppage, should inform the Referee
 - The Referee will instruct the other team to discontinue use of live video
 - If the issue can be resolve, then both teams will be allowed to resume using live video