



NCAA Women's Basketball Major Rules Changes for 2004

Rules changes are listed below in the order in which they will appear in the 2004 rules book. The rule and page references are from the 2003 rules book. An asterisk (*) designates where men's and women's rules differ.

Rule 1-2.2 (page 24)-The three-point line will be moved to 20'6 1/2", which is the same as the current International distance. The new distance is just over nine inches behind the line previously used.

Rule 1-6.2, 1-7.1 (page 26)-Free-throw lane lines and the three-point line no longer are required to be the same color because, with the new three-point line, they no longer intersect.

Rule 1-13.1 (page 29)-It will be specified under basketball equipment terminology that the orange basket rim may consist of one or two metal rings. Such equipment is commonly used, though not specifically permitted under previous rules.

Rule 1-17.4, 1-18.3 (page 31)-The red light behind the backboard that signifies the end of a period, which is required for Division I schools, must be visible through the marked rectangle on the backboard but that LED lights around the backboard are permissible to be used in lieu of these red lights. The rationale is that the location of the red light needs to be consistent for the officials' visibility, but the committee recognizes that the visibility of the LED lights is superior to that of the red light and therefore may be used instead of a red light.

Rule 2-5.1 (page 35)-Officials ability to be able to correct a timing mistake at any point of the game will be limited to occurring during the first dead ball after the game clock has been properly started. This limit is consistent with the rules governing correctable errors.

Rule 2-5.1.4 (page 35)- At or near the end of any period, officials will be permitted to consult a courtside television monitor, when such monitor is available, to assist in determining if the game clock or shot clock expired before the release of a shot. Previously, rules did not permit officials to consult a courtside television monitor under such circumstances at the end of the first period, nor did they permit consulting a monitor at any time to determine if a shot clock violation occurred. The rationale is to give officials more assistance in making the correct call in period-ending situations while continuing to limit the potential for interruption of game action by maintaining firm limits on television monitor consultation.

Rule 4-11.2 (page 60)-The distance that a player in control of the ball anywhere on the court while holding (not dribbling) the ball is closely guarded will be changed from six feet to three feet. Three feet is defensive pressure that merits a violation.*

Rule 4-13.4.b (page 60)-There will be team control on a throw-in from out of bounds, but unlike other team-control situations, the throw-in team can cause the ball to go into the back court (i.e., no violation) and the three-second lane violation count would not be in effect until the throw-in ended. The rationale is to simplify the rules governing the throw-in and the team-

control foul, which was created for the 2002-03 season.

Rule 4-26.3, 4-26.7 (page 65, 66)-The term intentional technical foul will be deleted. In a situation where contact is made during a deadball, a direct technical foul can be called in lieu of the previously used term. Assuming the contact doesn't merit a flagrant foul, which an official could still call, a direct technical foul will result in two free throws and returning the ball to play at the point of interruption, instead of loss of possession.*

Rule 4-26.4, 4-26.5 (page 65)-There will again be a distinction between a flagrant personal foul and a flagrant technical foul. The committee changed the name to just flagrant and left off technical and personal last year. In order to eliminate confusion as to which player will shoot the free throws in each situation, the committee will revert back to naming them flagrant technical and flagrant personal. *

Rule 5-10.1.a (page 88)-Assistant coaches will no longer be able to call timeout while the ball is in play. This is the same as the current men's rule.

Rule 10-5.6 (page 126)-"Accepting a foul that should be charged to a teammate," will be removed from the list of direct technical fouls for unsporting player conduct because it is left over from the era when players were required to raise their arm to indicate to the scorer who fouled and is no longer pertinent.

Rule 10-17.4 (page 132)-In the rare instance when a player with eligibility for the next season gets into a second fight of the season in the last game of that season, that player shall be suspended from the next three regular-season games of the next season. A second fight occurring earlier in the same season will continue to result in suspension for all games remaining in that season.

Appendix VII (page 158)-The commonly used swing of the leg used by officials will be established as the official signal for a kick violation.

Sporting Behavior Statement-"The primary goal of the rules is to maximize the safety and enjoyment of the student-athlete. Sporting behavior is a key part of that goal. Sporting behavior should be a core value in behavior of players, bench personnel, crowd control by game management and the officials' proper enforcement of the rules governing related actions."

Points of Emphasis-Displacement, in terms of hand-checking, post play, screens, cutters and rebounding, will be emphasized during the upcoming season.

Experimental Rules-The committee will use the trapezoid lane as an experimental rule.

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