



2010 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 2010

This document serves as a report to the women's basketball community from the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committee. The committee met May 2-4 in Indianapolis and is using this opportunity to inform the membership of its main topics of discussion and to communicate a rules change, points of emphasis, experimental rules and future considerations. While 2010 is a non-rules-change year for the committee, policy does provide committees with the ability to recommend items with a significant need for immediate implementation, especially when dealing with safety concerns. The Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) approved all items in this report on June 2, 2010.

1. RULES CHANGE – SWINGING OF THE ELBOWS

Beginning with the 2010-11 season, the penalty option for both men's and women's basketball will change when elbow contact occurs above the shoulders of an opponent.

- Officials are instructed to assess a minimum of an intentional foul on a player who swings an elbow and makes more than incidental contact with an opponent above the shoulders. A common foul is no longer an option when the contact is above the shoulders and more than incidental.
- A player who swings the elbow and makes more than incidental contact below the shoulders would be subject to a common foul, an intentional foul or a flagrant foul, which is the current rule.
- As a reminder, the current rule for **excessive** swinging has not changed. If contact occurs and the swinging of the elbows is excessive, a flagrant foul must be assessed.

Rationale: Both committees believe the swinging of the elbows is a dangerous play, particularly when contact is made above the shoulders. In order to change behavior, the committees believe stronger penalties must be enforced.

Please note that no other rules will change in the 2010-11 season.

2. EXPERIMENTAL RULE FOR 2010-11 SEASON

In a continued effort to examine the distance of the three-point line, the committee proposed that during all exhibition games and 40-minute game-like scrimmages, the current men's three-point line of 20 feet, 9 inches, be used as the three-point field goal distance. The current distance for the women's three-point line is 19 feet, 9 inches.

Data collected by the committee from all three divisions showed that more than 60 percent of three-point shots are being taken from behind the men's line with comparable shooting percentages. The experimental rule will allow the committee to augment data for future consideration, as well as analyze qualitative data from coaches.

3. POINTS OF EMPHASIS

The committee had a lengthy discussion and review of this year's points of emphasis. In addition, they collaborated with the men's committee on the spin move and the need for better consistency in the way the rule is interpreted and enforced. While both committees agreed to have the game called as it is written in the rules book, the women's committee chose to clarify the travel rule; specifically, that not all spin moves are travel violations.

4. FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Items that the committee will seriously consider at next year's meeting include:

- Adding a 10-second backcourt rule;
- Moving the women's three-point line distance to 20 feet, 9 inches.

5. COMMITTEE CHAIR

The committee nominated Leslie Claybrook, Rice University, as its next chair, replacing Amy Backus, whose term expires in September.