July 6, 2021

VIA EMAIL

To: Men’s and Women’s Basketball Conference Commissioners, Directors of Athletics, and Head Basketball Coaches.

From: Tad Boyle, Chair
NCAA Men’s Basketball Rules Committee

Lynn Bria, Chair
NCAA Women’s Basketball Rules Committee

SUBJECT: NCAA Men’s and Women’s Basketball Playing Rules Update Related to Use of Technology in the Bench Area for Coaching Purposes During Competition.

In advance of the 2021-22 basketball season, this correspondence is to make you aware that during the upcoming two-year rules cycle, the NCAA Men’s and Women’s Basketball Rules Committees plan to consider and study potential rules changes involving the use of technology in the bench area for coaching purposes during competition.

In its efforts to continue to obtain data and feedback, the men’s and women’s basketball rules committees are again requesting that any Divisions I, II or III conference interested in experimenting during the 2021-22 season with using technology in the bench area during competition should submit a request to either Art Hyland (men’s basketball secretary-rules editor) or Jon Levinson (women’s basketball secretary rules editor). Their contact information is at the bottom of this document. Experimenting with rules related to technology on the bench will enhance the committees’ efforts to make thoughtful and informed decisions for the next rules change cycle.

For a request to be considered by the men’s and women’s basketball rules committees for the 2021-22 season, the request must be submitted by a conference no later than October 1, 2021. Additionally, the request must meet the criteria listed below.

Please note that the committees will only consider approving experimental rules requests involving the use of technology in the bench area for coaching purposes during competition for the 2021-22 season. Any experimental rules or formal rules changes related to technology on the bench for future seasons will be considered by the rules committees. The rules committees and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel recently approved permitting institutions to use technology to transmit live stats to the bench area for coaching purposes.

NCAA Men’s and Women’s Basketball Rules Committees

NOTE: Below are the criteria that must be included from an NCAA conference to request permission to use technology in the bench area for coaching purposes during competition.
For a request to be considered by the men’s and women’s basketball rules committees for the 2021-21 season, the request must be submitted by a conference no later than October 1, 2021. Additionally, the request must meet the following criteria/information:

- The use of handheld devices such as a laptop computer, or tablet (but not cell phones) are permitted to receive live video in the bench area. The conference may establish a policy as to how many devices may be utilized for the experiment. Men’s basketball is experimenting with the transmission of live and pre-loaded video to the bench area. Women’s basketball is experimenting with the transmission of live video to the bench area. Women’s basketball already permits the use of pre-loaded video per the present women’s rules.

- That the technology partner must guarantee all other apps or communication unrelated to live statistics and video would be deactivated while the game is in progress.

- Conferences may experiment during 2021-22 men’s and women’s basketball regular season conference games and/or the conference tournaments.

- All conference members will be required to use the technology during the entire regular season conference games and/or conference tournament.

- The conference shall determine what hardware and software will be utilized by its member institutions.

- If all of the devices a team is using were to go down, leaving them with no working devices, the opposing team would also need to stop using their devices. However, if a team is using more than one device and one of them were to go down, the opposing team would not be required to stop using one of their devices.

- The conference will be required to submit data as deemed appropriate by the men’s and women’s basketball rules committees following the 2021-22 season.

- The experimental rules requests **WOULD** permit:
  - Institutions to record live competition or use live video from the bench.
  - Institutions to preload video or other footage to hand-held devices for use during competition (men’s basketball).
Please do not hesitate to contact the men’s and women’s basketball secretary-rules editors Art Hyland (art.hyland@comcast.net) or Jon Levinson (jonlevinson@icloud.com), respectively, should you have any questions or need any additional information.

AS:br

cc: Mr. J.D. Collins
    Ms. Penny Davis
    NCAA Division I Men’s and Women’s Basketball Oversight Committees
    NCAA Division I Men’s and Women’s Basketball Oversight Competition Committees
    NCAA Men’s and Women’s Basketball Rules Committees
    NCAA Division I Conference Men’s and Women’s Basketball Sports Administrators
    NCAA Divisions I, II and III Men’s and Women’s Conference Coordinators of Basketball
    Selected NCAA Staff Members
VIA EMAIL

To: Men’s and Women’s Basketball Conference Commissioners, Directors of Athletics, and Head Basketball Coaches.

From: Tad Boyle, Chair
NCAA Men’s Basketball Rules Committee

Lynn Bria, Chair
NCAA Women’s Basketball Rules Committee

SUBJECT: NCAA Men’s and Women’s Basketball Experimental Rules Update Related to Use of Video in the Bench Area for Coaching Purposes During Competition.

This correspondence is a follow up to the July 6, 2021, memorandum from the NCAA Men’s and Women’s Basketball Rules Committees regarding an experimental rule that would allow the transmission of live video to the bench area.

In response to several questions and concerns that have been raised regarding the requirements for participation in the proposed experimental rule, particularly the proposed requirement that “The conference shall determine what hardware and software will be utilized by its member institutions,” a clarification is being issued that no longer requires that all conference members utilize the same hardware and software.

It is recognized that many institutions have previously purchased varying hardware and software which is capable of providing transmission of live video to the bench area. Therefore, the purpose of this memorandum is to clarify that there is no requirement under this experimental rule protocol that all institutions have the same hardware and software.

However, in order to ensure an equitable playing field for the use of live video, it is required that all members of a participating conference have in their arenas the ability to provide internet service to both the home and visiting teams and also to provide both teams with the same access to the live feeds of the game being played.

All other requirements previously listed in the July 6 memorandum remain in effect. We hope that this clarifies the requirements for participating in this experimental rule.

Please do not hesitate to contact the men’s and women’s basketball secretary-rules editors Art Hyland (art.hyland@comcast.net) or Jon Levinson (jonlevinson@icloud.com), respectively, should you have any questions or need any additional information.

AS:br

National Collegiate Athletic Association

Creating a pathway to opportunity for college athletes

The NCAA is an equal opportunity employer that values inclusive excellence in the workplace.
cc:  Mr. J.D. Collins
     Ms. Penny Davis
     NCAA Division I Men’s and Women’s Basketball Oversight Committees
     NCAA Division I Men’s and Women’s Basketball Oversight Competition Committees
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