# 2026-27 NCAA Women's Basketball Rules and Approved Ruling Edits

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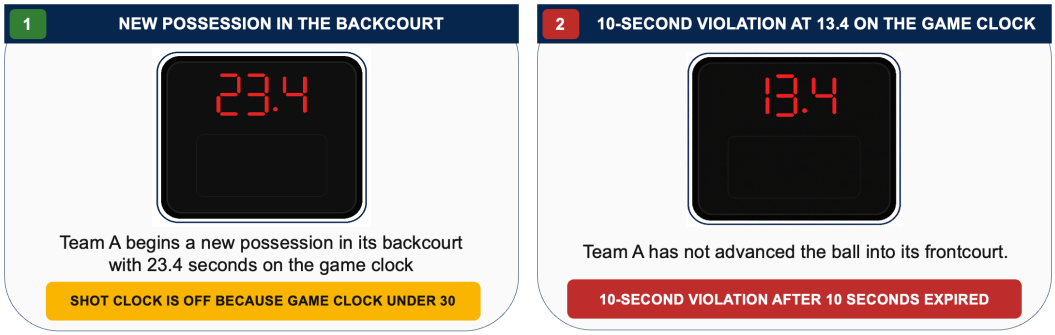
The 2026–27 season is a non-rules-change year, and no major rules changes have been adopted. However, the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules Committees approved several updates, editorial changes, and revised interpretations in May that will affect our games. The key changes are summarized below in approximate order of significance.

**10-Second Backcourt Violation (Rule 9-10; Approved Rulings 9-28 through 9-37):**

- To ensure a team has a full 10 seconds to advance the ball from its backcourt to its frontcourt, officials will assess a 10-second backcourt violation after 11 seconds have elapsed on the shot clock.
    - For example, in scenarios where the shot clock begins with a full 30 seconds, a 10-second backcourt violation will occur when the shot clock displays 19 seconds if the team still has continuous control of the ball in its backcourt.




- When the shot clock is off, the game clock is used to determine when a 10-second backcourt violation occurs. Because the game clock displays tenths of a second, officials can determine exactly when 10.0 seconds have elapsed. Therefore, a 10-second backcourt violation will occur after 10.0 seconds have expired off the game clock, provided the team still has continuous control of the ball in its backcourt.



**Delay to Appeal (Rule 4-10.1.d, Approved Ruling 4-6):**

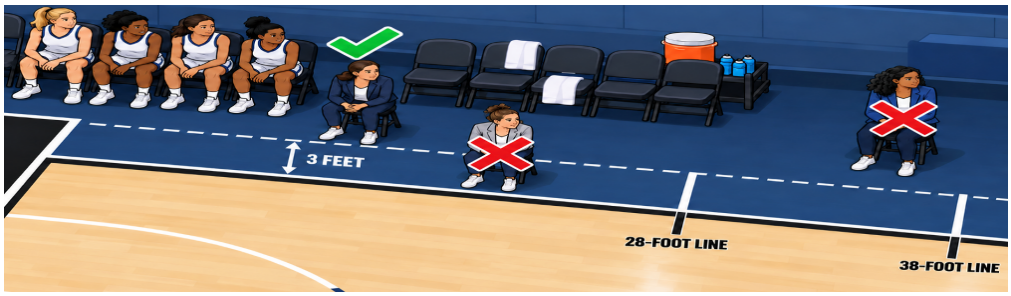
- Coaches must decide whether to appeal a play in a timely manner.
- If a team intentionally delays the game to give its head coach additional time to decide whether to appeal a play, such as by unnecessarily tying shoes or feigning an injury, a delay-of-game warning may be issued.
- A subsequent delay for this same infraction will result in a team technical foul.

**Delay After Held Ball (Rule 4-10.1.f, Approved Ruling 4-5):**

- When an official blows the whistle for a held ball, the players involved with the held ball shall stop play.
- If either or both players refuse to release the ball, including by continuing to hold it or attempting to wrestle it away from an opponent, a delay-of-game warning may be issued.
- A subsequent delay for this same infraction will result in a team technical foul.

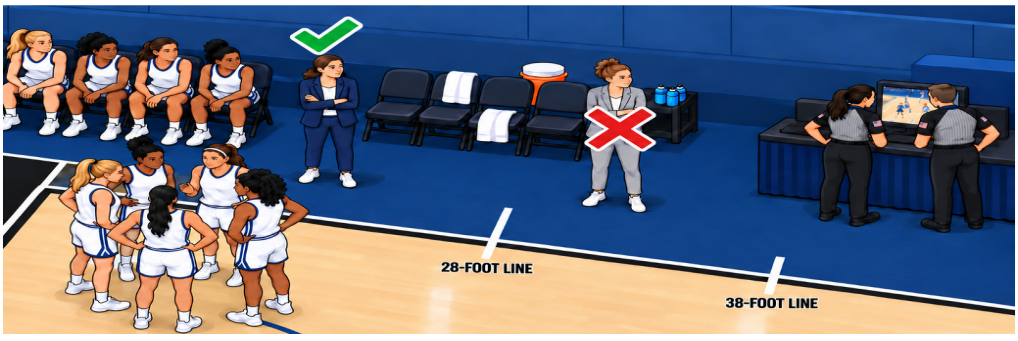
**Stool Use in Bench Area (Rule 4-5.1):**

- A stool may be used by a head coach within the bench area that extends from the end line to the 28-foot line, provided it is located at least 3 feet from the sideline.
- A stool may not be used within the extended coaching box area between the 28-foot and 38-foot lines.




**Head Coach Location During Replay Review (Rule 4-5.3):**

- During a replay review, the head coach shall remain off the court within the bench area that extends from the end line to the 28-foot line.
- The head coach may not enter the extended coaching box area between the 28-foot and 38-foot lines.



**Replay Equipment (Approved Rulings 11-5, 11-13, 11-14):**

- If the replay equipment **is not** functioning, the call on the floor stands, and the team **is not** charged a timeout.
- If the replay equipment **is** functioning but no replay angle shows the play, or no available angle provides clear and conclusive evidence to reverse the call, the call on the floor stands, and the team **is** charged a timeout.

**Throw-In Violation (Rules 7-4.2, 7-6.9.a, 9-4.1.h):**

- If thrower-in A1 is the first to touch the ball inbounds, A1 has committed a throw-in violation, and Team B will be awarded a throw-in at the spot nearest to where A1 touched the ball.

**Commercial Logos (Rules 1-22.7a.2 and 1-23.8 -- Division I institutions only):**

- Two commercial or nonprofit logos are allowed on the uniform or any piece of apparel.
- The two logos do not have to appear on the same uniform or apparel item.
- Each logo may not exceed 4 square inches in size.

**Wearable Devices That Record Video (Approved Ruling 1-22):**

- Players and bench personnel may not wear devices that record video.
- Smart glasses or camera glasses (e.g., Meta glasses) are prohibited.
- Teams may continue to receive and use live or recorded video in the bench area.

**Unobserved Foul (Rule 11-3.1.m; Approved Rulings 11-38, 11-39, 11-40, 11-44):**

- For the purpose of penalizing an unobserved flagrant foul, the foul is now deemed to have *occurred* when it is observed during replay review.
- When there is only one unobserved flagrant foul during a play, as is the case in most situations, this updated interpretation does not change how the foul penalty is administered.
- When multiple flagrant 1, flagrant 2, and/or technical fouls occur during a play, this updated interpretation may affect whether the penalties simply offset, whether all free throws are administered, and/or how play resumes.