



2010-11 NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ELBOW RULE

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The new rule change for 2010-2011 states that when an elbow is swung/moved in such a way that it creates non-incident contact above the shoulders and yet is not deemed excessive, that foul must be a minimum of an intentional foul. The following information is intended to provide more detail about what this rule change is and is not.

1. Specific Rule Language.

This rule will be added to NCAA Basketball Rule 10-1.13, among others places, in the 2012 Rule book when it is published in the summer of 2011. The following is a draft of the new rule language.

When the action of the arm(s) and elbows resulting from total body movement, as in pivoting or movement of the ball incidental to feinting (faking) with it, releasing it, or moving it to prevent a held ball or loss of control, contacts an opponent **BELOW** the shoulders, that contact may not be considered excessive (Rule 4-36.7), but a personal foul, common or intentional, has been committed.

When the action of the arm(s) and elbows resulting from total body movement, as in pivoting or movement of the ball incidental to feinting (faking) with it, releasing it, or moving it to prevent a held ball or loss of control, contacts an opponent **ABOVE** the shoulders, that contact may not be considered excessive (Rule 4-36.7), but a minimum of an intentional foul has been committed.

Any foul involving excessive swinging of the arm(s) and elbow(s) (Rule 4-36.7), either above or below the shoulders, or that otherwise meets the requirements of Rule 4-29.2.c shall be penalized by a flagrant foul.

2. Intent of the new rule.

- a. Officials determine what is a foul before they make any other decisions about the contact.
- b. When officials determine that the foul involved a swinging/moving (not excessively according to Rule 4-37) elbow that made contact ABOVE the shoulders, a minimum of an intentional personal foul must be assessed.
- c. By penalizing a foul that involved a moving/swinging elbow that made contact ABOVE the shoulders with an intentional personal foul, players would be discouraged from making contact with the elbows.

3. Changes for the 2010-2011 season.

- A foul that involves contact ABOVE the shoulders with a moving elbow (not being swung excessively as defined in 4-36.7) MUST be a minimum of an intentional personal foul. This same foul could have been a personal foul, common or team control, before the 2010-2011 season. These fouls are no longer options for this type of contact. This is the only change in the basketball rules.

4. What has NOT changed for the 2010-2011 season.

- a. Officials determine what is legal/incidental contact. This type of contact is still not a foul. (Rule 4-40)
- b. Officials determine what is illegal/non-incidental contact. This type of contact is still a foul. (Rule 4-40; 4-29.2)
- c. A foul caused by a STATIONARY (not moving or swinging) elbow is still a common foul. (4-36.1, .3, .4, .5 and .6; 4-29.2.a)
- d. A foul caused by swinging the elbows EXCESSIVELY is still a flagrant foul. (4-36.7; 4-29.2.c and .f)

5. New Rule Myths.

These are all **FALSE** statements.

- a. The new rule change requires that a foul be called when an elbow makes contact above the shoulders. **FALSE**
- b. Every time a player is bleeding because of contact to the head it is a foul. **FALSE**
- c. Every time there is contact of any kind to the head it is a foul. **FALSE**
- d. Every time there is a foul of any kind to the head it is an intentional personal foul. **FALSE**
- e. The rules committee wants officials to call an intentional personal foul on all contact to the head. **FALSE**
- f. When a player runs into an elbow it is always a foul. **FALSE**
- g. The new rule only applies to contact to the head and not the neck. **FALSE**
- h. Contact with an elbow BELOW the neck is always an intentional or flagrant foul. **FALSE**
- i. The arm area surrounding the elbow is considered the elbow. **FALSE**

6. New Rule Facts.

- a. The rules committee is not requiring or requesting that fouls be called any differently than what has been done in the past.
- b. The official's judgment still determines what is legal/illegal contact.
- c. The only decision the rules committee made was that WHEN A FOUL IS CALLED that a different penalty would apply for a particular type of contact (outlined in section 2).

7. Concerns of Coaches.

- a. More fouls will be called.
- b. Fouls will be called just because it involved contact to the head.
- c. More players will be ejected because of this new rule.

8. Progression of Rules/Penalties.

The following questions can be asked to see if the new rule applies. When the answer to each is 'yes' then the next question should be asked. This sequence will outline the new rule.

- a. Is this contact a foul?
- b. Does this foul involve contact above the shoulders?
- c. Was this illegal contact (foul) created with an elbow?
- d. Was this elbow...
 - i. stationary? Must be a common foul.
 - ii. swinging/moving? Must be an intentional personal foul.
 - iii. swinging/moving excessively? Must be a flagrant foul.