



## Uniform Numbers, Colors and Messaging: Frequently Asked Questions Men's and Women's Basketball

*(This document includes specific NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Rules references where applicable.)*

### **1. What words, logos and symbols are allowed on the jersey?**

Other than the uniform number, here are the only items allowed by rule on the jersey (Rule 1-22.7):

#### Words

- Player's name
- School name/nickname
- Mascot name
- Other names intended to celebrate or memorialize persons, events, or other worthy causes are permitted only in the back neutral zone

#### Logos

- NCAA
- Conference
- School
- Mascot
- Commemorative/memorial
- Manufacturer
- Flag

### **2. What size restrictions are there for these?**

When an institutional logo is used in place of the school name, nickname, or mascot name in the neutral zone of the game jersey, there is no restriction on the logo size. The logo may not be closer than one inch from the number. Other logos on the game jersey (institutional, conference, commemorative/memorial, manufacturer, and/or the American flag, must fit within a four-sided geometrical shape no larger than 2 ¼ square inches (and no side less than 1 inch) (Rule 1-25.2). On the game shorts, there is no size restriction on institutional logos only.

### **3. Are any words other than the player's name allowed on the back?**

Yes, the back of the jersey may contain one of the following: player's name, school name, a school mascot reference, or other names intended to celebrate or memorialize persons, events, or other worthy causes.

### **4. Are words allowed on headbands, wristbands, or sleeves?**

Words are not permitted on headbands, wristbands, or sleeves, as they must be a single solid-colored item similar to the dominant color of the game jersey, white, black, or beige (Rule 1-24.1 and .4). The only permitted item on a headband or wristband is one

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manufacturer's logo or one institutional logo that shall meet the size restriction of Rule 1-25.2.

**5. *Are words, slogans, messaging, etc. allowed on items (e.g., taped wrists) that are not required apparel/equipment?***

The rules do not specifically address words, slogans, messaging, etc. on items that are not required by rule (other than as noted in no. 4 above).

**6. *What is unsportsmanlike conduct and how are they penalized?***

Women: Unsportsmanlike conduct is behavior or an act that is unbecoming to a fair, ethical, and honorable individual. It may be penalized by a player-substitute technical foul or a bench technical foul (Rules 4-16.3.b and .g, 10-3.1, and 10-4.1).

Men: Unsportsmanlike conduct is behavior or an act that is unbecoming to a fair, ethical, and honorable individual. It may be penalized by a Class A technical foul and assessed against a player or bench personnel (Rules 4-15.3.b or 4-15.3.d.2 and 10-3).

**7. *What are the rules about jersey colors for opposing teams?***

The rules specify that the home team shall wear light game jerseys and game shorts and the away team shall wear dark game jerseys and game shorts. This rule may be altered by mutual consent of the competing institutions (Rule 1-22.4).

**8. *What are the rules about the contrast of jerseys and numbers?***

Numbers must be one single solid color that contrasts the neutral zone and may be bordered by no more than a ½-inch border of any color(s). The border is not part of the number and may not be used to fulfill the requirement that the number contrasts with the neutral zone (Rule 1-22.7.b.6).

**9. *What is the penalty for wearing a jersey whose numbers do not contrast?***

The penalty is an administrative technical foul. When more than one team member violates, only one administrative technical foul shall be assessed (Rule 10-2.3.c).

**10. *What is the purpose of the rules regarding numbering and visibility?***

The rules for contrasting numbers and visibility are intended to provide clearly visible numbers for the stakeholders: officials, coaches, fans, media, television audience, etc. This means that the numbers should be clearly visible at a distance under a variety of weather and lighting conditions.

**11. *What is the rule regarding an institution protesting the results of a game?***

The NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Rules Committees do not recognize or allow protests concerning the officials' misapplication of a playing rule or the outcome of any contest (Rule 5-5).

**12. What is the rule regarding a “protest for a cause” by any player(s), bench personnel, or team member(s)?**

When the delay is at the start of either half or any extra period and the team consumes a full minute by not being ready to start, that team shall be assessed an administrative technical foul (Rule 10-2.5.a). If the team continues to refuse to delay, the referee may declare the game a forfeit (Rule 5-3.2.c).

In all other circumstances, Rule 5-3, Forfeit/No contest shall apply:

**Art. 1.** A forfeit is the termination of the game by the referee.

**Art. 2.** The referee shall declare a forfeit when:

- a. Any player, team member or bench personnel fails to comply with any technical-foul penalty or makes a travesty of the game.
- b. When conditions warrant.
- c. A team refuses to play after being instructed to do so by an official.

**Art. 3.** The referee shall determine the length of time that shall elapse before a forfeit may be declared.

**Art. 4.** Conference policy may include an established time limit before a forfeit may be declared.

**Art. 5.** When a forfeit is declared, the score shall be recorded as 2-0 and all statistics (other than a teams' and coaches' won-lost records) shall be voided, unless 30 minutes of playing time as been completed on the game clock. In that case, the score at the end of play shall stand and all other statistics shall count.

**Art. 6.** When the team that is behind in the scorebook is to be declared the winning team, that score shall be marked with an asterisk in the official statistics; and it shall be noted that the game was won by forfeit.

**Art. 7.** A “no contest” is when a team does not appear at a game site because of inclement weather, an accident, vehicle breakdown, illness or catastrophic cause. An institution shall not, for statistical purposes, declare a forfeit for non-fulfillment of a contract, but rather shall declare a “no contest.” When officials are not present or available to officiate, there cannot be a sanctioned game/contest.

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