



2018-2019 NCAA Women's Basketball
BENCH DECORUM CLARIFICATION
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Situation: A head coach receives a warning for being clearly and completely outside the coaching box while coaching. Later in the game, they are outside the box to question the official on a call (but it is not blatant misconduct). Should this be a technical foul for being outside of the coaching box, or would the officials warn them for minor misconduct, if they haven't already received it?

Ruling: When a head coach is warned for being clearly and completely out of the coaching box while coaching, the head coach shall be issued a warning. When the head coach is again clearly and completely out of the coaching box, the head coach shall be assessed a technical foul (Appendix III, Section 1.a.1). In the situation provided, after having been warned for being out of the coaching box the head coach is again out of the coaching box engaged in minor misconduct, the head coach shall be issued a technical foul for being out of the coaching box and shall be warned for the minor misconduct. Any subsequent infraction by the head coach (out of the coaching box or misconduct) shall result in a second technical foul being assessed to the head coach and ejection.

If the head coach is simultaneously out of the coaching box and engaged in minor misconduct, and this is the first occurrence of both during the game, the head coach shall be warned for both being out of the coaching box and the minor misconduct. Any subsequent infraction by the head coach of either one shall result in a technical foul for that infraction. There should be no further warnings issued to the head coach after the first incident. When the head coach is out of the coaching box (first time) and engaged in blatant misconduct, this is a technical foul for misconduct. When the coach is subsequently out of the coaching box, but is coaching their team, this shall result in a warning for being out of the coaching box (A.R. 313).

Comment: The rules committee has addressed bench decorum and sportsmanship in the points of emphasis, and this has been reemphasized by the NCAA and the national coordinator through the sportsmanship initiative. Coaches are expected to remain inside the coaching box. The extension of the coaching box last year was intended to provide head coaches with the ability to communicate with their players at the opposite end of the playing court. To permit coaches to go past the 38-foot line, or out onto the playing court, provide those coaches with a distinct advantage which is not within both the letter of the rules nor their spirit and intent. Misconduct

by head coaches also needs to be addressed when it occurs; with a warning for minor infractions and a bench technical foul when it is blatant (inside or outside the coaching box).