

For thirteen years I was a member of the joint rules committee of the National Coaches Association of the United States and Canada. I served as chairman of the Research Committee for a great number of years of both the basketball rules body of the United States and Canada, and also as chairman for the Coaches Association. I have never recommended a change in the rules unless much research has been done for it.

I have for years advocated a 12 foot basket for colleges to do away with the overcrowding and excessive fouling in the congested area, and also to make a 7 foot man shoot for the basket the same as a 5 ft. 2 in. man. This rule will eventually come, as sure as death and taxes, because now they have a discriminatory rule there. They permit the offensive man to dunk the ball in and even though he touches the rim in dunking it, the goal counts. If the ball is resting on the rim of the basket or near it, the offensive man may tap it in and the goal counts, while discrimination exists against the defensive man if he touches the ball on the rim, the goal counts, or if he interferes with the ball above the cylinder of the basket, the goal counts, or if the defensive man taps the ball in its downward descent in his shot toward the basket, a goal is awarded.

The 12 foot basket would do away with all of this and it would reduce more than fifty per cent of the fouls in the congested area due to the higher arc of dispersement on rebounds under the 12 foot basket. The guards would be forced to move further away from the basket to get the rebound, allowing the smaller men to cut in under and retrieve the ball, whereas now the big fellow uses his hip and crowds and forces the opponents out of his area.

The shooter accommodates the muscles of his eyes to height the same as he does to distance, and it would not be long until the shooter could hit a 12 foot basket nearly as easily as he could hit a 10 foot basket; but it would do away with the drive-in and lay-ups, and this is the very play that causes so many of the fouls and gives the referee too much authority in awarding the extra shot at the basket when a person is in the act of shooting. This play situation permits an offensive player to "draw" fouls. There would be no two-foul pot shooting because the fouls as attempted lay-ins would be eliminated.

The fact that you have been a basketball player makes it plain to me that it will not be necessary to elaborate upon this, as I am sure you can visualize the situation. For more than fifteen years we have had two 12 foot