

Cont'd

2. A player, either offensive or defensive, with both feet on the floor is less apt to foul than is a man in motion, and the foregoing statement should be further amplified. If there is contact of bodies the foul is certainly on the moving player but if the moving man is impeded by the outstretched arms of the player standing still then the foul is on the latter.

3. Any man may assume an advantageous position--sacred territory in which another man may not touch him. An opponent being deprived of going through this better territory must go roundabout and the sportsmanship compensation for this extra effort should be the benefit of doubt in case there is bodily contact when the first man moves trying to predominate more choice territory.

4. Since Basket Ball is a non-contact game and a man is entitled to a choice position by priority then his opponent must avoid the assumed position by going around it.

5. Any man who steps in front of an opponent is inviting contact and offensively or defensively thereby the aggressor in case of foul. A simile for this is the case of a fellow who stands in the middle of the sidewalk. If you are a peace loving citizen you will walk around him but if you run into him you are the aggressor. If he persists in trying to step in front of you as you try to avoid him then he is the aggressor and you have been offended while in the act of trying to avoid him.

6 & 7 If a man is protected in an assumed position he should not be hoggish and try to predominate more choice territory by extending his arms. If there is contact because of extended arms then the foul should be on the man extending his arms. Further, if a defensive man is allowed to stretch his arms across the floor, then the offensive man should be permitted to do likewise.

The miscellaneous questions are mostly checks on blocking questions, and special plays except the last which deals with the attitude of officials. One official professed to be shocked at the mention of his integrity but between halves said, "He should worry whether or not he was having a bad night for his pay was forthcoming anyway."

Summary of Answers

In most cases the answers were not yes or no without qualifying statements. This indicates the difficulty that confronts the rule makers in their description of situations. Further it would indicate that the officials would qualify each decision.

There were various conflicting answers and some person contradicted themselves in answering different question.

Some answered that they must see the exact play to call it and yet professed ability to judge the intent of a player without seeing the play.

Real standards have not been established and too much is left to the so-called judgment of the official. If these standards cannot be made in advance no one can know what to expect.

The first fundamental of good defensive work is to keep between your opponent and the basket and this frequently results in defensive blocking disregarded by most officials, some of whom suspect every moving offensive of preparing to block an opponent. Lot of teams will be shouting "block" while holding an opponent.

Originally only fouls were called on the defense and now the pendulum swings the other way toward offense with possibility of twice the number of mistakes.