

MINUTES OF MEETING OF NATIONAL BASKETBALL COMMITTEE
OF UNITED STATES AND CANADA HELD ON MAY 1 and 2,
1939, AT MCALPIN HOTEL, NEW YORK

The 1939 annual meeting of the National Basketball Committee was held at the McAlpin Hotel, New York, on May 1st and 2nd.

General Plan of Sessions

The sub-committees met in informal session at 9:00 A.M. Monday, May 1st. The first formal session opened at 10:00 A.M. Monday with Chairman H. H. Salmon presiding. Other sessions were held Monday afternoon, Monday night and Tuesday morning.

Monday night the committee recessed for an hour to attend a demonstration of basketball backboards of a new size and shape and with a convex surface. These boards had been erected at the New York University Gymnasium by the Fred Medart Company of St. Louis, Missouri.

Synopsis of Reports

THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE authorized the seating of members as listed and reports were heard.

REPORT OF SECRETARY: The minutes of the last meeting were approved as mailed. The Secretary reported on the general nature of committee activities since the last meeting. The methods used in making up material for the guide and for the play situations book were outlined. After sanction by the Executive Committee the National Federation published a coaching school edition of the guide which was available about June 1st. This book was not generally distributed but was used by a number of coaching schools. 229 copies of the book were sold for this purpose and the National Federation paid the usual royalty of four cents per copy for such books. Attention was called to the desirability of continued action by the committee in directing trends so that the game may keep pace with improvements in other fields, and in coordinating the experimental work which is being done by groups throughout the country. Attempts should also be made to constantly improve the code itself by clarifying and amplifying disputed sections. Such work can be directed through study of requests for interpretations on different sections of the rules and of the results of the comprehensive examinations which are given by various groups to their registered officials.

Attention was called to statistical blanks and data showing the effect which the 1938-39 rule changes have had on the game. Such work included tests to determine the best bouncing reaction of a ball, to determine the best size of ball for various age groups, to determine the part of the backboard which is actually used, to find how much use is being made of the four-foot end space and possibilities in various proposed modifications in timing methods.

A comprehensive questionnaire, based on experimental work which was sponsored by the committee, was widely distributed and carefully tabulated.

Continued progress may be promoted by making certain equipment or procedures optionally legal until such time as it seems desirable to make them compulsory. A second way to promote progress is for the committee to designate certain groups as experimental groups to try out modifications which the committee may think desirable but which they would hesitate to immediately put into the rules.