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MINUTES OF BUSINESS SESSION OF THE NATIONAL  
BASKETBALL RULES COMMITTEE - APRIL 5, 1936.

The National Basketball Rules Committee went into executive session at 4:00 P.M. Sunday, April 5, 1936. The following members were present: F. C. Allen, W. McK. Barber, J. W. Bunn, Wilson Collins, H. G. Crisp, J. H. Crocker, W. E. Meanwell, H. V. Porter, Samuel Rogers, F. A. Rowe, J. W. St. Clair, L. W. St. John, H. H. Salmon, H. A. Swaffield, Oswald Tower, W. A. Witte.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman St. John. The chairman gave a resume of the salient facts connected with the history of the basketball committee. In the early years of the century basketball was played only sporadically and under various local sets of rules. The greater number of games were sponsored by the various Y.M.C.A. groups. The colleges gradually adopted the game and by about 1909 the college group sought a degree of uniformity by appointing a committee to draw up a set of rules which would govern all college games. This committee, of which Ralph Morgan was chairman, met in New York and during the period between trains drew up a code which was the forerunner of the present one. For the next several years this code was in common use in college games, but the Y.M.C.A. and A.A.U. organizations used other rules. About 1913 Dr. Raycroft called a conference of men representing the various organizations for the purpose of attempting to set up a single code for all groups. This conference resulted in the formation of a joint basketball committee and a resultant joint code of rules. This code remained in force during the next fifteen years. In the meantime the high school and college groups had perfected a nationwide organization embracing thousands of schools. The colleges were organized into eight districts under the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the high schools by states under the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations. It soon became evident that the school organizations had become the major factor in the development of basketball since it had become one of the major school sports. In contrast to this the sport occupied a relatively minor position in the program of the Y.M.C.A. and the A.A.U. The representation of the two latter groups came to be more or less confined to a small section of the entire organizations. It was evident that any fair plan of representation would have to embody consideration for the powerful influence exerted on the sport by the high school organization. In consequence, largely through the influence of L. W. St. John, the National Federation was invited to join forces with the other organizations in drawing up suitable rules of play. This resulted in a committee which was so large as to be unwieldy and the result was a reorganization in 1933 which provided for a committee made up of eight representatives from the N.C.A.A., four from the National Federation, two from the Y.M.C.A., two from the A.A.U. and two from Canada. This committee was still regarded as rather large for efficient work. However, it functioned during the next three years. In 1935 the Y.M.C.A. and A.A.U. groups protested against the existing type of organization and proposed increased representation for their groups. This proposal did not meet with very great favor by either the National Collegiate, the National Federation or the Canadian representatives and, as a result, a proposed reorganization in 1935 resulted in a split vote and no action. Between that date and the 1936 meeting, the National Collegiate and the National Federation parent bodies instructed