

Coaches and officials have another common service to render, in advancing the game of basketball through collaboration in the promotion and conduct of interpretation meetings. These should be held in all sections of the country, well in advance of the basketball season, and should be attended by coaches, officials, sports writers, and any who are otherwise related to the game.

The rules as adopted by the National Rules Committee should be accepted as the official code and particular attention should be given to an explanation of the latest revisions. With the coaches teaching the game according to the official rules and officials interpreting and administering them uniformly, much of the present misunderstanding and difficulty will be eliminated.

Where there is thorough conference in advance between these three factors - coaches, officials and sponsors - and agreement upon the conditions and interpretation of rules, and where good will prevails, a successful game or league is already assured. In this connection, I would like to call special attention to the imperative necessity of creating conditions which are favorable to the retention of our most competent officials in service.

As the previous speaker stated, "It is the official who will make or break a ball game." This is surely true in a certain respect. It is equally true, however, that the coach may make or break the game. There is a difference, however, the official has little or nothing to do with the terms of engagement of the coach by the institution employing him. The coach, however, has much to do with the engagement of the official.

Good officials as well as good coaches are absolutely essential for the best interests of basketball. Coaches are not dependent upon the good will of officials for tenure of office but experience clearly indicates that the tenure of officials in handling particular games, leagues and tournaments, is dependent upon the good will of the coaches more than upon any other single factor.

Because officiating is an avocation with the average official, as he succeeds in his vocation he is less inclined to want to officiate, particularly if the experience is unpleasant and unsatisfactory. It is obvious, therefore, that we should all strive together to study the role of the official and give him our united support and do everything which will facilitate the conditions under which he may function at his best, with self-respect and dignity. To this end I bring you the greetings and pledge the active cooperation of the National Association of Approved Basketball officials.

Address given at the annual meeting of
the National Association of Basketball
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