

At our last convention the three (3) second rule seemed to your editor as the most important change in the basketball rules. Roy Clifford of Western Reserve University - first moved that the three second rule on the back half of the foul circle be lifted. This meant the outer half of the foul circle away from the basket, with or without the ball. By freeing this area Roy thought that we would add more playing space to the playing floor, and not get into the same trouble we had with the old pivot play under the basket. The motion was lost 36 - 44.

Then Nat Holman of the College of the City of New York moved that "a player be entitled to assume a position in the area between the foul line and the outer circle, he having the three second restriction if he has the ball. After a very favorable comment by Keogan of Notre Dame and remarks by Mr. Bunn to, the coaches voted 42 - 25 in favor, and that the Questionnaire sent out throughout the United State " Would you favor entirely removing the three second lane limitation, had 1128 to entirely remove it, and 1792 not to entirely remove it, the motion was carried 87 in favor and none against.

Now why did all the coaches present vote for this rule? Because they were sick and tired of having compact zone defenses, and wanted to bring back a better game by opening up a larger area for the offensive team to operate in.

At a meeting of the New England College Basketball Coaches the three second rule was the big discussion. Most every coach present seemed to be up in the air on its interpretation. Questions were asked as follows:

(1) Could a player stand in the outer half of the foul circle, without ball, back up for say two seconds in the free throw area and then step into the outer half of the circle.

(2) Could a player without ball pivot into the free throw area, holding one foot on the floor in the outer half of the circle.

(3) Was the three second rule on if a player without the ball came to a sudden stop inside the free throw lane, then moved into the outer half of the circle and received the ball innediately.

(4) Was the three second rule on if a palyer cut from the free throw area into the front half of the circle and then came to a sudden stop.

To your editor the coaches were trying to make it difficult for the officials to interpret this three second rule, and they said that nowhere in the rule did it explain this; so he explained to them that unless they took a fair and sane attitude toward this rule that it would probably be read out of the rule book in the very near future.

We all know why the rule was stricken out viz. because coaches did not want the rough-house stopped and officials would not call a foul on the offensive or defensive man. In some games everything was allowed from monkey-climbing by the defensive man to feeling for the opponent by the offensive man. - Terrible contact but no foul.