

In view of the fact that I have been a very close follower of basket ball, for many years, and, in my own humble way, have tried to make a study of the game, it seems to me that any radical changes in the rules are considerably out of order. I base this opinion on the fact that the game has grown in popularity with the fans in general, by leaps and bounds. By reason of the fact that I attend many games, I have come in contact with all classes of fans, and the only criticism of the present game, that I hear voiced generally, is with reference to fouls. Outside of the fact that some officials call them too close, and some not close enough, which condition is difficult to remedy, I am of the opinion that the game could be greatly improved in the following manner:

Classify all fouls, except technical, as either major or minor fouls. This should not complicate the game whatever, as some definite standard signals could be made for officials to flash to the scorer. In the major foul class I would place any that have a tendency toward roughness, - for example, charging, blocking, tripping and shoving. Minor fouls should include hacking and holding.

Allow a player to participate in each half, until he has three fouls called against him. In this manner, both teams would start the second half of the game with a clean slate, so far as fouls are concerned. It is very obvious that a player having three fouls, under the present rules, does not play the game he is capable of, particularly on defense.

Compel a player to leave the game permanently, after committing three major fouls, the same as he does at the present time on four, - major fouls to carry over from the first to the second half; in other words, at any time that a player commits his third major foul, he is out. In this manner, the penalty for roughness would be greater than it is at the present time, but would be less for minor fouls. After all, allowing a player two free throws for being held or hacked while shooting is already quite a penalty, when the percentage of successful shots is taken into consideration.

The only additional burden resulting from this change in rules covering fouls would fall on the scorer, and even this I would not consider a burden, as he would simply be compelled to have some foul classification in his markings. Obviously it should not make a particle of difference to the officials, as even now they must know immediately what foul they are calling on a player.

In addition to the suggestion on the change in the foul rules, I am certain that the elimination of the "center-jump" would not prove to be popular with fans in general. I believe, as I have often read, that taking the center-jump out of basket ball would be like taking the "kick-off" out of foot-ball. It would eliminate the air of uncertainty, which I believe a very interesting phase of the game. Another reason, which I consider a more important one, for keeping the center-jump, is to give the players that slight pause after every score is made. Altho' it is of short duration, nevertheless it helps, in view of the fact that basket ball is a very fast and tiring game.

This suggestion for change in the foul rules is submitted with the thorough conviction that it will meet with popular approval. I hope it will be given sufficient consideration to at least be brought up for discussion.