

February 3rd, 1939

To Members,  
National Basketball Committee:

If the annual questionnaires are to be effective they must be printed in time for distribution before the various tournaments. It always requires considerable time for the preliminary work which must precede the actual printing of the questionnaire. Consequently I am urging that you give immediate attention to the suggestions in this letter.

The questionnaire should probably contain a check upon sentiment relative to the following changes which were made last year.

1. Whether the rule against allowing a substitution after a goal is satisfactory.
2. Whether the present regulations relative to length and number of time-out periods and intermissions are satisfactory.
3. Whether the change made in the three-second rule is satisfactory.
4. Whether four-foot end space has proven to be advantageous where used.
5. Whether the method of deciding tie games in high schools is satisfactory.

Here are other topics which might be value in the questionnaire:

1. Whether a method of timing whereby the watch would be stopped each time the ball is dead would be desirable.
2. Whether the bouncing reaction of a ball should be set near the present maximum or near the present minimum or halfway between.
3. Whether steps should be taken to permit optional use of a backboard which would have several inches removed from the lower edge.
4. Whether college games should be played in ten-minute quarters.
5. Whether the offended team should be allowed to keep possession of the ball after a free throw following a deliberate foul.
6. Whether the amount of scoring in the present game is too high or too low or about right.

Another suggestion which might be considered is that in connection with reducing the number of times a player is disqualified because of more or less trivial fouls which are classed as personal fouls. One suggestion is that if a player fouls an opponent in the act of shooting, the foul is not charged toward disqualification if the basket is made. Of course, the free throw would still be allowed. If this does not seem to be acceptable, there may be some other way to decrease the likelihood of a player who is actually attempting to play a clean game being removed in the first quarter. Give this matter some thought.

Please go over these suggestions and let me have your reaction to them along with any other suggestions for material that would be helpful in the questionnaire. If I do not hear from you in a reasonable length of time, I shall assume that you have nothing to suggest. After all suggestions are tabulated, they will be presented to the Questionnaire Committee and the final questionnaire will be made up in accordance with the wishes of that committee.

Yours truly,

*N. U. Porter*

Secretary

HVP/j  
Enc. questionnaire



Lawrence, Kansas  
February 13, 1939.

Mr. H. V. Porter, Secretary,  
National Basketball Committee,  
11 South LaSalle Street,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Porter:

I humbly beg your pardon for my delay in answering your communication of the 3rd instant. The very day that your epistle arrived I started to dictate a reply, and then the usual administrative interruption came after I had dictated two sentences. Then came games, and in the shuffle the correspondence got down below the level of "must reply". I find myself apologizing for my delinquency.

Answering your questionnaire numerically:

1. There seems to be some feeling that we should have a plan to permit substitutions after a goal. I do not have the answer.
2. I have also found that there is a demand for two extra time-outs. I believe the length of the time-out is set, but the players with this rapid fire game could use two more time-outs quite happily. For colleges the 15 minute period is about right because most of the schools are putting on entertainments, and the added fact that most of the games are played in field houses, it takes quite a time to get from the playing floor to the dressing room, and return.
3. There seems to be no objection to the three-second rule in our district.
4. The four foot end space has proven advantageous. There has been no criticism of it.
5. From what I learn the method of deciding tie games in high schools appears satisfactory, but that can best be answered by high school people.



Other topics which might be of value in the questionnaire.

1. There is merit at least in the subject. I would like to see it discussed.

2. There is a vast difference between the "rubber ball" and the leather ball. Just as much difference as with the "rabbit" ball which was formerly used in baseball, as compared to the standard ball. The answer to this question is beyond me because there is such a vast difference, and in colleges there is very little of the testing procedure prior to a game. This can best be handled in high school organizations, but the colleges tell you what ball they will play with, and that is the answer. Our Big Six Conference plays with the standard leather ball. The Missouri Valley Conference plays with the "rubber" or "rabbit" ball. Both competing teams complain of the vast difference between the two balls.

3. I am of the opinion that steps certainly should be taken to permit optional use of a back board which should have several inches removed from the lower corner and edge.

4. I would be strong for the rule in which college games should be played in ten minute quarters. This would allow the extra two time-outs that we discussed previously.

5. I am of the opinion that we should also include on the topics for discussion the question that the offended team should be allowed to keep possession of the ball after a free throw following a deliberate foul, but one foul being called.

6. There seems to be a definite opinion that we are suffering from "fire wagon" basketball. Our fundamentals are suffering, there is poor ball handling because we are dashing up and down the floor, and basketball is deteriorating so far as finesse and clever plays are concerned. They have sacrificed it for the "fire department" style. I believe it would be well to get the reactions of the coaches over the country as to this point, as well as the point you make in question #6.

Answering your discussion regarding disqualification of players for making more or less trivial fouls which are classed as personal fouls, I believe we would make a mistake if we removed the personal foul because the player needs the goal. This would encourage fouling, I think. Some coaches would say, "Well, when you foul him we will foul him. You can't get any more than two free throws if you rock him or sock him, and if he makes it he only gets one."

With this "fire department" basketball we are carrying bigger squads and we are developing more than five players who can play good ball on account of the substitutions that are necessary. Therefore, I feel that we are disarming ourselves by the very nature of the game. We have developed more, consequently we are in better position to substitute now than we were before the clever, finessing game was played.



Of course, you and I both know that there is the difference in officiating and what one official calls on one player one night and what another official calls on the same player the next night may be different. There is such a wide latitude in officiating that this is the major problem rather than merely the disqualifying of one player who is attempting to play a clean game. I have made this observation - that a certain official who is utterly fair and does not have it in for any of the players will call the same type of foul on a certain player consistently, yet he will let another player get away with another type of foul that appears many times much more serious than the foul that was called. That is the human equation. I believe if we can improve our officiating we will do the thing that is most needed.

High school organizations can require the attendance of their officials at a conference, but college officiating is the most variable thing that I know of. Seldom are all the officials present at a conference meeting, and then oftentimes it is necessary to make changes in the officiating schedule and obtain officials that have never worked college games. The old time college officials called fewer fouls, while the younger college officials and those officials who work many high school games call a great number. Personally, I am very strong for the younger fellows calling more fouls, and when you call more fouls you are going to disqualify more men. But the old timers are just throwing the ball up and calling as few as possible. This is bad for the game and bad for the sport.

Booing is giving the home team an eight to ten point advantage because the ordinary official will dislike to be personally punished mentally by calling many fouls on the home team. Therefore, the rowdy crowd, the blatant booing outfit, will give their home team that much of an advantage. The school that discourages booing and tries to develop a standard of sportsmanship is penalizing their team. I think this is beyond argument. More and more the home team is winning their games at home and losing them away. In our Big Six Conference to date there have been 19 conference games played and 18 of those games have been won by home teams. Only one game has been won off of the home team's floor. While this may be a larger percentage than usual, it shows clearly that the home team is getting the breaks from the officials because the blatant rowdyites are developing in the players a complex or a condition known as "rabbit ears". I think the booing angle and the sportsmanship of the home crowd needs a definite revision.

Now, H. V., there is one other matter that I am convinced needs discussion, yet I am not going to press it or ask you to put it on the questionnaire. That is the 12 foot basket for college players. In our conference this year three times the defensive players have jumped up and struck the basket when the ball was on the rim, and the only time that an official will call it is when you have a fellow 6'6" or over



who towers around the basket and by his altitude calls the attention of the officials to watch him. You doubtless have watched it at Loyola, and this same thing is happening all over the country.

I am certainly convinced that something should be done to raise the basket higher than any player can jump. Maybe 11 feet would do the job. But 12 feet would answer the very questions that you ask regarding disqualified players for making so-called trivial fouls. I am not asking now that we raise the basket for high school players because I think that the basket is high enough as it is. These extremely tall fellows in high school do not handle themselves well enough to be a threat, as they become when they are past 20 years of age.

If this basket were raised the arc of dispersement of the rebound would be much further out, causing the guard to move further out on the floor and then this four foot end line helps the player to recover a ball before it goes out of bounds. In other words, the guard on a high basket is not permitted to camp right under the basket and block out men coming in. Therefore, he moves back somewhat. If the ball after a shot drops short of the basket and falls on the playing floor a fast, speedy man can capture it before it goes out of bounds.

Therefore, this 12 foot basket hits at the zone defense, it opens up that area, and it discourages the driving in under the basket for lay-ups, the thing that most officials are calling fouls for now. It is much easier to bank the ball 10 or 12 feet out on a 12 foot basket than it is to drive up and lay one in, because that can't be done in a 12 foot basket.

The fact that I advocated the 12 foot basket several years ago makes me very reticent to bring it up any more, but the 12 foot basket is on the way and I would like to see some fellow with a high degree of intelligence like you conduct research problems on the 12 foot basket. Of course, this cannot be done this year, but I think it should be done. The reason I would dislike to see an 11 foot basket is because we have some players now that can jump up and touch an 11 foot basket.

Many critics have stated that you make the little fellow shoot higher than the tall fellow, but you and I both know that you accommodate the muscles of the eye to height the same as you do distance, and this would give the little fellow an advantage over what he has at the present time because the big fellow who lacks the coordination of the little fellow would be required to shoot, whereby now he blocks off, taps and dunks the ball.

We played down in Texas during Christmas week, playing S.M.U. and Texas a pair of games each, and the officials down there penalize every time a guard goes over toward a one-handed shooter, whether he touches the individual or not. The premium down there is on one-handed shots and nobody is permitted to get near the shooter. We were successful in winning three of our four games, but there is such a difference



of officiating over the country that I believe what we need is more uniform officiating.

I am reticent to letting down the bars on disqualification for more than four personal fouls because that, in my opinion, will encourage more fouling. I am wondering if you could not at least try out a 12 foot basket before the Rules body meets. Just tack up a set of baskets above the 10 foot baskets, using the 12 foot baskets braced on your 10 foot standards and all. Wilcox and I put some up at Springfield, Mass., and we just used the present backboards by superimposing the other baskets two feet higher and brading them with two by fours tacked on the original backboard. I want you to see the benefit that will accrue on this type of basket. If you could have a few games played as practice games I believe I would get you interested in something that would answer a lot of the questions regarding the matter of cutting down fouls. But most fouls are made around the basket, and if you can clear up that basket area, then you reduce the number of fouls.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Chairman, Fifth District.

P.S. Your questionnaire dated the 10th came in this morning's mail, and I have answered the proposed questionnaire material.

F.C.A.



February 10, 1939

To Members,  
Questionnaire Committee:

Since the time is short you should give your immediate attention to the proposed questionnaire material which is enclosed. In organizing this I have attempted to consider all the comments that have been received in response to my first letter to all members of the entire committee.

The Chairman will make every effort to make the final draft in accordance with the combined opinion of the committee but you should be sure to send comments immediately if you are not satisfied with the proposed material.

Unless I hear from you by return mail, I shall assume that the material meets with your approval.

The questionnaires will be distributed in a manner similar to that used in past years. Each member of the committee will receive several hundred copies and a division of territory and groups will be suggested.

Yours truly,



Secretary

HVP/j  
Enc.



February 21, 1939

To Members,  
National Basketball Committee:

The basketball questionnaires are now being printed and a supply will be sent to each committee member in the next couple of days.

If properly used these questionnaires can be an educative medium of some value. We should regard them as more than a means of securing sentiment on various phases of the rules. They should serve as a means of checking up on experimental work which has been promoted through the season, a means of enabling basketball leaders of the country to express opinions and thus have a voice in final legislation, and as an incentive for the holding of discussion groups in connection with the final tournaments or similar events in the colleges, Y.M.C.A.s and other organizations.

The distribution and actual use to which they will be put depends upon the activity of each member of the committee. They will be distributed only through committee members and through state high school executive officers.

In order that there will not be too much overlapping I suggest that a plan somewhat similar to that followed last year be in effect. In brief this is:

Each College representative should make an attempt to secure distribution among the colleges in his N.C.A.A. district;

Each Y.M.C.A. representative will take care of the Y.M.C.A. and similar organizations in his section of the country;

The Canadian representatives will secure distribution in their own groups; and

The high school representatives will take care of distribution among the high schools in the group of states outlined in the map which is being supplied these representatives.

The Executive Committee has not yet decided on the time and place of the annual rules meeting. They have been delayed in this decision because of the fact that the National Basketball Coaches Association has had difficulty in reaching a decision relative to the time of their meeting. They are deliberating on whether their meeting should be held in connection with the National Collegiate tournament which is to be held in Chicago, March 24th and 25th. Members of the committee will be informed of the time of the rules meeting as soon as the Executive Committee reaches a decision.

Yours truly,

*A. J. Porter*

Secretary



Lawrence, Kansas  
February 28, 1939

Mr. H. V. Porter,  
11 So. LaSalle Street,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Porter:

Personally, I would prefer that the Coaches Association be held immediately following the national play-off on March 27.

Then if you feel it might be better to have a detached meeting of the Rules Body at Easter time, in New York, that would meet with my approval.

I am not filling out the card you sent me, but I wish you would cast my vote for me. This letter is your authority to vote by proxy for me. I feel that you are familiar enough with our administrative and executive duties to know what would be best. Therefore, I am leaving the matter up to you, and I will go along with the way the majority vote.

Cordially yours,

FCA:AH

Chairman, 5th District.



February 23, 1939

To Members,  
National Basketball Committee:

At the last annual meeting the matter of time and place of meeting was left to the Executive Committee. There has been considerable difficulty in securing definite information relative to the date of related meetings such as that of the National Basketball Coaches Association and consequently a decision has been delayed. Chairman Salmon is of the opinion that under the circumstances it would be better to decide the date and place by a mail vote of the entire committee. Consequently your vote is being taken and your early response will be appreciated. If no vote is received from you by March 4th, the secretary will assume that you have no preference in the matter and are willing to abide by the majority vote of those who do choose to express a preference.

Here are some pertinent facts relative to the matter.

1. The latest available information relative to the National Basketball Coaches meeting is to the effect that it will probably be held on March 27th, 28th and 29th during or immediately following the National Collegiate Basketball Tournament. This meeting will be held in Chicago.
2. Easter Sunday is April 9th and many high schools and colleges will be having Easter vacation the week before or the week after that date. Also there will probably be excursion rates on some of the railroads during that period.
3. The New York World's Fair opens on April 30th and in case the meeting should be held there, there might be some sentiment for holding the meeting after that date.
4. It is usually desirable to have this meeting early enough so that the rules book material can be made up in time for use during the summer. Of course, if the last year's plan of publishing a preliminary coaching school edition of the basketball guide is again followed, there would not be any great necessity of having all the almanac material ready before the middle of the summer.

With these facts in mind you should vote on the time and place. The secretary has no desire to limit the possibilities but unless some limitation is set, the preferences would be so scattered as to make a majority vote almost impossible without two or three attempts. Consequently he is listing several possibilities.

DATE OF MEETING

I prefer March 29th and 30th \_\_\_\_\_

At Chicago \_\_\_\_\_

At New York \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer April 7th and 8th \_\_\_\_\_

At Chicago \_\_\_\_\_

At New York \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer May 8th and 9th \_\_\_\_\_

At Chicago \_\_\_\_\_

At New York \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer other date or place do not vote above but list date and place below.

Yours truly,

*N. J. P.*

Secretary



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



**NATIONAL FEDERATION  
STATE H. S. ATHLETIC ASS'NS  
11 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**



I prefer March 29th and 30th \_\_\_\_\_

At Chicago \_\_\_\_\_

At New York \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer April 7th and 8th \_\_\_\_\_

At Chicago \_\_\_\_\_

At New York \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer May 8th and 9th \_\_\_\_\_

At Chicago \_\_\_\_\_

At New York \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer other date or place do not vote above  
but list date and place below:

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Don't wait. Vote must reach Secretary by MARCH 4th!



March 6, 1939

To Members,  
National Basketball Committee:

I have the vote on the time and place for the annual meeting but it would take a Philadelphia lawyer to interpret it because the preferences are so widely scattered. On the basis of returns I would probably be justified in concluding that the meeting should be held in Chicago on March 29th and 30th. However, while there is a clear plurality with reference to time, there is some uncertainty with reference to place. I do not care to risk my reputation, if any, by attempting to interpret the voting. As a matter of fact, I held up final announcement to give one member a chance to cast a belated vote. As it turned out, this vote only made further complications. The only solution I can see now is to request a vote by telegram. Otherwise there will not be time for proper planning by those who are considering attendance at the meeting of the National Coaches Association.

Here are the pertinent facts: The coaches have finally decided on the dates of 25, 26 and 27 and the finals of the national play-off will be on Monday night, March 27th. These events are to be held in Chicago. At the risk of criticism I am expressing the opinion that if the meeting is held during March, it should be in Chicago. If it is held in May, it should probably be in New York, if I can properly interpret the desires of the various voters on the first ballot. I might explain at great length the factors which may influence the work of the Editorial Committee but I assume that these factors are fairly well known to all members of the committee and that, after considering all of these, you will vote as you see fit.

To avoid further complications, I am submitting only two possibilities for this second ballot. You should immediately wire your preference for one of two possibilities, i.e.,

March 28th and 29th in Chicago, or  
May 1st and 2nd in New York.

Do not delay. If I do not receive a wire from you by Saturday, March 11th, I shall assume that you do not care to vote and a plurality for either choice will decide the issue.

If it will help your feelings any, you can cuss the secretary for shifting dates.

Yours truly,

*N. U. Porter*

Secretary

HVP/J



Vote New York May 1st 2nd

Too much confusion

with coaches meeting and

play off game National

collegiate - Later time would

permit more sober reflection



March 13, 1939

To Members,  
National Basketball Committee:

Here is the result of the recent telegraphic vote relative to  
time and place for the annual meeting:

Chicago, March 28-29

J. H. Crocker  
H. D. Edgren  
E. J. Hickox  
Curtis Parker  
Oswald Tower  
H. V. Porter


New York, May 1-2

F. C. Allen  
John Brown  
John Bunn  
Frank P. Maguire  
W. E. Meanwell  
Floyd A. Rowe  
J. W. St. Clair  
H. H. Salmon, Jr.  
Willard A. Witte

No additional vote was received from Messrs. Cunningham, Dole  
and Jefferess. Judging from the vote of these men on the first  
ballot, it is not probable that a new vote from them would have  
changed the result.

It appears from this vote that the meeting will be in New York  
on May 1st and 2nd. Further details relative to exact time and  
place will be sent as soon as they are available.

Yours truly,



Secretary

HVP/j



AGENDA FOR NATIONAL BASKETBALL COMMITTEE MEETING  
May 1 and 2, 1939  
Hotel McAlpin, New York City

Monday, May 1:

9:00 a.m. Informal conferences of committees, including Questionnaire, Research and Game Administration.

10:00 a.m. Chairman H. H. Salmon, Presiding  
Minutes and Report of Secretary  
Seating of New Members

Report of National Basketball Coaches Association  
Report from other national or sectional organizations  
Report of Questionnaire, Research and other standing committees

12:30 p.m. Luncheon at McAlpin

1:30 p.m. H. H. Salmon, Presiding

Consideration of:

Topics from Questionnaire and Research Committee reports  
Recommendations made during first session  
Mimeographed suggestions from questionnaires and  
correspondence of official interpreter and secretary  
Various sections of the rules which may need clarification

Note: Whether there will be a night session will depend on progress made during the day. It is probable that this time will be needed for informal small group meetings and preparation of material to be presented for final action on Tuesday.

Tuesday, May 2:

9:00 a.m. H. H. Salmon, presiding  
Final action on problems held over from the preceding day  
Business meeting including:  
Report of Treasurer  
Report of Nominating Committee and election of officers  
Action on any other business matters which may be brought before the group

Note: It should be possible to finish the meeting by 2:00 p.m. However, this will depend somewhat on developments during the earlier session.



# NATIONAL BASKETBALL COMMITTEE

of the UNITED STATES and CANADA

## CHAIRMEN OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Executive  
H. H. SALMON, JR.

Publication  
OSWALD TOWER

Research  
FORREST C. ALLEN

Questionnaire  
H. V. PORTER

Game Administration  
SUMNER A. DOLE

CHAIRMAN, H. H. SALMON, JR.  
40 Wall St., New York, N. Y.

SECRETARY, H. V. PORTER  
11 So. LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois

VICE CHAIRMAN, JOHN BUNN  
Stanford Univ., Palo Alto, Cal.

TREASURER, FLOYD A. ROWE  
Board of Education, Cleveland, Ohio

EDITOR, OSWALD TOWER  
Andover, Massachusetts

May 15, 1939.

## Complete List of Committee Members

F. C. Allen  
Univ. of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

John Brown  
347 Madison Ave.  
New York, New York

John Bunn  
Stanford Univ.  
Palo Alto, California

J. H. Crocker  
Univ. of Western Ontario  
London, Ont., Canada

M. C. Cunningham  
High School  
Desloge, Missouri

Sumner A. Dole  
Connecticut State College  
Storrs, Connecticut

H. D. Edgren  
George Williams College  
Chicago, Illinois

E. J. Hickox  
Springfield College  
Springfield, Massachusetts

Frank P. Maguire  
Dept. of Public Instruction  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

W. E. Meanwell  
Shorewood Hills  
Madison, Wisconsin

Curtis Parker  
Centenary College  
Shreveport, Louisiana

H. V. Porter  
11 So. LaSalle St.  
Chicago, Illinois

Samuel Rogers  
210 Confederation Life Bldg.  
Toronto, Ont., Canada

Floyd A. Rowe  
Board of Education  
Cleveland, Ohio

J. W. St. Clair  
Southern Methodist Univ.  
Dallas, Texas

H. H. Salmon, Jr.  
40 Wall St.  
New York, New York

Oswald Tower  
Andover, Massachusetts

Willard A. Witte  
Univ. of Wyoming  
Laramie, Wyoming

Dr. F. C. Allen,  
University of Kansas,  
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Phog:

Thank you for the page on new types of back-boards, and cuts to go with it.

I am enclosing a letter which I received some time ago and which I promised to pass on to the Research Committee. I do not know whether this is anything your committee wishes to go into, but I am dropping it in your lap anyway. You do not need to return it for my files.

I am already looking forward to our visit to the great open spaces where men are men, and basketball is basketball. The unanimity with which your invitation was accepted is evidence of your salesmanship and diplomacy.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Oswald Tower.



## National Basketball Committee

The following is a brief summary of the principal changes in the basketball rules for next season. Only a few of these summaries have been prepared and therefore they cannot be supplied in quantities. An early edition of the Official Rules will be available about June 15. Copies may be ordered from H. V. Porter, 11 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Ill. We expect to have the regular edition of the Basketball Guide ready for distribution earlier this year than in the past.

1. The distance from face of backboard to end line has been made four feet, with proper allowance on courts where this distance is impossible. The maximum and ideal court length for college teams is 94 feet, with distance between faces of backboards 86 feet.
2. After a free throw resulting from a technical foul, whether made or missed, the team having the free throw is to be awarded the ball out of bounds at mid-court. When a personal foul is called, the captain of the offended team may waive the free throw and elect to have the ball put in play from out of bounds at mid-court by any player of his team. In case of a multiple throw this applies to the last free throw only. It does not apply to a double foul.
3. If a player in the act of shooting is fouled from behind, or roughly handled from any position, two free throws are to be awarded whether the field goal is made or missed.
4. Any player of a team may ask for time out, that is, this privilege is no longer limited to the captain.
5. In games which go into overtime periods, each team is entitled to an additional time-out for each overtime period.
6. The words " or backboard " are to be deleted from Rule 14, Sec 9.

There will be numerous changes in wording which will have little effect on the meaning of the sections involved.

Prepared for the National Basketball Committee by Oswald Tower,  
Editor .

Andover, Massachusetts, May 8, 1939.



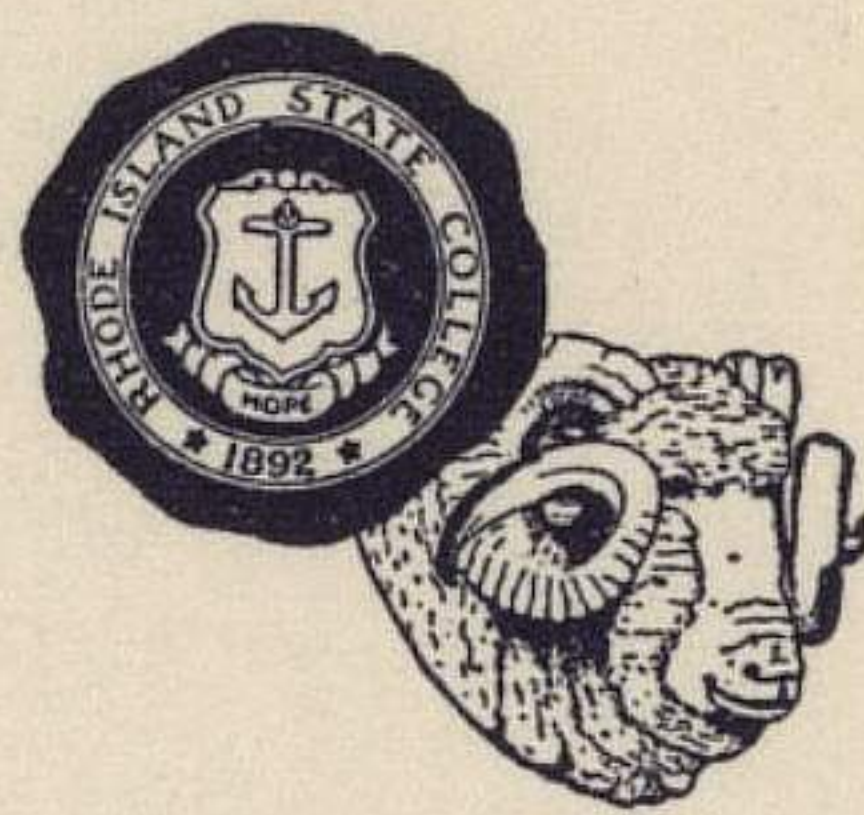
# R. I. Rams Club, Inc.

## PRESIDENT

Maurice V. Murphy, '20  
Hope Valley, R. I.

## VICE-PRESIDENT

Rudolph H. Kohlberg, '20  
Auburn, R. I.



## TREASURER

William J. Whelan, '11  
Kingston, R. I.

## SECRETARY

William G. Mokray, '29  
Kingston, R. I.

Kingston, R. I.

March 14, 1939

Mr. Oswald Tower, Editor  
"Basketball Guide"  
Andover, Mass.

My dear Mr. Tower:

Enclosed please find a resume of the 1938-1939 New England Conference basketball race, which you might find interesting for next winter's basketball guide. No doubt, you will have to cut the long list of insignificant scorers, as you did for the current Guide.

While writing this letter, I thought I might impose upon your time and ruminant upon scoring in hopes of convincing you that some action ought to be taken at the forthcoming basketball convention so that basketball box scores could be standardized and made to mean something.

If you would permit, I'll digress and bring up baseball. Almost everywhere in the United States the box score is the same, there being a regular procedure in listing the players according to their batting positions and pursuing the AB, R, H, PO, A, and E in a uniform fashion, with the possible exception of the errors, which, because of lack of space, especially when the column is divided into halves, are listed directly beneath.

As a contrast, basketball offers a less complete and, certainly, a more diversified appearing box score. The current box score is decidedly "offensive," in that it lists largely the statistics on those who scored or failed to score. Then, a variety of forms of box scores are located throughout the nation. While the majority use the tabulated type, there are ever so many that only list the names, then, presumably with the idea of saving space, list <sup>beneath</sup> the fouls and goals, which tends to make the entire thing ambiguous or cumbersome to read.

Some newspapers list a player's name as often as he changes from one position to another, so, if a man plays guard, center and forward, or, even changes from one guard position to another, his name appears more than once.



Mr. Tower-----2

Other newspapers use B instead of G for a guard. I believe guard is the correct form, although I might be wrong. Also, while it makes no difference, I believe most box scores start the line-up with the left forward (rather than the right). In contrast to baseball again, they have a regular form, starting from first to third, and then going from left field to right.

While I might be an especially interested fan on basketball, particularly in regards to interpretation of box scores and figures, I believe that if the above were broached to the rules makers, they will agree with me that there is a lack of uniformity and completeness in current basketball box scores.

As a remedy, may I suggest that the forthcoming convention accept, or go on record advising, a "more modern" or "the collegiate" or "the more intelligent" box score and so herald it that newspapers <sup>would</sup> adopt it with the start of next winter. My suggested form is as follows:

	MIN	PF	FG	F	PTS
(lf, rf, c, lg, rg) <sup>in that</sup> <sub>order</sub>	33	3	10	5-3	23

(Lower portion of box score to list winner on top and scores according to quarters or halves, thus:

Winning team	18	23	---41
Losing Team	18	20	---38

Referees--Jones and Black. Time of halves--20 minutes

In interpreting the suggested form above, may I add that frequently a list of 10 or 15 names in a box scores does not mean <sup>3 teams</sup> were used, necessarily. Most frequently, a coach uses a first team for about 35 or 38 minutes, shoves in a second club, and then closes the dieing minutes, with a second batch of five. The paper comes out the next day with a total of 15 players and one says to himself: "Hmm, what an easy victory, 15 players used." Also, some starting players or substitutes are used more frequently or longer than another of equal rank, yet, unless there is a flock of points alongside his name, the common inference is that he played a minute or two or was no good at all. Just as a digression, the cases of Hank Luisetti and Chet Jaworski, of RI, could be compared more easily, if the actual playing time of both could be had, which, without doubt, would be more conclusive than the total number of actual games participated in.



Mr. Tower-----3

Some may aver that keeping tabs on the minutes actually played by each man would be difficult to check. I ~~doubt~~ it. That can be added duties for the timer. Forgetting the personal reference, I may add that up to two years ago, when I was employed by the athletic department here, I kept records of all the Rhode Island games. While employed by the department, I also was in the employment of the Providence Journal. Hence, these two duties had me do the following: keep a record of the playing times of members of both teams, a record of every shot, foul or field goal, attempted AND made by any of the 10 players on the court, in addition to a running story, record and description of every point made for the next morning's papers. I am human! It is not hard, I must confess. The timer usually was Fred Tootell, and I had him "trained" so that he'd bellow the time to me, at the scorer's bench, everytime a substitution was made. That was easy. I sat next to the official scorer, and I identified players with numbers, and, whenever there were three or five immediate shots beneath the basket, I never took my eyes off the backboard or floor, and, the moment there came a "lull," I commenced to jot down the figures of the players, as remembered, or suggested to me by those around me, who had been forewarned that they might be called upon for such assistance. The personal fouls I secured from the official scorer, as well as the foul tries one had.

I honestly believe that the form of box score I have suggested on the previous page would be, by far, more informative than the present. While some might be loathe to do as much work necessary to put it out, I believe that in due time everybody will be reconciled to it. I dare add that any student of basketball, be he a coach or reporter or a mere fan, can surmise a fair account of a game merely by studying the proposed form; yes, he can *even* write a good review of the game for the papers!

I trust you will regard my criticism as an effort to improve the game. I shall appreciate receiving any criticism you may have of my recommendations.

Very truly yours,

*William G. Mokray*  
William G. Mokray



May 31st, 1939

To Members,  
National Basketball Committee:

This is merely to keep you posted.

#### Remodified Backboard

In response to the mimeographed sheet showing diagram of a modified backboard to be used for experimental purposes answers were received from twelve members. The proposed shape and size was sanctioned by all except for the following modifications.

Salmon doubts the advisability of the cut-out portion directly below the ring and believes the straight edges at the side should be extended a trifle higher than shown on the diagram.

St. Clair does not care to commit himself until he has had a chance to make further observations.

Allen states: "The diagram seems to be about the size the committee members discussed. I am not sure I am enthusiastic regarding the three-inch surface below the basket." He suggests that further consideration be given to an area up to six inches below the ring.

All of the results of the voting and comments have been turned over to F. C. Allen, Chairman of the Research Committee. He may see fit to make arrangements for having some of the modified boards made up for experimental use.

#### Rules Books

The Special Edition of the Basketball Rules was sent to press soon after the mailing of the minutes. However, it requires considerable time to do the printing and binding. The books are expected some time this week and copy will be sent as soon as they are ready.

The summer coaching school edition is not being sold through dealers. We will notify the directors of advertised summer coaching schools but this will probably be the extent of the advertising of this edition except for information which may be spread by the various members of the committee. The list price of the summer school edition is twenty cents per copy. It may be secured by any committee member or director of a coaching school, college or university at the cost of \$1.65 per dozen copies. This price applies only when one dozen or more are ordered.

#### Letterheads

New letterheads were printed last week and a small supply has been sent each member of the committee. On account of added expense it has not been customary to print special envelopes to accompany the letterheads and consequently you did not receive any.

Yours truly,

*N. U. Porter*

Secretary



STANDING COMMITTEES AS APPOINTED BY CHAIRMAN H. H. SALMON

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John W. Bunn, Vice-Chairman  
H. V. Porter, Secretary  
Floyd A. Rowe, Treasurer  
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Dr. John Brown, Jr.  
M. C. Cunningham  
J. W. St. Clair



October 17, 1939.

Mr. Oswald Tower,  
Andover, Mass.

Dear Os:

Thanks for your note of the 11th instant.  
I am glad to know that you concur in our feeling re-  
garding the proposed basketball publication. I am  
sending you a copy of a recent letter that I have re-  
ceived from Clair Bee so that you may keep informed  
on the plans.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.



# NATIONAL BASKETBALL COMMITTEE

of the UNITED STATES and CANADA

## CHAIRMEN OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Executive  
H. H. SALMON, JR.      Publication  
OSWALD TOWER

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FORREST C. ALLEN      Questionnaire  
H. V. PORTER

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EDITOR, OSWALD TOWER  
Andover, Massachusetts

October 11, 1939.

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Andover, Massachusetts

Willard A. Witte  
Univ. of Wyoming  
Laramie, Wyoming

Dr. F. C. Allen,  
Kansas University,  
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Phog:

Thank you for sending me a copy of Clair Bee's letter. This is the first information I have received about this activity.

There has long been a desire on the part of certain New York interests to encroach on some phases of the work of our Committee. They have met with little success, however, and I do not anticipate any harm to us from this effort.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Oswald Tower.



October 17, 1939.

Mr. John W. Bunn,  
Dean of Men,  
Stanford University,  
California.

Dear John:

I was glad to receive your note of the 12th instant and to know that you concur in our feeling regarding the publication of the proposed basketball annual. I sent June Salmon a copy of the same information that I sent you, but I am glad that you wrote him also.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



STANFORD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF MEN

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

October 12, 1939

Dr. Forrest C. Allen  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

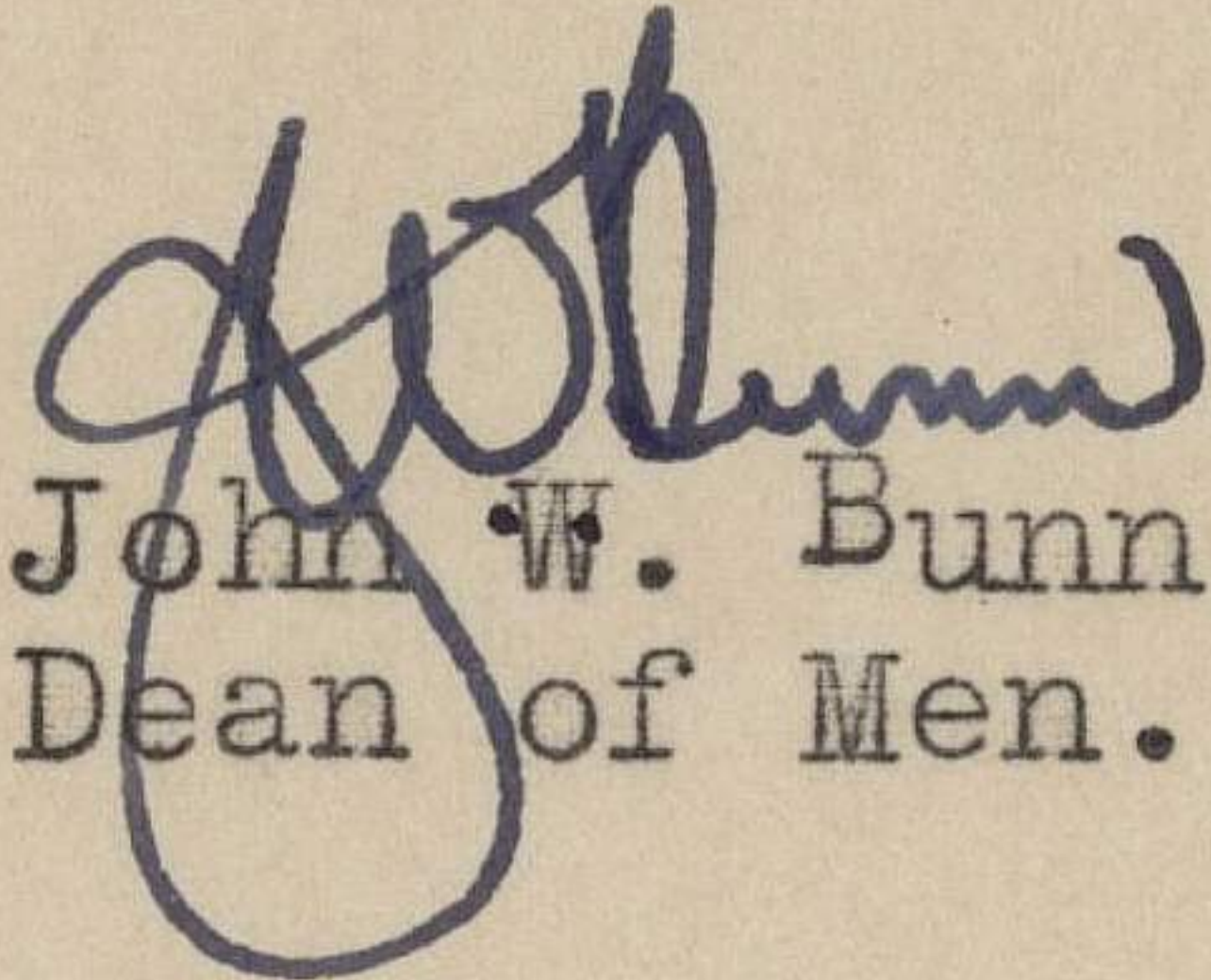
Dear Doctor Allen:

This will acknowledge your letter of October 7 which was sent to members of the Rules Committee. I have received a similar request from Clair Bee. However, Bee asked me to write a resume of the rules changes for this year. I am referring him to Oswald Tower.

The same question arose in my mind concerning this publication as the one which has impelled you to write to a number of us. If this publication is to be in competition with the rules book, then I see no reason why we should help in its publication. I think we should get a statement from June Salmon before any move is made. I am writing him accordingly.

With best wishes, I am

Very cordially yours,

  
John W. Bunn,  
Dean of Men.



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EDITOR, OSWALD TOWER  
Andover, Massachusetts

October 10, 1939

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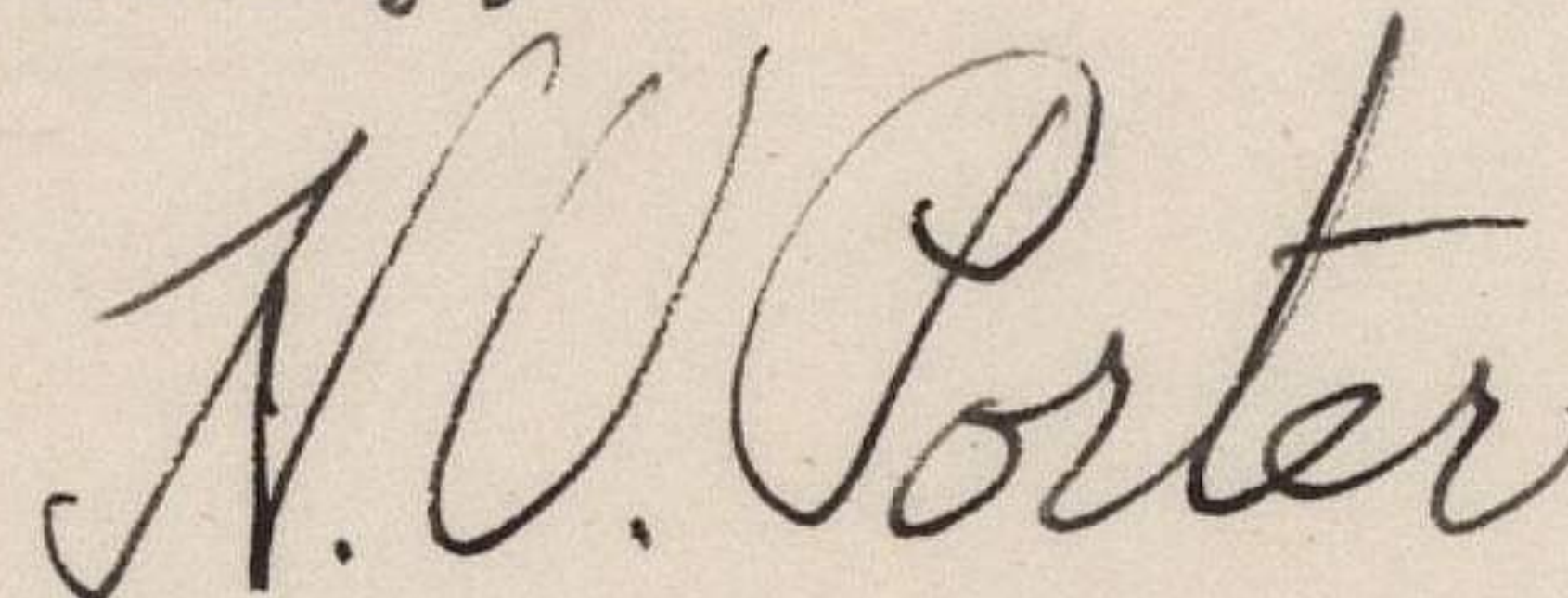
Oswald Tower  
Andover, Massachusetts

Mr. Forrest C. Allen  
Univ. of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Allen:

I appreciate having your letter of October 7th with enclosure from Clair Bee. This is the first information I have had concerning the proposed annual. I agree with you that we should use caution and make further investigation before lending the support of members of the committee to a work of this kind which might develop into a competitor of the almanac which accompanies the guide.

Yours truly,



Secretary

HVP/ j