

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,

A. V. Porter

Secretary

HVP/j
Enc. questionnaire