

National Basketball Committee Amends Personal Foul Rule

Change Permits Offended to Waive Free Throw; Shooter Protected More

By Everett B. Morris

In an attempt to discourage deliberate fouling and to afford more protection to a player trying for a basket, the National Basketball Committee of the United States and Canada wrote two new clauses into the personal foul rule yesterday before concluding its annual two-day conclave at the McAlpin.

One change gives the offended team the right to waive the free throw and put the ball in play at midcourt after a personal foul. The other makes it mandatory for officials to award two free throws when a player is roughly handled in the act of shooting, whether or not the field goal is scored.

These new sections, closely in line with recommendations submitted by the National Association of Basketball Coaches after their meeting in March, were the most important of the seven minor changes made in the playing code for 1939-'40. The others were:

(a) The end line shall be four feet from the face of the backboard. (The present limit is two feet.—Ed.). Exceptions are to be noted permitting the distance to be less than four feet with two feet minimum on courts which cannot provide the four feet distance. The maximum and ideal length of court is ninety-four feet with a maximum space between backboard faces of eighty-six feet.

(b) Slight changes in the specifications for balls, relative to resiliency.

Standing in Eastern College Ball League

	W.	L.	Pct.		W.	L.	Pct.
Harvard	4	1	.800	Penn.	1	2	.333
Dartmouth	4	1	.800	Cornell	1	2	.333
Yale	1	2	.333	Princeton	0	2	.000
Columbia	1	2	.333				

Yesterday's Result

Dartmouth, 9; Yale, 3.

This Week's Schedule

Today—Pennsylvania at Cornell, Columbia at Harvard.

Saturday—Columbia at Cornell (2), Pennsylvania at Yale (2), Harvard at Dartmouth.

factor the rules makers are counting upon to discourage the practice.

With respect to playing college games in quarters instead of twenty-minute halves, the rules committee decided to leave this detail on an optional basis. Teams can agree to divide playing time into quarters or halves as they see fit.

Nothing was done about hoisting the basket two feet to bring it twelve feet above the floor and the same fate befell the convex, fan-shaped and other new-fangled backboards. These items will be submitted to the research committee for further experimentation.

The extension of the court end lines two feet in either direction will have little effect in this district because of the physical limitations of the gymnasiums. Only Fordham and Brooklyn College have the necessary space for such extensions. The present court in Madison Square Garden is eighty-eight feet long, with eighty-four feet between the backboards. If the local teams do not object, Ned Irish, Garden basketball director, may move his end lines back.