

January 12, 1937.

Mr. Oswald Tower,  
Andover, Mass.

Dear Os:

When is the meeting of the National Rules Committee for this spring, and is the site of the meeting New York or Chicago, or has that been determined?

I trust that you and your family are well.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH



The following changes have been made in the basketball rules to go into effect for the season 1936-7:

1. A second circle, concentric with the present circle, and having a six-foot radius, is to be drawn at center court. On jump balls at center all players except the jumpers must remain outside this circle until the ball has been tapped.

2. The rule which prohibited substitutes from communicating has been removed. Substitutes must report promptly and play is to be resumed as soon as they have reported, but they may speak to teammates before play is resumed.

3. Each team is to be allowed four time-outs (charged) without penalty, instead of three as formerly.

4. The sections on duties of Scorers and Timekeepers will be rewritten, largely for the purpose of clarification.

5. An interpretation is to be inserted in Rule 15, B, under personal fouls, to the effect that if a player in blocking a shot or in securing the ball from an opponent, strikes the ball and at the same time touches the opponent's hand with that part of the hand below the wrist joint, no other contact taking place, the contact shall not be considered a foul, but merely incidental to a successful attempt to play the ball.

6. When games are played in quarters, if a foul occurs just before, or simultaneously with the signal ending the first or third quarter, the free throw is to be attempted at the beginning of the next quarter and the rules governing free throws then apply as in any other part of the game.

Numerous questions and answers will be inserted to cover special situations that arise under various rules.

Issued for the National Basketball Committee of  
the United States and Canada by

Oswald Tower, Editor  
Andover, Massachusetts,

June 18, 1936

B. T. Grover, Secretary-Treasurer,  
National Association Basketball Coaches



October 1, 1937.

Mr. Oswald Tower,  
Andover, Mass.

Dear Oz:

Thank you for your kind letter of  
September 27.

I shall look for the Guide to be  
sent in a few days.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education.



# NATIONAL BASKETBALL COMMITTEE of the UNITED STATES and CANADA

Editor, OSWALD TOWER  
Andover, Massachusetts

Chairman, L. W. ST. JOHN  
Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Vice-Chairman, H. H. SALMON, JR.  
40 Wall St., New York, N. Y.

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L. W. St. John	H. H. Salmon, Jr.
<i>Research</i>	<i>Questionnaire</i>
Forrest C. Allen	H. V. Porter

*Treasurer*, FLOYD A. ROWE  
Board of Education, Cleveland, Ohio

*Secretary*, H. V. PORTER  
11 So. LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois

September 27, 1937.

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Lawrence, Kansas

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Laramie, Wyoming

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

Dear Phog:

The Guide ought to be out October 1. At any rate that is the date we have been shooting at and the material has been in the hands of the printers long enough to make it possible to hit that date easily. I am not making any promises or guarantees, however.

If you need the rules right away in order to get that traditional wealth of material under way, I think Porter will supply you with a copy of the high school edition. He handled the printing of that himself but made no changes in the rules.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Oswald Tower.



# NATIONAL BASKETBALL COMMITTEE

## *of the UNITED STATES and CANADA*

The following is a summary of the changes in the Basketball Rules which go into effect next season.

1. After goals from the field the ball is to be put into play from out of bounds by the opponents of the team which scored, in the same manner as after successful free throws following personal fouls. The official is not to handle the ball unless by so doing he can assist in getting the ball into play, and players of the team which scored are not to touch the ball, but allowance should be made for instinctively touching the ball if the game is not delayed thereby. The ball will be tossed as center at the beginning of each half and overtime period, and after technical and double fouls. In games played in quarters, the second and fourth quarters will be started as formerly, except that if the timers' signal sounds while the ball is in the air on a throw for goal at the end of the first or third quarter, the next quarter will begin with a jump ball at the nearer free throw line if the goal is missed, and will go to the opponents out of bounds if the goal is made.

2. The ball must be inflated to an air pressure such that when it is dropped to a solid wooden floor from a height of six feet, measured to the bottom of the ball, it will rebound to a height, measured to the top of the ball, of not less than four feet nor more than four feet seven inches. Balls must be tested at the factory and the air pressure which will give the specified reaction must be stamped on the ball. The pressure for game use must be as stamped.

3. An addition has been made to the Note following Rule 8, Section 8 (the ten second rule) to cover situations in which the player who has the ball is touching or straddling the division line. A player in such a position is in the front court or back court depending upon the preceding play. The division line is then neutral and the player's court location does not change because of any pivot or dribble until such time as both feet touch the floor on one side of the line. Thereafter any stepping on or over the line changes the court location of the player.

4. In clause (b) of the Penalty following Rule 15, Section 14, a change has been made to emphasize the extra free throw which is awarded when a foul involving unsportsmanlike conduct is committed against a player who is not in the act of shooting. It will be specified that the extra free throw shall be awarded for any deliberate foul against a player who is not in the act of shooting.

5. When held ball occurs less than six feet from a side line the ball is to be moved out to a point six feet from that side line, but the distance from the end line is not to be changed. If the officials are unable to determine which player causes a ball to go out of bounds, it is to be tossed up at the point where last touched in the court, but not less than six feet from a sideline. If tapped out by both players simultaneously on a jump ball, however, the ball is to be tossed again at the same point.

6. A new section will be added to Rule 14 to the effect that a player shall not touch the ball with the hand or arm while that hand or arm is touching any part of the opponents' basket, or while that hand or arm is above the opponents' basket. Above the basket, as used here, means any part of the space enclosed by an imaginary cylinder having the ring of the basket as its base and extending perpendicularly upward. The penalty is award of goal to opponents.

7. Rule 11, covering time-outs, will be completely rewritten but will contain no changes in meaning beyond those mentioned elsewhere in this summary.

8. In games between players of high school age or younger, five time-out periods are to be allowed and not more than two overtime periods are to be played. The second overtime period becomes a "sudden death" period, the team first scoring two points in that period becoming the winner. A five-minute intermission, during which the teams may leave the court, will be declared before the first overtime period begins.

9. The numbers worn by players must be of solid color. Some teams have been wearing numbers having edges only outlined, making it difficult for officials and scorers to read them.

10. In the Comments on the Rules under the heading "Screening and Blocking" will appear a new statement giving in greater detail the various situations that arise and suggestions as to the proper way to judge such situations. In this connection it should be stated that the term "face-guarding" has been abolished and that a personal foul cannot be called under any rule unless there is personal contact involved in the play. The new statement follows: "A player is entitled to take any position on the court not occupied by another player, provided that

(1) this position is not so close to an opponent (less than approximately three feet) that contact ensues when the opponent makes normal bodily movements, or

(2) this position is not taken in the path of a moving opponent so quickly that the latter cannot avoid contact.

In the foregoing cases, the player who takes the position described is responsible if contact ensues, unless other factors are involved.

A player who is attempting to screen is blocking if contact occurs when he is moving and if his opponent is stationary or retreating from him. In other cases of contact resulting from an attempt to screen when both players are in motion, either or both may have committed a foul, but in case of doubt, the greater responsibility is on the player who is attempting to screen.

If a player disregards the ball, faces an opponent, and shifts his position as the opponent shifts, such player is primarily responsible for any contact that ensues, unless other factors are involved.

The expression 'unless other factors are involved' in the foregoing statements, refers to deliberate pushing, charging or holding by the player who is being screened. This player must make a reasonable effort to avoid contact and any deliberate act on his part which causes contact should be penalized."

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

Andover, Mass., May 1, 1937.



PRELIMINARY SYNOPSIS OF ACTION ON RULE CHANGES

NOTE: This is merely a preliminary synopsis for your information. No attempt has been made to properly word any of the changes and there may even be some omissions of minor actions.

Complete copy of minutes will be forwarded at a later date.

1. It was voted to eliminate the center jump after field goals. The ball is to be put in play immediately by the opponents of the scoring team from the end of the court. Details will correspond with those which have been in use in the Pacific Coast Conference.
2. It was voted to retain the three-second lane rule as it now is. The questionnaires indicated overwhelming sentiment in favor of such retention and while various arguments were presented on both sides of the question it was felt that the present rule is more satisfactory than any of the various recommended changes.
3. The comments on screening and blocking which were drawn up during the early part of the week by Messrs. Tower and Bunn and approved by the National Coaches Association were approved. The editor is instructed to make such revision in wording or arrangement as may seem desirable and to substitute this statement for part of the comments which are now included under the heading of "blocking".
4. The term "face guarding" is to be removed and the present Section 13 of Rule 7 will be replaced with a statement that in case a player disregards the ball and faces an opponent, etc., the responsibility for contact which may ensue is primarily on the player who does this.
5. The Research Committee was instructed to prepare an article relative to the possibilities in the ultimate use of baskets which would be placed higher than the present 10 feet. The questionnaire Committee was instructed to cooperate with the Research Committee in educational activity along this line.
6. Rule 14-13. This rule is to be amended in such a way that it will be a violation for a defensive player to touch the ball with his hand while the hand is in the space formed by the cylinder above the basket which has for its base the basket ring. It will also be a violation if a player touches the ball with his hand while that hand or wrist is in contact with the ring.
7. The question of allowing a team to decline the penalty for a free throw for the privilege of taking the ball out of bounds at the end of the division line was referred to the Questionnaire Committee for further study. Also the editor was instructed to make it clear that a deliberate foul committed near the end of playing time should result in an extra free throw.



8. Officials are to be instructed to move the jumpers at ~~at~~ least six feet in the court in case there is a held ball near the side-line or in case the officials are unable to decide which team caused the ball to go out of bounds.
9. A question and answer is to be added to the section on substitutions which will make it clear when the official should declare a foul for not reporting properly.
10. The situation relative to the striking of the hand of a player while that hand is on the ball received considerable discussion. While there appeared to be some dissatisfaction with the present rule the questionnaire results indicated that a considerable majority favored the rule as it was passed last year. It was voted to make no change relative to it.
11. The question of legality of certain baskets which deviate from the traditional type was discussed. The Research Committee was given power to act on the legality of the basket which causes a light to flash when the ball goes through. The committee was instructed to give careful consideration to this and to notify the official interpreter at such time as any decision might be definitely reached.

It was voted to refer to the Research Committee any other equipment about which there might be some question. In the case of such equipment the committee will make a thorough study and make recommendations to the rules committee at a subsequent meeting.

12. It was voted to retain the present six foot restraining circle at center. It was also voted that all held balls which might occur in this circle should be administered the same as if the jump were at the free throw line.
13. Rule 4. The second sentence of Section 1 will be replaced by a statement which will require that the ball be inflated to an air pressure such as to give a required bouncing reaction. This reaction is to be as specified in the proposal which was submitted unless further study by the Research Committee indicates that new figures should be substituted for those proposed.

This statement is to be followed by: "NOTE: To be legal, balls must be tested for bouncing reaction at the factory and the air pressure which will give this reaction must be stamped on the ball. The pressure for game use must be as stamped."

The remainder of present Section 1 is to become a new section.

The secretary is instructed to notify the various manufacturers as soon as the definite figures are adopted.



Page three -

14. It was voted to adopt the diagram of a basketball court which has been used in the interscholastic edition of the guide in order that several matters pertaining to measurement may be made clear.

15. 9-3. This section is to be rewritten in such a way as to provide for two instead of three overtime periods. Also the five-minute intermission is to precede the first overtime instead of the second.

The provision relative to tournament games is to be retained as at present.

16. 11-1. This section is to be redrafted and provision will be made for five legal time outs periods for boys of high school age or under.

17. The whole of sheet III as handed out to members of committee was referred to the editor and secretary with power to act. These proposals deal primarily with changes in wording or arrangement for purposes of clarity or the correction of discrepancies.

Complete minutes of all of the activities of the committee with list of members, newly elected officers and committees, treasurer's report and synopsis of the various committee reports which were made at the meeting will be sent to each member as soon as the secretary can recover from the heavy dinner he had at Old Heidelberg.



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KANSAS CITY, MO.

July 21, 1937

Ans 8/1-37  
ans 8/17-37

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

My dear "Phog":

I believe you are chairman of the Implement Committee (or whatever you call it) in the Basket Ball Association, and accordingly you ought to be able to answer me on the question I am going to ask you.

I am advised that there is a suggested rule change to read as follows:

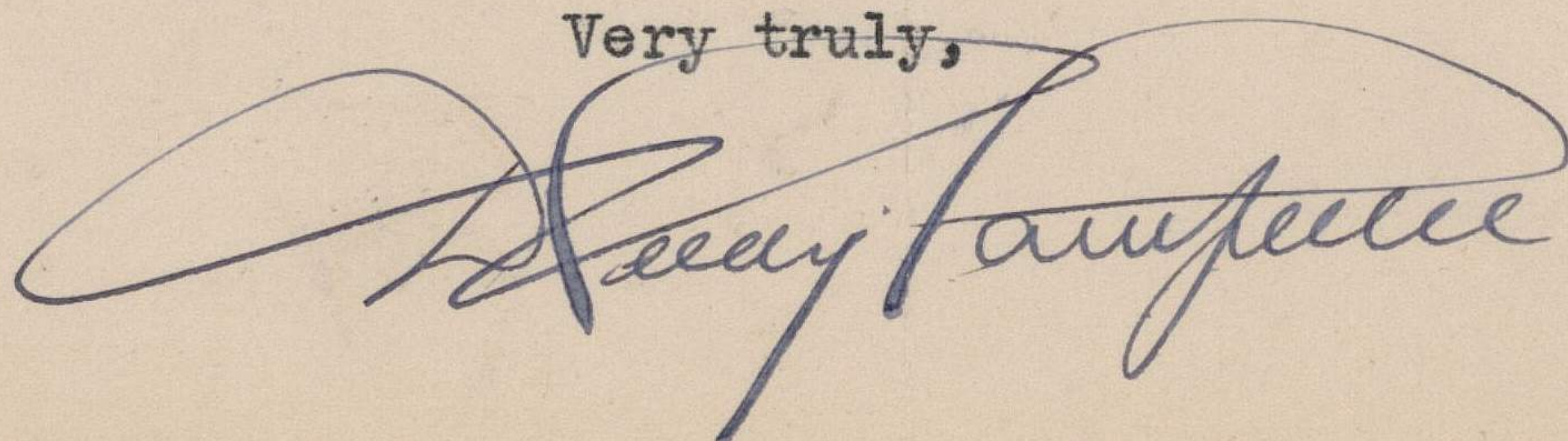
"The ball shall be inflated to an air pressure such that when it is dropped to a solid wood floor from a height of 6 feet measured from the bottom of the ball, it will rebound to a height measured to the top of the ball of not less than 4 feet when it strikes on its least resilient spot nor more than 4 feet 7 inches when it strikes on its most resilient spot. To be legal balls must be tested for resilience at the factory and the air pressure which will give the above reaction must be stamped on the ball. The pressure for game use must be as stamped."

Now what I want to know, is this only a suggested rule change or is it actually in effect or do you think it is likely to be put in effect? I am asking this because naturally it is of vital importance to us.

We have made a lot of laboratory tests on this thing and we actually find that no two balls bounce the same, regardless of make. It would be almost an impossibility and would add to the cost for the factories to stamp the proper air pressure on each individual ball, and in the experiments that we have made it seems to us that it would be almost an impossibility to carry out.

Marion Miller says that when you were down here the other day you spoke about this, and I would appreciate getting your slant on it and to know, if I may, what your committee is planning on doing with it.

Very truly,



DKC:AM



September 14, 1937.

Mr. Marion H. Miller,  
Editor, "The Coach",  
Lowe & Campbell Athletic Goods Co.,  
1509 Baltimore Ave.,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Marion:

I am rushing the draft of the basketball rule changes back to you for your attention.

I would suggest under Article 1 concerning elimination of center jump after field goal that a footnote mention that it is not necessary for the referee to handle the ball. Perhaps different conferences will make an interpretation on this rule to the effect that it is necessary for the referee to handle the ball, but the rules board suggested that it was not necessary.

Under Article 3 concerning the illegality of a defensive player to touch the ball with his hand while the ball is in the space formed by the cylinder above the basket, I believe it would also be helpful if you would mention in the second sentence of the third paragraph that this applies to the defensive player. In the second sentence you do not so state it, and there might be a misunderstanding that it applies to the offensive player. The offensive player, of course, may touch the ball while it is on the rim of the basket or even while it is above the cylinder of the basket.

I believe everything else is perfectly clear.

I am glad to know that you are planning to give "Better Basketball" a good send-off in an early issue of "The Coach", prior to its publication. It would please me if you would put some more pressure on the McGraw-Hill people who, I feel, are a little slow. The manuscript was sent to them July 5, and as far as I am concerned I thought that sixty days would be time enough, but it looks like it may be ninety days, and that seems like a long time to me. I appreciate your cooperation.



#2 - Mr. M. H. Miller.

I have just received a letter from Mr. Curtis McGraw, the vice president, stating that he was again in touch with Lowe & Campbell, and they would put as much speed as possible on the production of the book. He states, however, that he would rather have it a little late than rush it and not have produced a splendid job.

Very sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education. /

RECORDED IN 1934



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1509-11-13 BALTIMORE AVE.,  
KANSAS CITY, MO.

September 13th, 1937

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

Dear Dr. Allen:

Enclosed is a rough draft of the basket ball rule changes for this year, which I have informally set forth from the preliminary synopsis which you sent me last spring.

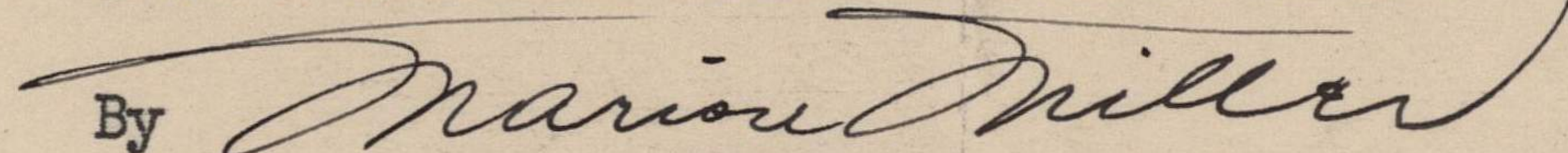
It is our intention to include this in the September issue of "The Coach", which goes to press this week, so it will be greatly appreciated if you will look these over and make any corrections which you find necessary.

We expect to give "Better Basket Ball" a good send off in an early issue of "The Coach" prior to its publication.

Very truly,

LOWE & CAMPBELL ATHLETIC GOODS COMPANY

By



M. H. Miller  
Editor "The Coach"

MMH:LR



BASKETBALL INTERPRETATIONS OF MISSOURI VALLEY AND

BIG SIX CONFERENCES

1936 - 37

- - - - -

General Suggestions

1. Officials should notify athletic authorities upon their arrival in town.
2. The home authorities should notify the visitors of the exact starting time of the game.
3. The home team is to wear white uniforms. The visitors are to dress in their school colors.
4. A copy of the official box score shall be mailed by the home team to the conference secretary immediately after the game.
5. The visiting team is to send to the home team at least four days in advance of the game the names and numbers of all players who will make the trip together with a probable starting line-up.
6. The home team may use as many players as it desires. The visitors are limited to ten players. (Big Six regulation only.)
7. Each school is to exchange with all others information about its squad. This information should include number, name, position, height, weight, home town, year on the varsity, men lost by graduation, veteran lettermen returning, and any team records which may serve publicity purposes.
8. Home teams shall designate the make and type of ball to be used. For each game the home team is to prepare two new balls. These may be used by both teams in pre-game practice, and the referee is to select from these the one to be used in the game.

Rules Interpretations

Rule 5, Section 2.

The head official in a basketball game determines the justification of a delay. The head official is the one who is named first in the assignment. The time as given out by the home team shall be the official time. Officials and visitors should check their watches with this time.

Rule 5, Section 3

(a) A substitute is not to be recognized by the scorer until he has removed his warm-up suit and is ready to enter the game.

(b) A substitute, after having reported to the referee, must participate in at least one play regardless of his acceptance by his captain.

Rule 5, Section 6

A two inch number on the front of the shirt is permissible.



Rule 6

The officials shall wear vortical striped black and white shirts, with dark blue trousers.

Rule 7, Section 2, (amplification of last question)

An attempt to pass-in from out-of-bounds on the end line results in the ball striking a player and then deflecting off the back of the board. Whose ball out?

Answer: Ball awarded to the opponent of the team which last touched it.

Rule 10, Section 1

The word "near" is defined as within approximately three feet on either side of the out-of-bounds spot designated by the official (except following a successful freethrow). The angle of the pass-in is immaterial.

Rule 11, Section 1

After a substitute has reported to the scorer he must enter the game at the first dead ball.

Rule 14, Section 13, Note.

Attention of the officials is called to the details of this note.

Rule 15, Section 7

These conferences urge officials to penalize every doliberate coaching attempt from either bench, as well as derogatory remarks to officials by anyone officially connected with either team.

-----  
Big Six administrative suggestions and information

1. Since the conference secretary is so busy with numerous other details at each gathering, the secretary for the basketball coaches group is directed to make meeting place reservations and complete other details necessary for our own group.

2. Type, make of ball, and starting time of games:

Iowa State - Rawlings laced - 7:30 Fri. and Sat. 7:15 other times  
Kansas ----- Allen laced ---- 7:30  
Kansas State-Rawlings laced - 7:30  
Nobraska ----Wilson lacedloss- 8:00  
Missouri ----Rawlings laced - 8:00  
Oklahoma ----McDermott laced- 7:30