

Basketball Rules Changes

Center Jump Eliminated – Faster Game

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Basketball fans will notice several important rule changes when they attend games this season.

The biggest change in the rules is the elimination of the center jump with the exception of the start of the first and third quarters, after double fouls and after technical fouls. The elimination of the center jump after a basket is made will, it is stated, lengthen the playing time of each game from 10 to 15 minutes. Under the old rule, several seconds were used in getting teams in place in preparation for the jump.

After a field goal or free throw is made, the ball can be put into play from any place behind the end line of the court without the official handling the sphere.

As a result of this new rule, teams with tall centers will have little advantage over teams with short ones. The fact that the playing time of each game will be lengthened will probably cause much larger scores to be chalked up during the season.

Another rule change is regarding times out during the game. This year each team will be allowed to take five time outs during a contest. The former rule was four official time outs during a game.

Face guarding has been made legal this year. A player may guard an opposing player that does not have possession of the ball as long as the players do not have bodily contact. In case of body contact a foul is called on the advancing players. This rule change makes it possible for one player to block another who is waiting for the ball without committing a foul as was the case last year.

A sportsmanship rule has been added to the list this season. The rule makes it compulsory for an official to order a player from the floor if he shows unsportsmanlike conduct. That is, if a player is caught intentionally tripping or slugging an opposing player, a personal and technical foul is called upon him. The opposing team will be given free throws and the player who commits the foul is ejected from the game.

There is no former rule governing sportsmanship and the official in charge of the game could rule a player from the floor if he thought it necessary. The rule this year forces the official to take such action.