

The Shot Clock Rule

From year 2003, one of the basketball rules FIBA¹ has adopted from the NBA² is referred to the allowed time of possession of the ball for each equipment; the last change produced a reduction from 30” to 24”.

The CABB³, following international lineaments has adopted it for all their competitive categories, including the formatives (from 13 to 20 years), except the biddies (up to 12 years).

In USA, NBA origin country exist sport interschool organizations , such as the NFHS⁴ that governs the sport competitions between the secondary schools, NCAA⁵ that nucleate the most important universities and the NAIA⁶ second university sport organization, in importance, that in their sport competitions has ignored the rule and maintains different possession times.

Following this same criterion, seven Union states (Californian, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island and Washington) have adopted 30” for women and 35” for the men time possession rules. The rest of the states does not have established time of possession⁷.

The explanations that the seven mentioned states organizations offer previously are that they have made it to avoid the retentions of the ball that “deform” the game. That is to say, the use of tactics of exaggerated retention of the ball that cause a deformation of the spirit of the game as far as their development, and that, really, make him lose great part of their attractiveness for the participants and the spectators. In that sense they have agreed Richard Nelson of California, Hill Myers of Maryland and Sherman Sylling de North Dakota⁸.

The knowledge of its reasons will help us to be able to elaborate our own conclusions.

1 Federación Internacional de Básquetbol Amateur, FIBA.

2 National Basketball Association, NBA.

3 Confederación Argentina de Básquetbol.

4 National Federation of High Schools, NFHS. □

5 □ National Collegiate Athletic Association, NCAA.

6 □ National Athletic Intercollegiate Association, NAIA.

7 Informe recibido por correo electrónico de la NFHS. 02-09-2005.

8 Secretarios técnicos de las organizaciones estatales que componen la NFHS.

Dr Jerry Krause⁹ who evolves, at the moment, as Athletic Director of the University of Gonzaga (USA) and directs the Committee of Investigations of the U.S.A. National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC)¹⁰, facilitated us, via email¹¹, the information referred to Dr Howard Hobson's book, Scientific Basketball¹², that later, in this paper, we will analyze.

Phillips (1990)¹³, in his Doctorate Thesis presented at Springfield College has allowed us to have a wide vision on the basketball rules evolution and its effects on the game until the mentioned year.

Precedents.

Coach Howard Hobson in his book Scientific Basketball proposes, for the first time, the idea to incorporate a " shot clock rule"¹⁴

The first persons who implemented the shot clock rule were Danny Biasone, owner of the NBA team Syracuse Nationals and Leo Ferris, its general manager, that experimented in a practice game played in the Blodgett Vocational High School in Syracuse in August 1954¹⁵. Biasone and Ferris arrived at the time limit from 24" dividing the total game seconds number, 48' (2.880) by the average number of shots executed by game (120)¹⁶.

Other experts, present commentators and former- professional players, as John Havlicek and Bill Walton think that the invention saved the sport of

⁹ Krause, J, (2005). NABC Research Comitte Director. Athetic Director Gonzaga University. □ NABC – Nacional Association of Basketball Coaches.

¹⁰ NABC – Nacional Association of Basketball Coaches.

¹¹ mails fechados en el mes de octubre de 2005 hacia y desde las siguientes direcciones de correo electrónico. <http://nabc.collegesports.com> <http://krausej@athletics.gonzafa.edu>

¹² Hobson, H. (1949). Scientific Basketball.

¹³ Phillips, D. R. (1990). Evolution of International Rules and their Effects Upon the Game. Tesis Doctoral presentada en la Facultad de Educación Física del Springfield College. USA.

¹⁴ Cfr. Associated Press (04/03/02). 24" memorated by NBA greats. Disponible en: <http://www.ESPN.com>

¹⁵ Cfr. Associated Press (2002). Op. cit. (p. 1).

¹⁶ Cfr. Associated Press (2002). Op. cit. (p. 2).

basketball because it eliminated the tactics of retention of the ball that were spoiling the spectacles and moving away, like consequence, to the spectators¹⁷.

Without the shot clock the equipment could indefinitely keep the ball without any penalty and the low scores were very common¹⁸.

Ken Loeffler (1955)¹⁹ does not think favorably of the indiscriminate inclusion of the shot clock and proposes alternative solutions destined to avoid the retention of the ball in the final minutes of the matches. He believes, in addition, one of the shades of the game is to be able to see confrontations between equipment with different playing styles, aspect of the game that has been lost from the 24" which no longer allows any type of control game.

FIBA adopted, at first, the 30" shot clock rule and some years ago the 24" shot clock rule as much for their professional competition as for the formative divisions without forcing the confederations that integrate it safe in the international competitions²⁰.

García (2005)²¹, prestigious Argentine leader, former-referee, who holds a very high position in FIBA Americas declared to us: "I believe that the professional basketball must be divided completely of the formative categories. We have the faculty to take that determination and we could do it with solid bases. After finalizing its study I would like much power to have it and to publish it in our bulletins."

Transmitting us, in this way, its particular reserves with respect to the indiscriminate application of the rules of the professionals in the formative divisions. Criterion that we shared; and on this criterion we make a call of attention in relation to the experiences that we are accumulating on the subject. The decision of the FIBA to change the shot clock rule, reducing ball possession time from 30" to 24", motivated, in our understanding, to reasons directly related to the professional sport, did not consider the needs and

¹⁷ Cfr. Associated Press (2002). Op. cit. (p. 2).

¹⁸ Esa fue la principal razón de su incorporación.

¹⁹ Cfr. Loeffler, K. (1955). Ken Loeffler on Basketball. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall. (pp. 173-174).

²⁰ Reglas de Juego Oficiales editadas por la Federación Internacional de Básquetbol Amateur (FIBA), año 2003.

²¹ García, A. (2005). The Deputy Secretary General of FIBA Americas. En contacto vía e-mail recibido el 15 de julio de 2005.

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requirements of the young forming players, 13 years old boys in preinfantile category in our country, and also the requirements and needs of their teachers.

Studies made by Dr Howard Hobson author of “Scientific published Basketball” in year 1949 demonstrate that a minimum of 45 is required” to make possible the putting in practice of an offensive or defensive play system.

We considered that, as arises from our investigation, the modification of the rule, ignored by the organizations of the USA nonaffiliated with the FIBA, does not contribute to improve the process of learning of the basketball sport in specially, to those who are in favor of the comprehensive model of sport learning process.

In opposite direction advancing studies are being made in different scopes of the sport investigation related to this subject, and they try to propose modifications in the regulation of minibásquetbol related to the game itself, distances of the shooting of free throws and three points, amount of players by equipment, duration of the matches, time of game and others, and they directly aim to improve the conditions of the participation and as logical consequence of learning of the children and young people in the sport basketball.

Zárate, August 26th 2007- Augusto A. Pastore