

NBA Foul Rules Explained

Usually the Review doesn't reprint or answer questions relating to rules for professional sports--feeling that the majority of the S-O-M gamesters know them anyway. But because of some information printed in the March Review--erroneous information worthy of a technical foul call--National Basketball Association rules regarding fouls definitely should be clarified.

A number of vigilant readers wrote in pointing out the errors in our answers, which came from Rich Walker, an assistant basketball coach at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI who once had a tryout with the Cleveland Cavs. Apparently Walker "flunked" the written test on the rules, however, especially the part about the bonus situation, number of fouls, etc.

So, to clarify the situation for all readers (we found out there were many S-O-M gamesters who were hazy about foul rules, like ourselves), here is a reprinting of pertinent NBA rules. The information printed below was sent in by Steve Parewski of Norridge, IL, and comes from a Chicago Bulls' program.

* **PERSONAL FOULS** - Each player is allowed six personal fouls before he is disqualified.

* **OFFENSIVE FOULS** - An offensive foul is charged as a personal foul to the player involved, but is not added to the team foul total for the purpose of determining bonus free throws. No free throw is awarded and the ball is taken out of bounds by the defensive team. Nor are double fouls (which don't occur in S-O-M Basketball) added to the team total for the purpose of determining bonus free throws.

* **TEAM FOULS** - Each team is limited to four personal fouls per quarter, with each foul in excess of four per quarter to be penalized by an additional free throw. During each overtime period the limitation shall be three personal fouls per team with an additional free throw for each personal foul in excess of three. If a team has not committed its quota of four fouls during the first 10 minutes of each quarter, and its quota of three team fouls in the first three minutes of any overtime period, it shall be permitted to incur one team foul during the last two minutes of each quarter, and the last two periods, without incurring the penalty of an extra free throw.

* **FREE THROWS** - If the foul committed by a player is in excess of the number limited for his team and calls for a single free throw, one additional free throw is allowed. If the excess foul calls for two free throws, the penalty free throw shall be permitted if any of the free throws are unsuccessful.
