

# Basketball

*Basketball is a game which nowadays is popular all over the world. It was invented in 1891.*



The inventor of the game was a Canadian clergyman, James Naismith.

The game of basketball was fashioned from fragments of other games, seeking to eliminate flaws of rugby, soccer. Basketball was first played in the United States. The first game was played at one training school, now called Springfield College.



During the 20's the first US league championship was organized.



In the 70's the American Championship was divided into two leagues: the **ABA** (American Basketball Association), which does not exist any longer and which played with a blue , red and white ball and the **NBA** (National Basketball Association).

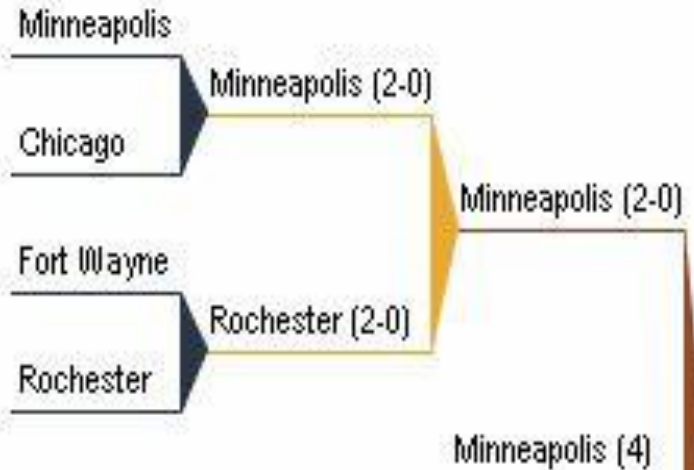
The **NBA** is a professional league which still plays.



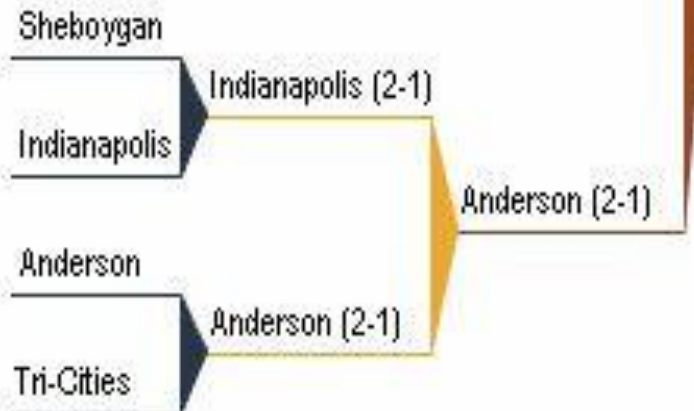
The **NBA** is divided into four conferences, grouped into a western and an eastern division.

Semifinals Finals NBA Semifinals

WESTERN DIVISION



CENTRAL DIVISION

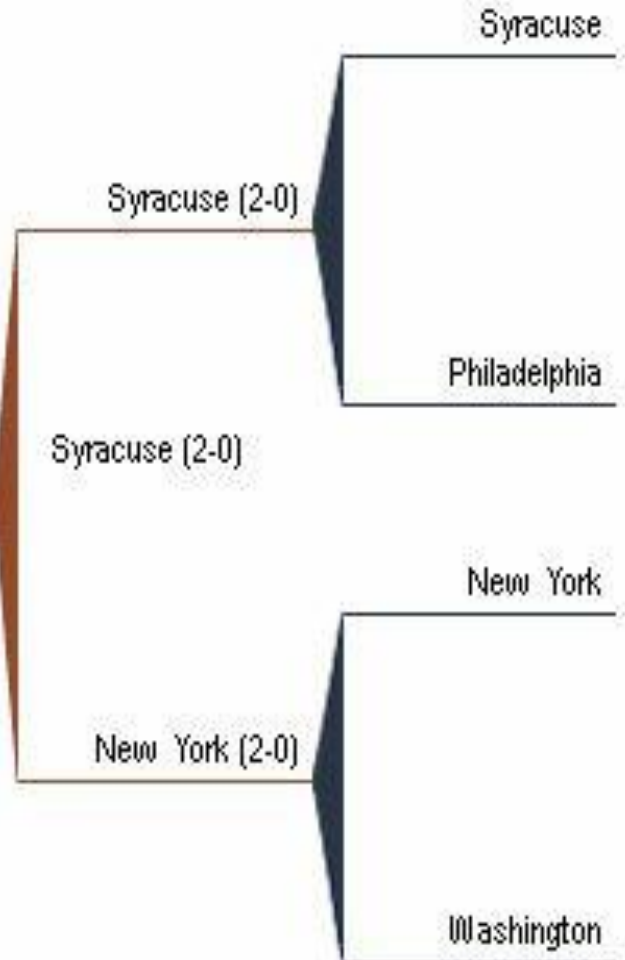


Minneapolis (4)

Syracuse (2)

Finals Semifinals

EASTERN DIVISION





PORTLAND **BLAZERS**

**M** DALAS **MAVERICKS**

ATLANTA **HAWKS**

**76ERS**

SAN ANTONIO **SPURS**

**Pacers**

DENVER **NUGGETS**

**WIZARDS**

**KINGS**

**WARRIORS**

**Suns**

MINNESOTA **TIMBERWOLVES**

LOS ANGELES **CLIPPERS**

CHARLOTTE **HORNETS**

**PISTONS**

**Pacers**

**PISTONS**

MILWAUKEE **BUCKS**

UTAH **JAZZ**

NEW YORK **NICKS**

CHICAGO **BULLS**

LOS ANGELES **LAKERS**

**WARRIORS**

**WARRIORS**

Orlando **Magic**

**NBA**

US basketball is very popular among university students and there are also university teams which form the **NCAA** (National Collegiate Athletic Association). The athletes who play in the Olympic team and in the basketball world championship are selected from the **NCAA**.





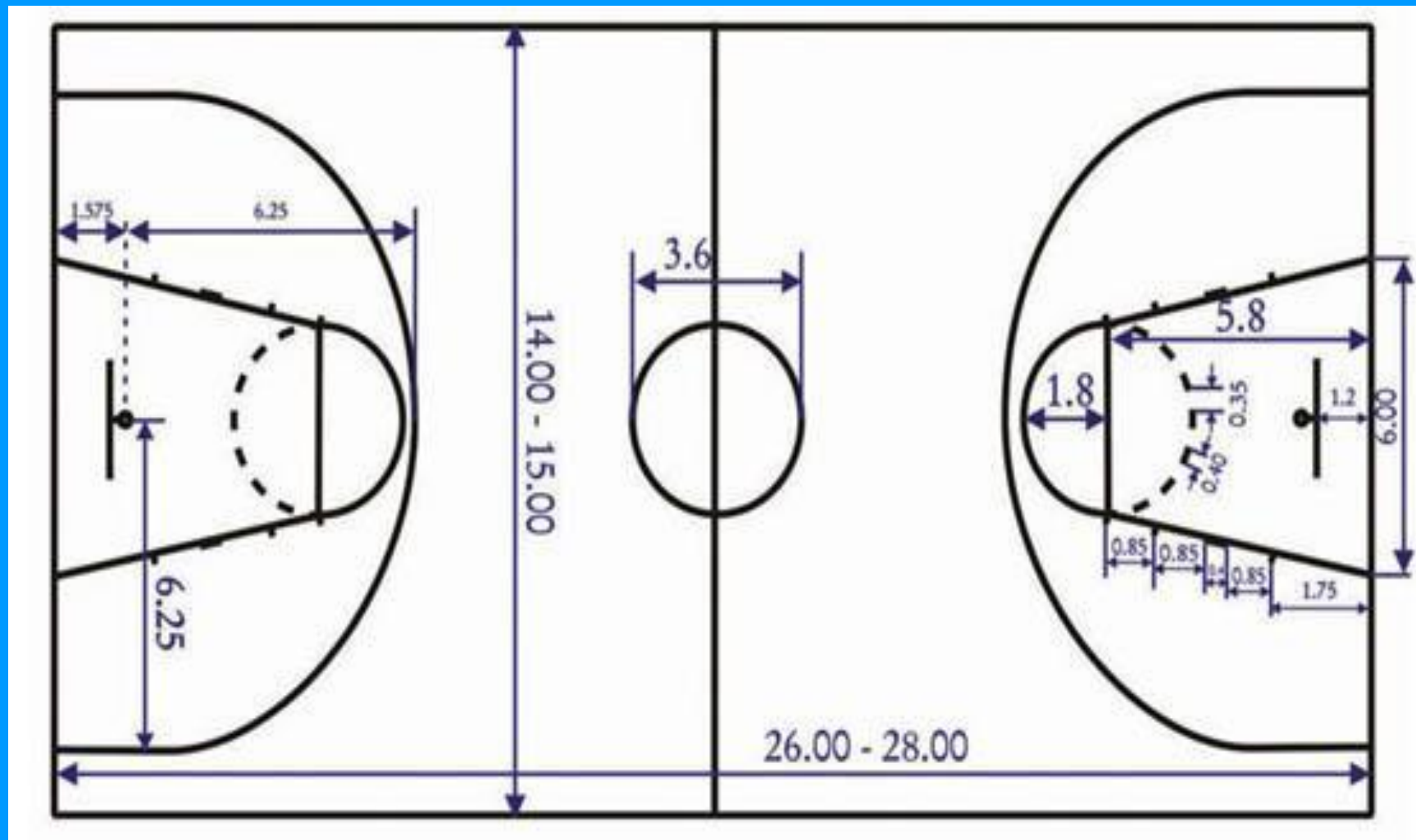


*The last person to get the ball in the basket in a pre-match warm up will have a good game.*

*If you wipe the soles of your sneakers, you will definitely have better luck.*

*Michael Jordan always wore blue shorts under his uniform to bring him luck.*

# *Basketball Court*



Basketball appeared in Russia at the beginning of the 20-th century.



# *THE BEST PLAYERS FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES:*

