

Code of Conduct



Commencement Date: 17th May 2010

Basketball SA encourages all participants to enjoy and develop through their involvement in our sport, whether they are players, coaches, officials, parents or spectators. We realise that the majority of people who help our sport run are volunteers, such as those on the score table, or are still learning the game, so please respect the fact that errors occur and it is not the end of the world.

We will be taking firm action to address unacceptable behaviour by empowering our Officials, Court Supervisors and Customer Service Officers to penalise, report, or even remove problem participants where necessary.

We are taking this stance due to unacceptable behaviour demonstrated in too many games which is having a negative impact on our participation levels across our sport. Basketball is predominately played for enjoyment and poor behaviour takes away from the reason most of us are involved.

Participants found guilty of serious breaches of this policy will face a ban for up to twelve months.

Officials have been issued with 'Referee Directions' to minimise → eliminate rough play and abusive or argumentative behaviour in game situations.

Court Supervisors who are now wearing bright orange shirts have been issued with 'Court Supervisor Directions' to closely supervise the behaviour of all participants. Where they observe unacceptable behaviour it will be their responsibility to deliver and record disciplinary actions in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in this document. They have the right to ask any participant to leave if they are in breach of this policy.

Customer Service Officers are responsible for handling feedback forms relating to this policy within each stadium.

Basketball SA's aims are to improve across all competitions:

- Environment for all participants,
- Quality and Standard of the games and officials,
- Development and retention of referees,
- Customer service at competitions, and
- Communication and feedback opportunities.

This policy lists the minimum expected behaviour while participating in games of basketball along with the procedures and penalties for unacceptable behaviour. Those participants who do not modify their behaviour can expect to be penalised.

For ease of use, the policy has been divided in to four sections for: Players, Coaches, Parents and Spectators, Officials.

Associations and Clubs are asked to circulate this information to all of their members.

Peter Sexton
Chairman of the Board
Basketball SA

Mark Hubbard
Chief Executive Officer
Basketball SA

Players at all times accept and adhere to the following behaviours:

- Players are not to make overtly verbal or animated objections to a referee's decision,
- Players are not to attempt to intimidate an opponent, or an official, by their words or actions,
- Players are not to disrupt or hinder the flow of the game in objecting to a referee's decision,
- Players are not to make statements of an abusive nature towards a referee, the nature of which includes but is not limited to:
 - Performance or competence of referee or partner ,
 - Racial discrimination,
 - Gender or sexuality based remarks, or
 - Perceived bias of a referee towards an opposing team.
- Players are not to use audible obscenities, which can be heard by other players, spectators or officials,
- Players are to address any complaint or queries about a referee's decision through their team captain or coach and only during a time-out or quarter or half time break,
- Players are to treat all coaches, spectators, officials and other players with the same respect, professionalism and courtesy that you expect.

Procedure

The referee will:

- Warn the player of his/her breach of the policy,
- Advise the player's coach of the warning,
- Advise the other referee of the warning,
- Upon a repeat offence the penalty should be applied.

Where the general conduct of a number of players in the team is not satisfactory the referee may issue a warning to the entire team and upon repeat offences immediately apply the penalty.

Penalty

A Technical Foul should be called on the player and administered as per FIBA Rules.

For serious breaches the Referee may immediately charge the player with a Technical Foul or Disqualification without issuing a warning.

For repeat offenders the Technical Foul shall serve as the player's first and final warning.

The **Court Supervisor** can stop the game and instruct the referee to call a Technical Foul or Disqualifying Foul on the Player if in the opinion of the Court Supervisor, the Player's conduct warrants such a penalty.

Coaches at all times accept and adhere to the following behaviours:

- Coaches are not to make overly verbal or animated objections to a referee's decision,
- Coaches are not to attempt to intimidate an opponent, or an official, by their words or actions,
- Coaches are to refrain from asking questions or making comments to a referee whilst play is in progress or during short stoppages in play. This includes but is not limited to:
 - A throw in resulting from a violation, foul or other occurrence,
 - During the administration of free throws, or
 - During a stoppage in play for substitutions.
- Coaches are to direct questions to referees only during time-outs, quarter and half time breaks,
- Coaches are to limit their questioning of Referee's to either Rules or Bylaw interpretations,
- If a coach is not satisfied with a ruling he/she may seek clarification with the Court Supervisor for that stadium but he/she may not stay and argue the point with the referee's,
- Coaches are not to make statements of an abusive nature towards a referee the nature of which includes but is not limited to,
 - Performance or competence of referee or partner,
 - Racial Discrimination,
 - Gender or Sexuality based remarks, or
 - Perceived bias of a referee towards an opposing team.
- Coaches are not to use audible obscenities, which can be heard by other players, spectators or officials,
- Coaches are to treat all players, spectators, officials and other coaches with the same respect, professionalism and courtesy that you expect.
- Coaches are requested to assist a referee's request to address the conduct of his/her players and spectators.

Team followers who sit on the team bench are the responsibility of the Coach.

Spectators who are not sitting on the team bench will be answerable to the Court Supervisor.

Procedures

The referee will:

- Warn the coach of his/her breach of the code,
- Advise the other referee of the warning,
- Upon a second offence the penalty shall be applied.

Penalty

A Technical Foul should be called on the Coach and administered as per the FIBA Rules.

For serious breaches the Referee may immediately charge the Coach with a Technical Foul or Disqualification without issuing a warning. For repeat offenders the Technical Foul shall serve as the coach's first and final warning.

The **Court Supervisor** can stop the game and instruct the referee to call a Technical Foul or Disqualifying Foul on the Coach if in the opinion of the Court Supervisor, the Coach's conduct warrants such a penalty.

Spectators and Parents at all times accept and adhere to the following behaviours:

- Remember that young people participate in sport for their enjoyment and benefit, not yours,
- Applaud good performance and efforts from all individuals and teams,
- Respect the decisions of officials and teach young people to do the same,
- Never ridicule or scold a young player or referee for making a mistake,
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players,
- Show respect for your team's opponents,
- Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions,
- Do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches or officials,
- Spectators are not to attempt to intimidate an opponent, or an official, by their words or actions,
- Spectators are to treat all players, coaches, officials and other spectators with the same respect, professionalism and courtesy that you expect,
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Procedures

The Referee will:

- Inform the coach of the spectator's team of the breach and ask the coach to address the behaviour.

(The coach is required to comply with this request. However if attempts are unsuccessful then assistance is to be sought from the Court Supervisor)

- On a second offence the referee is to stop the game and seek assistance from the Court Supervisor.
- The Court Supervisor will issue a warning to the spectator and make them aware of the code of conduct to which they must adhere.
- The Court Supervisor shall then monitor the behaviour of the spectator and if the conduct does not improve request that the spectator leave the stadium.
- If the spectator refuses to leave the Court Supervisor will call the police to have the person removed.
- The spectator will be reported to Basketball SA and their Club.

In un-timed games the clock shall stop whilst the Referee deals with spectator problems. Once the Court Supervisor has assumed responsibility for the spectator the game should re-commence.

The **Court Supervisor** will be supervising spectator behaviour at all times, if they witness unacceptable behaviour they will act immediately by speaking to the participant and removing them if the behaviour does not improve.

Officials at all times accept and adhere to the following behaviours:

- At all times co-operate with Captains, Coaches, Technical Officials and the Court Supervisor to ensure that the game runs smoothly and on time.
- Do not retaliate either verbally or physically to any abuse or misconduct,
- Treat all players, coaches, spectators and other officials with the same respect, professionalism and courtesy that you expect.
- The referee will lead by example, ensuring a high standard of game management and sound communication are used,
- Refrain from using bad language at all times on and off the court.
- Encourage and commend good behaviour and sportsmanship.
- Do not allow bad behaviour to go un-noticed.
- Use common sense and reason when applying policies.
- If approached by a coach for clarification on a decision or ruling then provide the coach with a clear and honest answer.
- If a referee cannot give a clear answer to the question he/she must make every effort to obtain the answer.
- Refrain from commenting on the performance or competence of players, coaches or other officials.
- Do not condone or become involved in any form of racial discrimination.
- Refrain from making gender or sexuality based remarks.
- Referees are required to arrive on time for games; in correct uniform; and in an appropriate condition to conduct their duties and represent the Association.

Disciplinary actions for non-compliance

If referees fail to adhere to the Code of Conduct, this will be first addressed by the Court Supervisor and if required, referred to the Referee Coordinator for disciplinary action.