

GSBA ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Zero Tolerance Policy

Frequent questioning of referee decisions, displays of obvious dissent and referee abuse are having a significant negative impact on the culture of our sport as well as referee recruitment and retention. Therefore, we will be adopting a range of measures to manage this behaviour.

We will be adopting a **'Zero Tolerance'** in relation to these sorts of actions, at all levels.

These guidelines are aimed at reducing negative reactions to calls, which take the focus off the game itself. It will allow junior players to develop their skills in a more protective environment and see both good behaviour being modelled and unacceptable behaviour being penalised.

Spectators:

- NO spectator is to approach a referee during or after a game.
- spectators are encouraged to barrack for their teams, but should not question, criticise nor challenge the calls of match officials.
- In the event of spectators making comments to/about match referees, the match referees will be advised to (1) stop the game (2) inform the coach of the team associated with the spectator (if this is clear) or (3) Call for support from a GSBA member or Referee Supervisor/Educator who will ask the spectator to leave the stadium. Failure to leave will result in the termination of the game, a formal report and contact being made with the with the spectator's club.

Players:

- **Dissent (Obvious disagreement):** players should not show any clear signs of dissent following a referee's call. Nor should they verbally challenge a call, request a call to be made, throw the ball away, hit the ground/wall etc.
- The ONLY player that can ask a question of a referee is the court captain. This can only be done during a dead ball period and must be done in a courteous manner. This activity should not be done repeatedly. The conversation ends when the question is answered.
- Teams will be asked to identify their couch captain at the beginning of the season.

Coaches:

- **Dissent (Obvious disagreement):** like players, coaches should not show any clear signs of dissent following a referees call. Nor should they verbally challenge a call, request a call to be made etc.
- Coaches can ask a question of a referee in a Black/white shirt. This can only be done during a dead ball period, or at the end of the timeout/half time and must be done in a courteous manner. This activity should not be done repeatedly. The conversation ends when the question is answered.

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- NO approach/communication can be made with a Green Shirt referee.
- If a coach considers that player activity is escalating to a point where an injury is possible, they should seek immediate support from a Referee Supervisor/Educator.
- Any further concerns relating to a referee/game are to be emailed or discussed with the Referee Program Development Officer (Ataliah)

Our referees have a wide range of experiences with the great majority being young and still learning their trade. This young developing group need continuous protection from criticism and abuse. Our aim is to provide that protection.

Referees:

- Should always treat players, coaches and spectators with respect and do their best to enforce basketball rules while ensuring that participants have an enjoyable, safe match experience in an environment where they can develop their skills to the highest potential.
- If a junior referee feels insecure or threatened at **any** time, they should stop the match and seek adult support (GSBA member or Referee Supervisor/Educator).
- **Dissent (Obvious disagreement):** Referees are required to call a Behavioural Technical Foul (BTF) whenever they see clear and obvious examples of dissent.

These include:

- Wave offs, aggressive or excessive motioning of the arms.
- Aggressive hand claps directed at an official or showing resentment for a call or non-call.
- Expressing anger by hitting/banging any part of the court or equipment, throwing clipboards etc.
- Running towards or aggressively approaching a referee
- Shouting a reaction to a call or using profanity.
- Extended or prolonged complaining about a call, particularly after being told to stop.
- Frantically running away from play after a call or no-call that is not agreed with.

Behavioural Technical Fouls (on a player) are treated as any other (non - behavioural) Technical Fouls.

- You are in the sin Bin for 5 minutes
- Two Technical fouls require you to leave the stadium.

When a Behavioural Technical Foul is called, the referee is required to register it with the Referee Program Development Officer, using an online form (officials will have access to this via a Jotform link that can be completed on the night or at home,

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officials can get support to do this from a Referee Supervisors/Educators or Program Development Officer)

- Records will accumulate over time. Repeat offenders will be penalised further with match suspensions.
- Junior referees should, at the first available opportunity (eg. Between halves/games), inform a supervisor when they have called a BTF. But if they feel unsafe in any way, they should top the game and seek **immediate** adult support.
- GSBA members and Referee Supervisors/Educators can interrupt games at any time, if they think the situation warrants it. Eg: To address unacceptable Coach player behaviour or when they consider the referees need to support about how they are handling the game. Changes in referee game appointments can be made if necessary.

Accumulated BTFs:

In any season:

3rd recorded BTF - one match suspension

4th recorded BTF - two match suspension

5th recorded BTF - three match suspension; will have to formally apply to GSBA to be able to continue in the competition.

Clubs will be informed when match suspensions are approaching so they can work with the player/coach to change behaviours and avoid repeat offences.

Team in Social Competitions:

Individual player/coach penalties are as above.

If more than 2 players in a team receive suspensions, the team will be removed from the competition.