

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.
- NO approach/communication can be made with a Green Shirt referee.
- 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.
- NO approach/communication can be made with a Green Shirt referee.

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- 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 – refsupervisor@gsba.com.au

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 and environment where they can develop their skills to the highest potential.
- If a referee feels insecure or threatened at **any** time, they should stop the match and seek 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 (BTF)(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, officials can get support to do this from a Referee Supervisors/Educators or Program Development Officer)

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- 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 stop 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, when they consider the referees need to support about how they are handling the game or to instruct a referee to make a Technical Foul call. Changes in referee game appointments can be made if necessary.

Accumulated BTFs:

In any season:

2 recorded BTF = Automatic 1 week suspension from all GSBA competitions and events

3 recorded BTF = Automatic 2 week suspension from all GSBA competitions and events

4 recorded BTF = Automatic 4 week suspension from all GSBA competitions and events

5 recorded BTF = Automatic 6 week suspension from all GSBA competitions and events

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

If the behaviour is considered reportable conduct, a Basketball Victoria report form will be completed, and relevant process conducted. GSBA may offer a reported person the opportunity to accept a penalty without the necessity to attend a Tribunal hearing. If the penalty is accepted, the penalty will stand as an offence found proved as though it was a matter heard by the Tribunal and may be used in future hearings as a prior offence. If you reject the offer the Report will be referred to Tribunal for a hearing.

Failure to adhere to the above penalties while suspended may result in further suspensions.

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.

Appeals:

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If you wish to appeal a suspension:

For junior competition – please consult with your club for support around appealing

For senior competition – please consult with you team representative

After consultation, please submit your appeal in writing to operations@gsba.com.au within 24 hours for consideration.

Your suspension will remain in place until a review is completed.

Reviews will be completed within 2 business days.

Final decisions will be communicated within 2 business days of the review.