



### Player Behaviour 2016

Detailed as follows, is an extract from the Basketball New Zealand Internal Regulations covering the Code of Conduct and Fair Play for Players. A number of recent behaviours throughout the sport nationally have prompted the need to remind players of the behaviour expected of them.

#### C3 Code of conduct and fair play for players

C3.1 Players shall conduct themselves in a manner which brings credit to themselves and the game and shall:

- (a) Play according to the letter and intent of the rules and regulations of basketball and of the particular game, tournament, or league in which they are participating.
- (b) Play in a spirit of competitive sportsmanship accepting the official's decisions without dissent.
- (c) Control their behaviour on and off the court and refrain from any violent or abusive actions and language.
- (d) Co-operate fully with their coach and team mates, remembering that they are participating in a team sport.
- (e) Respect their opponents and not participate in any baiting, verbal abuse, or intimidating activities.
- (f) Be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

C3.2 Players shall accept refereeing with good grace:

- (a) Approaches to referees shall be by the (court) captain and/or head coach only and in accordance with the provisions of FIBA Official Basketball Rules.
- (b) Court captains (and coaches) are to approach referees in a courteous and reasonable manner.

C3.3 Players shall refrain from:

- (a) Continually following officials to question decisions.
- (b) Dissenting from decisions, either with words or body language.
- (c) Making gestures with waves of arms, indecent body language, facial expressions, and other similar actions of dissent.
- (d) "Mouthing off" when officials turn their backs or the player turns away from the official.

(e) Using rude, offensive and/or threatening language.

Having observed the reaction of players to referees' calls in New Zealand at the National Championship level for the past years, we feel that there is now a need to clean up this area of the game.

A National Championship is the pinnacle of junior basketball in New Zealand. With a large volume of spectators, it provides the image of the game for many New Zealanders. It is therefore essential that we are mindful of this with the actions and behaviour of players, coaches and team followers.

No referee can have an excellent game without a reasonable amount of co-operation from players and coaches. Referees must understand the heart and soul of players and coaches and apply appropriate game management in order to gain their trust in return for their correct respectful behaviour. However, unfortunately sometimes situations of disrespectful behaviour occur. If so the coaches, players and team followers should not be allowed to become the centre of attention with their theatrical gestures and constant complaining. Such behaviour is not to be tolerated.

At this stage we would like to engage the support of the Associations and Coaches with this move and propose the following:

Coaches discuss this with their players and use the Basketball NZ Regulations to indicate what SHOULD be happening;

Players are advised that for the image of the game, Basketball NZ is expecting appropriate reactions by players to calls. This will see a Technical Foul called for the following:

- To follow a referee in a questionable or aggressive manner after the whistle has been blown for a call
- Constant questioning of a referee about a call, in a manner that is not respectful or publicly demonstrating non-acceptance of the call
- Gestures to referees that show public disapproval of a call (e.g. waving of a referee in a dismissive manner)

At the U17 level and below, only the Captain is to communicate with the officials. This must be done in a courteous manner for the purpose of obtaining information, only when the ball becomes dead and the game clock is stopped.

This is a FIBA rule that has not until now been enforced nationally in New Zealand. Referees are encouraged to communicate with players

Should you require any further information on this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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