



## BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

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### 1. PURPOSE

This document and its associated frameworks aim to ensure that the basketball environment is safe and welcoming, promoting the development and retention of players, coaches, and officials.

This framework provides the operational policies and procedures for responsibilities, communication, the management and reporting of behavioural incidents, sanctions, and appeal rights.

The associated frameworks are as follows and should be read in conjunction with the framework:

- Basketball SA Codes of Behaviour
- Basketball SA Codes of Entry
- Basketball SA Grievance, Dispute and Complaint Handling Policy
- Basketball Australia Member Protection Policy

Basketball SA recognises that an inclusive and positive culture is needed to enable participants to learn and grow in an environment free from harassment, bullying, and degrading or intimidating behaviour.

The framework aims to uphold the Basketball SA strategic pillars by:

- Securing basketball as the sport of choice for generations to come.
- Uniting the basketball community.
- Promoting inclusion across wheelchair basketball, culturally diverse groups, and people of all abilities.

This framework reflects the best practices of bodies such as Sport Australia, which support changing sports culture. There is no excuse to act poorly towards others.

Through this framework, Basketball SA is striving for a culture within our sport where:

- Respect is shown for one another.
- The basketball community is supportive and positive.
- Positive barracking is the accepted standard.
- Feedback given to players and referees is respectful and delivered via the correct channels.
- Feedback is delivered appropriately and with respect.

A positive culture is dependent on everyone doing their part.

## **2. SCOPE**

This framework applies to all individuals attending Basketball SA-managed or affiliated competitions, excluding NBL1 Central, which is governed by FIBA rules, the Rules of Operation, and Licence Agreements. The framework applies to all coaches, team managers, staff, players, referees, technical officials and spectators.

## **3. DEFINITIONS**

Basketball SA-managed, or affiliated competition means any competition or tournament managed by Basketball SA or its affiliated members.

Behavioural Technical Foul (BTF) means a penalty applied when a participant (player, coach, or manager) shows a form of dissent or disrespect (by word or action) towards match officials, a referee or their calls.

Occurrence means a behavioural incident, instance, or issue that occurs at a Basketball SA-managed or affiliated competition.

Organising Body means Basketball SA for competitions managed by Basketball SA or the affiliated association or club for non-Basketball SA-managed competitions.

Member Protection Complaint means a complaint made by an aggrieved person who feels the [Basketball SA Member Protection Policy](#) has been breached.

Tribunal Report means a report of any person, team, or club lodged with the Organising Body for an alleged breach of charges defined in the [Basketball SA Tribunal By-Laws](#).

Staff means any official undertaking the role of a court supervisor, stadium services officer, games commissioner, umpire in charge, venue supervisor, or other similar roles.

Unacceptable Behaviour means any behaviour that breaches the [Basketball SA Codes of Behaviour](#).

Warning Cards mean a physical card, given by staff or officials, to spectators who have breached the Codes of Behaviour or this Framework.

#### **4. FRAMEWORK**

Behaviour considered abusive, degrading, derogatory, discriminatory, or intimidating is unacceptable from anyone in the South Australian basketball community and constitutes a breach of the Codes of Behaviour.

Everyone has a responsibility to maintain a safe environment. Basketball SA encourages calling out inappropriate behaviour.

Basketball SA is committed to creating an environment where participants (including players, coaches, and officials) are supported in growing and developing. This includes providing a safe environment in which it is safe to make mistakes. The continual improvement of the

sport depends on players, coaches, and officials wanting to participate, and allowing them to learn and develop their skills without fear of abuse is imperative to their retention.

#### 4.1. ORGANISING BODY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- Administer the framework and investigate alleged breaches promptly, keeping affected parties informed and communicating outcomes to ensure fairness and accountability.
- Aim for a ratio of at least one staff member for every two courts in use.
- Ensure that staff fulfil a liaison role between coaches, captains and referees.
- Where possible, roster experienced referees with less-experienced referees.
- Share relevant information regarding occurrences with club/team administrators.
- Notify clubs/teams when a member has been issued two or more BTFs in the same year. Notifications are sent out weekly, and clubs are encouraged to follow up if they have concerns about unreported BTFs.

#### 4.2. COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS

Communication between referees, teams, and staff facilitates learning in all age groups. However, there are situations in which some parties to the communication are still developing the skills to respond and engage effectively. Communication with all officials, including young people, should be age-appropriate, respectful and constructive.

If a referee is comfortable with questions from coaches during dead-ball periods of a game (based on their experience or accreditation), they may inform coaches at the start of the game. However, the referee can revoke this permission if questions are not asked at an appropriate time or in an appropriate manner. The referee must notify the coaches and staff when this permission is revoked.

The following communication protocols will be enacted:

Approaching Officials

- Officials in a Green Shirt
  - No questions may be asked of any official in a green shirt.
- All Other Officials:
  - During a dead-ball period, coaches/team captains may ask, brief, respectful questions to clarify a ruling.
  - During a break in play (e.g., a time-out or quarter-time), coaches/team captains may have any conversation that involves a challenge to or provides feedback on a call. This must be done respectfully.
  - Once an official has given a response, this must be accepted and continue with the game once an answer has been given.
- Young referees (Under 18) must wear a green whistle/lanyard to serve as a symbol of learning support and safeguarding for young referees.

#### Communication by Officials

- Officials are expected to show mutual respect when answering questions from coaches and captains.
- Officials have the right to delay an answer or choose not to provide an answer to a question asked at an inappropriate time.
- Officials may administer warnings or BTFs if a coach or captain does not accept their answer to a question.

#### 4.3. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

All clubs/teams must ensure that all persons under their control comply with the organising body's Governance & Operational policies, Guidelines and Rules of Operations.

Team personnel (coaches and team managers) are each responsible for addressing inappropriate behaviour from within their team (players, spectators, volunteers). Team managers will be the first point of contact for staff when addressing unacceptable

behaviour, given their existing relationships with team players, parents, spectators, and volunteers. If there is no team manager, the staff will engage with the coach.

Team Managers (or the coach if there is no team manager) will be asked to speak directly with the people involved in the first instance and issue them a Warning Card. If the unacceptable behaviour continues, the staff/referee will stop the game, issue a Behavioural Technical Foul against the spectators' team, and eject the spectator from the building. Coaches or managers may be asked to provide staff with the names of offenders.

If no team manager and coach is present for a game, any behavioural issues will be managed directly by staff, who will liaise with a team delegate (such as a team captain) in place of a coach or manager.

Staff may contact SAPOL when enforcement of this framework is met with resistance.

#### Responsibility of Coaches and Team Managers

- Coaches/captains and referees/staff should introduce themselves to each other before the game starts.
- Team Managers and staff should introduce themselves to each other before the start of the game.
- Ensure that only team personnel (coaches, managers & players) occupy the team bench.
- Follow the direction of the staff if asked to speak to club or team spectators about their behaviour and adherence to the Codes of Behaviour.
- Liaise with and work with the staff to remove spectators who refuse to adhere to the Codes of Behaviour.
- Confirm the identity of suspended persons if they are present in a venue when asked by the staff, referee or referee coach.

#### 4.4. SPECTATOR CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Basketball SA encourages positive support and barracking. Coaches or team managers are responsible for working with staff to manage occurrences where spectators breach the Codes of Behaviour.

##### Responsibility of Spectators and the Warning Card System

To support a positive and respectful environment across our statewide basketball program, we are introducing a Warning Card System to address off-court behaviour issues. This system is designed to promote accountability and ensure that off-court spectators and supporters uphold the conduct standards expected within our community. By providing a clear and consistent process for managing inappropriate behaviour, the Warning Card System will help us maintain a safe, enjoyable, and supportive atmosphere for everyone involved in the game.

Expected behaviours include;

- Respecting officials' decisions and demonstrating to young people to do the same
- Never ridicule or scold a player or official for making a mistake.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form.
- Refrain from using offensive language.
- Do not vilify, sledge, or harass players, coaches, team managers or officials.
- Respect every person's rights, dignity and worth, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture or religion.

Any breach of the above codes should be reported to staff. Staff will use the following procedure when they witness or when occurrences are reported to them:

- Staff will liaise with the team manager, or the coach or captain in the absence of a team manager, to collaboratively manage the occurrence.

- As a first step, the staff and the team representative will present a warning card to the offending spectator(s). The team representative must be an adult (18 years or older).
- If the spectator does not comply with the warning or, at any further point, exhibits additional breaches of the Codes of Behaviour, the game will be stopped, and the staff will direct the spectator to leave the court area. A behavioural technical foul will be issued to the spectators' team bench.
- If the initial occurrence warrants, the staff may determine that a warning card is not a strong enough action and may immediately direct the spectator to leave the court area.

For clarity, a direction to leave the court area constitutes an ejection from the venue for the remainder of the game and triggers all associated sanctions. In instances where a spectator fails to comply with a staff direction, officials will be instructed to stop the game, and staff will contact SAPOL for assistance. The game will not resume until the spectator has complied with the staff's directions.

The club/association/team delegate will be contacted with the details of the offending spectator.

Refer to 4.8. for sanctions if any spectator is ejected from a game.

#### 4.5. BEHAVIOURAL TECHNICAL FOUL (BTF)

Officials will manage unacceptable behaviour by a player, coach, or team manager within a game by following the FIBA rules for Technical Fouls (Article 36.2). However, the penalty for a Behavioural Technical Foul, as defined in this Framework, will be administered in the following ways:

- The official calls a Behavioural Technical Foul against a member of Team A.
- Any player from Team B will shoot two (2) Free Throws.
- Possession of the ball will remain with Team B, with a throw-in awarded to them at the Free Throw line extended.

- In any U10, U12 and U14 age group, any coach or manager receiving a BTF will automatically be ejected from that game.

#### 4.6. BEHAVIOURAL TECHNICAL FOUL REVIEWS

Associations, clubs, or teams can submit a review of BTFs issued to their members within 48 hours of receiving written notice of a BTF. The submission must be made in writing, stating the grounds for the review. The submission must be accompanied by evidence that a fee of \$150 has been deposited into the Organising Bodies' bank account.

The Organising Body will appoint a qualified representative to investigate the BTF, with consideration given to the following:

- A statement provided by the offender.
- A statement from the presiding official and staff.
- Any other witness account provided.

An upheld review will result in the BTF being removed from the offender's record and the \$150 fee being refunded. There will be no avenue for compensation concerning the penalty applied at the time the call was made (i.e., any points scored from the resulting Free Throws and possession will stand).

The decision of the appointed representative is final.

#### 4.7. OCCURRENCE REPORTING FRAMEWORK

Occurrence reports can be made in the following ways:

Shift Summary

Staff will record unacceptable behaviour and submit details of Warning Cards issued to the Organising Body. The Organising Body will be responsible for tracking Warning Cards given to each club or team for further analysis.

BTF Submission

Details of BTFs issued by officials must be submitted to the Organising Body. The Organising Body will be responsible for tracking BTFs for each participant. The tally of BTFs will be reset to zero at the beginning of the basketball year (October 1).

#### Tribunal Report

An official can submit a Tribunal Report, which will be actioned under the Basketball SA Tribunal By-Laws. Reports must be submitted within four (4) days of the relevant match or other activity, as prescribed in the Basketball SA Tribunal By-Laws.

#### General Complaint

Any person can submit a written complaint through their club, as outlined in the Basketball SA Grievance, Dispute, and Complaint Handling Policy.

#### Member Protection Complaint

Basketball SA and each member association or club have a Member Protection Information Officer who can assist in providing the options available, as prescribed in the [Basketball Australia Member Protection Policy](#).

## 4.8. SANCTIONS

#### Breaches of the Behaviour Management Framework

- Any spectator ejected from a game will receive an automatic two-game venue/competition suspension.
- An automatic four-game suspension will apply to any spectator ejected twice in the same season.
- A spectator ejected three times in the same season will receive an indefinite suspension. The person must complete a Level 0 Referee Course and a Play by the Rules course.

Number of BTFs in the Same Season	Penalty for Players, Coaches or Team Managers
1	U10, U12 & U14 only, any coach or team manager - automatic ejection. Warning Letter provided to players, and to coaches or team managers in other age groups.
2	\$150 Fine
3	One (1) game suspension  Must complete a Play by the Rules Course
4	Three (3) additional games' suspension
5	Five (5) additional games' suspension  Must complete a Level 0 Referee Course
6	Indefinite Suspension

Where a sanction has not been served in full at the end of a season, the remainder will be served in the following season.