



## WABL Zero Tolerance Policy

*Effective from the 2012 Season*

Basketball WA continues to provide a safe, fun and tolerant environment for its Players, Coaches, Officials and Spectators participating in the WA Basketball League (WABL). The WABL is WA's premier junior age basketball competition and provides a pathway for the development of junior Players, Coaches and Officials. In order to provide a safe and supportive environment for young Players and Referees, BWA has introduced a "Zero-Tolerance" Policy for all teams competing in the WABL from the under 12 to under 16 age groups.

This policy will be trialled for the 2012 season. This policy will be reviewed and if successful will be implemented for following WABL seasons.

### **The Policy**

In the 2012 WABL season, any member of a team, whether they be a Player, Coach, Assistant Coach or Manager will be issued with a Technical Foul if they are found to be questioning (outside of designated times), berating or intimidating a Referee.

Examples of unacceptable behaviour includes:

- Offensive language on or off the court;
- Loud jeering or making derogatory comments;
- Questioning of any calls made by the Referee outside of designated times; and
- Offensive body language (e.g. aggressive movements, stares) that intimidates the Referee.

There will be no right to warning if any of these events occur and Teams and Coaches are advised that no questions relating to game decisions should be asked to the Referees whilst the game is in play. As part of the policy, the Head Coach or his/her Assistant Coach (must be named on score sheet) may ask questions in a polite and respectful manner during quarter breaks, half time and during a time out.

Once the question is answered by the Official/s, the Head Coach or his/her Assistant Coach must refrain from persistent questioning that may lead to intimidation or harassment of the Official. Provided that questions are asked in a respectful and polite manner, Referees must answer queries to the best of their ability in a succinct manner, engaging in prolonged discussion is not desired. At any time, if the Official feels that questions are no longer productive, they can ask the Coach to stop, until the next appropriate stoppage of quarter time, half time or time out.

The introduction of this policy is designed to help foster the development of junior Referees and provide a safe and conducive environment to officiate these games. This policy is designed to help promote good sporting behaviour from Coaches and their teams and a greater respect for Officials.



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Sport and Recreation**

Stadium Managers and Referee Coaches will continue to have the capability to remove members of the crowd who exhibit bad behaviour after a warning has been issued and no adjustment made on any unruly behaviour. This approach will continue to be in place for all age groups.

## Reporting System

Referees, Referee Coaches and Stadium Managers can all report offending person/s. Any Coach/Player/Team Official that is ejected must be reported by the Stadium Manager on the WABL Report Form supplied by BWA to ensure that the appropriate follow-up action occurs.

Coaches and Club Officials will have the opportunity to report the poor performance of a Referee via an Officials Complaint Form provided to each club and supplied by BWA. This form is to be submitted to the club for review and endorsement prior to submission to BWA. BWA will review the complaint, monitor and proceed with corrective actions.

## Coaches

Coaches who receive two Coach Technical Fouls or three bench Technical Fouls (Technical Fouls issued directly to the Coach or for behaviour on the team bench) will be ejected from the game (as per FIBA rules) and asked to leave the playing arena. The Head Coach is responsible for the behaviour of their Assistant Coaches, Managers and Players on the bench at all times. Failure of the Coach to leave the stadium will result in the team forfeiting the game. The ejected Head Coach will be reported to the BWA Competitions Administrator via the Stadium Manager and **automatically suspended for the next WABL game** their team is scheduled to play. This is not inclusive of bye rounds if applicable on the draw. If a Coach is consistently receiving Technical Fouls or is being regularly suspended, the club will be notified and asked to provide education on correct behaviour to the Coach.

## Players

Players who are awarded two Technical Fouls will be ejected from the game and asked to leave the playing arena. Failure of the Player to leave the stadium will result in the team forfeiting the game. This Player will be reported and will be **automatically suspended for the next WABL game** their team is scheduled to play. This is not inclusive of bye rounds on the draw. If a Player is consistently receiving Technical Fouls or is being regularly suspended, the club will be notified and asked to provide education on correct behaviour to the Player.

It is important for all to remember that Referees are a vital part of our game. Referee Coaches and Referee Coordinators are present at venues on WABL days to help deliver feedback on Referee performance. The nature of the game is that mistakes will occur and it is important that we allow young, developing Referees to make these mistakes and be given an opportunity to make positive adjustments without a tirade of abuse and intimidation in their learning environment.

## Ongoing Penalties

If a Player or Coach has been suspended on more than two occasions, upon the 3<sup>rd</sup> ejection the Coach or Player will be required to appear at the WABL tribunal to explain his or her continued actions and face a greater suspension.

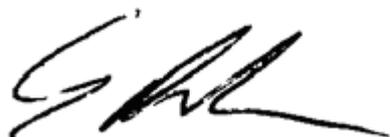
## Why only Under 16's and below

The policy will be implemented at Under 16's age group and below due to the fact that this is where most of our less experienced (and at times green shirt Referees) will be officiating. The protection of less experienced referees has been identified by BWA as crucial to the longevity of Referee involvement in our

WABL competitions. It is also important for players in these age groups to learn to control their emotions and to respect all Officials.

At Under18's and above, a new Referee philosophy will be implemented that will aim to develop the Referee's Coach and Player management skills. Referees rostered to officiate in games at these older age groups typically should have more experience and must learn to develop their game management skills inclusive of Coach and Player relations. BWA encourages our Referees to engage in positive relationships with Coaches.

Conflict resolution is a major aspect to successful officiating and skill development focusing on de-escalating difficult situations is an area of development for WABL referees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Reynolds', with a stylized, cursive script.

Craig Reynolds

Chief Operating Officer  
Basketball WA

10 April 2012