

Zero Tolerance Policy

The following will be implemented to ALL age groups and divisions.

What the Zero Tolerance Policy means for Players

- The player who follows an official to question decisions is to be warned once and then penalised with a Technical Foul for repeated actions;
- The initial warning is to be taken as given to all players on the team and not just the player in question;
- If the immediate reaction of the player is too strong a Technical Foul will be called immediately;
- There is no place in basketball, especially junior basketball, for swearing, foul language, unpleasant backchat or derogatory remarks and as such it will not be tolerated;
- It is realised that expletives will occur in the 'heat' of the moment but further carry-on is not necessary;
- The offending player should be warned once if appropriate or a Technical Foul should be called immediately if necessary;
- Court captains (or coaches) are to ask questions in a courteous and reasonable manner and action contrary to this instruction is to be penalised, initially with a warning;
- Officials are not to accept being shouted at, pointed at, pushed, touched, spoken 'down' to, threatened or intimidated;
- Frivolous questioning by a court captain is to be penalised immediately;
- Players gesturing with waves of arms, facial expressions, rude gestures, mimicking or degrading bad actions are to be penalised with a Technical Foul immediately;
- Players 'baiting', sledging or intimidating other players on the court are to be penalised initially with one warning and then a Technical Foul;
- A formal warning to one player on the court is to be interpreted as applying to all players;
- If the incident warrants it a Technical Foul should be awarded immediately;
- Under no circumstances are players to swear at or use derogatory language towards officials;
- Such incidents are to be penalised immediately with a Technical Foul;

What the Zero Tolerance Policy means for Coaches

- The coach must relay these instructions to the players and officials in his team and reinforce their meaning and the applicable penalties especially to the players;
- The coach must not only control his team but accept responsibility for the actions of the team on and off the court, before, during and after the game;
- If a coach wishes to talk to the official he is to request a Time Out through the Scoretable;
- If the official considers the request reasonable he will grant the Time Out as an Official's Time Out and cancel the Time Out against the team;
- If the request is regarded as being inappropriate or frivolous the official will deny the request or charge a Time Out to the team;
- If all team Time Outs have been used by the Coach a Technical Foul is to be called;
- In extreme circumstances a Technical Foul should be called on a coach for repeated frivolous Time Out requests to question decisions;
- Coaches are to stay in their designated team bench areas;
- Coaches are not to enter the court to talk to officials but to wait at court side;
- If a coach leaves his team bench area or enters the court he is to be warned initially and then penalised with a Technical Foul on the next occasion;
- Assistant Coaches can participate in Team Time Outs or approach the scoretable to seek a Time Out or clarification of the score, foul counts, etc - at all other times they must remain seated on the Team Bench;