



REFEREEING GRADE BASKETBALL

In the interests and the integrity of the game, it is imperative that referees understand that the philosophy of advantage/ disadvantage is not primarily directed at “grass roots” or grade basketball.

It is vitally important that all referees consider the following crucial principles;

- Referees must consistently apply a common sense approach to each game, bearing in mind the abilities of the players concerned and their attitude and conduct throughout the game.
- Referees must primarily maintain game control and understand what the players want and are capable of doing
- If referees are unsure of the abilities and attitudes of the players, then the common sense approach is to apply a literal interpretation of the rules. That is, follow the rules exactly as stated, which would require any contact infraction and violation to be called.

At the risk of over simplification, 99% of “grass roots” basketball is not conducive to officials totally applying the philosophies as written in the rulebook. It is extremely important at this level of basketball that the players enjoy their involvement and maintain a desire to continue to play. Players at this level often believe in the age old adage that basketball is a “non contact” sport and consequently do not appreciate and understand the interpretation of advantage/disadvantage.

Like all sports , there are many variations and standards of basketball player abilities. It is the responsibility of sporting officials to recognize and adapt to these variations.

The strength of basketball is reliant on the “grass roots” levels expanding and developing, and it is the responsibility of basketball referees to nurture this development.

Remember, officiating is a customer service business. The customers are there for an enjoyable athletic experience. Referees are there to enhance the experience and make sure the game is played within the spirit of the rules.

- ❖ Contact by a defensive player on a shooter is a foul
- ❖ Bumping or handchecking of a dribbler by a defensive player is a foul
- ❖ Bumping a cutter is a foul
- ❖ Swearing by a player or coach must always be a technical foul
- ❖ Deliberate contact with an opponent must always be called an unsportsmanlike foul
- ❖ If a player or coach continually disputes a referee's decision it must be a technical foul
- ❖ Advantage/disadvantage is not to be applied in grade Games
- ❖ If you are unsure as to whether a foul is a shooting foul, always call a shooting foul
- ❖ If you are unsure as to whether or not points should be awarded (for example after a foul; on a shooter) always count the points
- ❖ When refereeing, where appropriate, talk to the players about their actions and your calls.