
MEMORANDUM

To: All State / Territory CEOs
Cc: All Associations - for immediate distribution
From: Bruce Keirs – Manager, Education & Officials Development
Subject: 2010 FIBA Official Basketball Rules
Date: Friday 15th October, 2010

Summary of Changes

The official basketball rules are published by FIBA and apply to all international games. Basketball Australia similarly applies the rules in our national leagues and championships.

Basketball Australia encourages local associations to consider the appropriateness of the international rules for their domestic competitions. Many associations introduce rule variations (e.g. the addition of a closer free throw line, a “no grab” rule in younger age groups or a sin bin) make their competitions more even and exciting. Similarly, Basketball Australia has the “no zone defence” rule at U14 Australian Club Championships, which is a variation to the international rules.

Another common variation is different game timings and most domestic competitions do not use a shot clock. Basketball Australia particularly encourages local associations to be flexible with the rulings on uniforms, compression garments, mouthguards and taping for domestic competition to encourage participation. FIBA has advised the 2010 Official Basketball Rules will take effect in international competition after the World Championships in 2010.

Given that the qualification for the 2012 Olympics will be played under the 2010 rules and the new court markings, the national leagues have introduced these changes in the 2010/11 seasons, so that players can prepare for the qualification series (to be played in 2011). Similarly, it is envisaged introducing the changes at national junior championships and Australian Club Championships in 2011.

The new rule book can be downloaded from the FIBA website and a version of the rules that has the changes highlighted can be downloaded from the Basketball Australia website, through the sub-menu for “Rules”.

This is a summary of the changes to the Official Basketball Rules and the recommendations from Basketball Australia.

Court Markings

Art. 2.4.3 – The Key

The restricted area (“The Key”) has been changed to a rectangle 5.8m by 3.6m. There has been no change to the rules and interpretations related to the three second violation.

- ❖ **For international competition the restricted area must be painted, however Basketball Australia is not adopting that requirement.**

Art. 2.4.4 – 3 Point Line

The three point line has been extended from 6.25m to 6.75m. The related rules and interpretations remain unchanged.

- ❖ **Basketball Australia recommends that courts should be marked with both 3 point lines (6.25m and 6.75m). The closer line will be used for U14 Australian Club Championships and possibly the U16 Australian Junior Championships.**
 - **Basketball NSW will be only adopting the FIBA 3 Point Line (6.75m), for all Leagues including Juniors.**
- ❖ **The new 6.75m 3 point line should be marked in white (or the same colour as the rest of the basketball court lines) and the old 6.25m 3 point line should be in an alternate colour i.e. yellow, red, green, blue or black.**

Art. 2.4.6/17.2.4 – Inbound Line

A throw-in line 15cm long, outside the playing court, will be marked 8.325m from the end line (at the top of the three point arc) on the sideline opposite the scorer’s table. This line is used in the last two minutes of the fourth period or any extra period, when the team entitled to a throw-in from its back court has taken a time-out and the ball is advanced up the court for the throw in.

- ❖ **Previously this throw-in was administered at the half way line, opposite the scorer’s table.**

Art. 2.4.7 – No Charge Semi-Circle

No-charge semi-circles, each with a radius of 1.25 metres, will be drawn on the court from centre point immediately below each basket. Each semi-circle will have a radius of 1.25m. Art 33.10 describes the rule related to these areas (see below).

Uniforms and Equipment

Art 4.3.1

Socks of the same dominant colour must be worn by all players on the team.

- ❖ The NBL and WNBL will enforce this rule however Basketball Australia recommends that it not apply at domestic level and it won't be enforced at Australian Junior Championships.
- Basketball NSW will also not be enforcing this rule.

Art. 4.4.2

Four additions have been made to the list of "other equipment" that players may legally wear in international competition. Basketball Australia encourages local associations to apply flexibility in domestic competitions and not enforce the rules strictly.

- (a) Compression sleeves may be worn provided they are of the same dominant colour as the team shirts.
- (b) Compression stockings may be worn provided they are of the same dominant colour as the team's shorts. If worn on the upper leg the stocking must end above the knee; if for the lower leg it must end below the knee.
- (c) Mouth guards must be non-coloured and transparent.
- ❖ Basketball Australia encourages the use of mouth guards and won't be making a stipulation on the colour of the mouth guards. It is preferred that they are of a solid colour but the focus should be to encourage the players to wear one and not add a restriction to them. If a player is selected to play in an International team then the mouth guard must be non-coloured and transparent to play in the international tournament.
- Basketball NSW also encourages the use of mouth guards and will follow this BA recommendation.
- (d) Taping of arms, shoulders, legs, etc must be non-coloured and transparent.
- ❖ In recent times the Kinesiology Tape (Kinesio) as per the attached photo, is appearing more prominent on the sporting fields. A supplier of the tape has informed Basketball Australia that the properties for the different colours are all the same and it is manufactured in beige and black.
- ❖ The strapping of ankles and shoulders will be the same and beige or black will be still permissible.

Art. 4.4.3

During the game a player may not display any commercial, promotional or charitable name, mark, logo or other identification including, but not limited to, on his body, in his hair or otherwise.

Timing

Art. 8.6/9.1/9.2/10.2 - Beginning of a period

At the start of the game, the ball becomes live and the game commences when the ball leaves the referee's hand(s) on the jump ball (Art. 8.6/9.1)

❖ **The game clock does not commence until the ball is legally tapped by one of the players in the jump ball. (Art 49.2)**

For all other periods and extra periods, the period begins when the ball is placed at the disposal of the thrower-in (Art. 8.6/9.2).

Art. 16.2.5 - Shot taken in final three-tenths of a second in a period

For a player to secure possession of the ball and attempt a field goal

- (a) Following a throw-in or
- (b) On a rebound after a last or only free throw, the game clock must indicate more than 0.00.3 (three-tenths of a second) is remaining until the end of the period. If less than three tenths remains, a valid field goal must result from tapping or directly dunking the ball.

– **Basketball NSW will not be adopting this rule as appropriate timing equipment is not widely available.**

Art. 28.1.1/28.1.2 - Eight-seconds in the backcourt

When a throw-in is administered in a team's backcourt, the 8-second count shall start/resume when the ball touches any player (offensive or defensive) in the backcourt, while the team of the player making the throw-in remains in control of the ball.

Art 28 has also been amended to clarify when the ball moves from the back to the front court.

The ball is in the frontcourt when:-

- (a) It touches or is legally touched by a defensive player who has part of his body in contact with his backcourt (that is, the offensive team's frontcourt)
 - (b) It is touched by an offensive player who has both feet in the front court.
 - (c) Though not in control of any player, it touches the frontcourt
 - (d) It touches an official who has part of their body in the frontcourt
 - (e) During a dribble from the backcourt to the frontcourt, both feet of the dribbler and the ball are in contact with the frontcourt.
- ❖ **The change relates to when the offensive player catches a pass near the half way line. They are not in the front court until both feet touch the front court. For example, if they catch a pass whilst straddling the half way line, the ball is still in the back court.**

- ❖ Also, if an offensive player jumps from his back court landing with one foot in the front court followed by the other foot landing in the back court, this is not a violation and the ball is still in the back court.
- ❖ Another example of a legal play is if the offensive player is straddling the line when they caught the ball, they can pivot off either foot without a violation being called.
- ❖ If offence is in their back court with the ball, pivots and places one foot in the front court they can pivot again and put the foot back in the back court without a violation being called.

Art. 29.1.1 - Twenty-four seconds

On a throw-in, the 24-second clock shall start when the ball touches or is legally touched by any player (offensive or defensive) on the playing court, provided the team of the player making the throw-in remains in control of the ball.

- ❖ Whilst the defensive touching the ball now starts the 24 second clock, the clock does not reset unless they gain control (e.g. catch it).

Art. 29.2.1 – 14 second reset

Article 29.2 has undergone a significant re-wording that includes a major rule change.

When the 24 second clock has to be reset and the ball is in the front court (e.g. a defensive foul that does not result in free throws), If the resulting throw-in is to be administered in the backcourt, the 24-second clock shall be reset to 24 seconds.

1. If 14 seconds or more remained on the 24-second clock at the time the game was stopped, the 24-second clock shall not be reset but shall remain the same.
2. If the resulting throw-in is to be administered in the frontcourt and 13 seconds or less are displayed on the 24-second clock at the time the game was stopped, the 24-second clock shall be reset to 14 seconds.

The reset signal (Signal #9) is used by the referee to signal both 14 and 24 second resets.

Other Rule Changes

- **Basketball NSW will be adopting this rule in 2011 for Senior Leagues ONLY. This will be reviewed for the 2012 Junior Leagues Season.**

Forfeit

Art. 20.2.3

If a team forfeits for a second time in the same tournament, that team shall be disqualified and the results of all games played by that team shall be nullified.

No-charge semi-circle

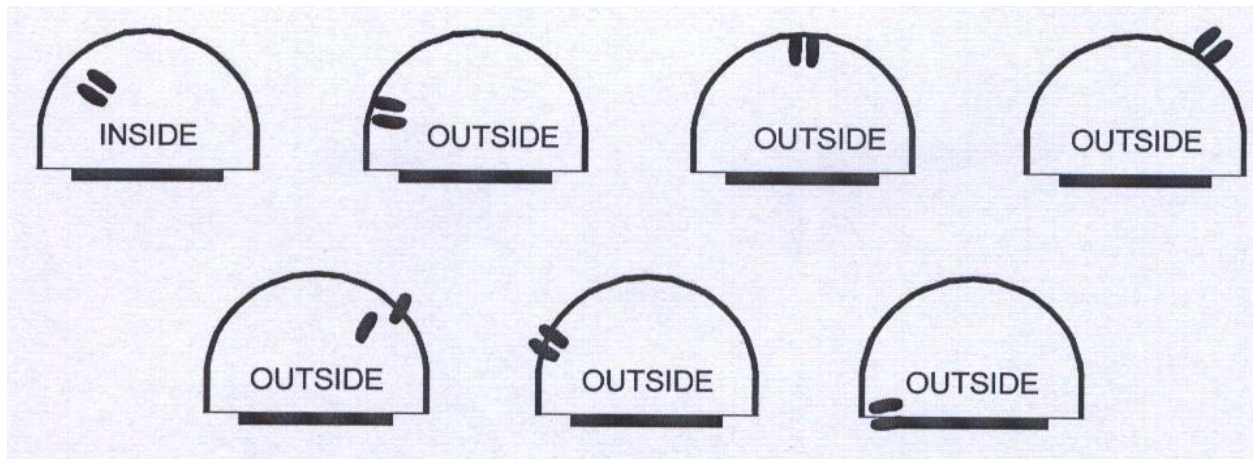
Art. 33.10

When an offensive player drives into the key and causes contact against a defender who is inside the no-charge semi-circle, an offensive foul shall not be called, provided:

- (a) The offensive player is in control of the ball while airborne and attempts a shot or passes;
- (b) The defensive player has both feet inside the no-charge semi-circle area;
- (c) The offensive player does not illegally use hands, arms, legs or body.

❖ A DVD, *Semi-circle Principles* has been produced by FIBA and distributed to the states by Basketball Australia.

❖ The following diagrams (from the FIBA Official Interpretations) are examples of defensive position, showing whether or not the defender is in or outside the circle



Referee: duties and powers

Art. 46.12

The authority given to the referee to use technical equipment has been extended to allow him to use this equipment at the end of a period to determine whether a successful goal attempt counts for 2 or 3 points. This is also referred to in Appendix C, Protest Procedure, section C4.

❖ Basketball Australia will not be adopting this rule as appropriate video equipment is not widely available