

PLAYER / COACH BEHAVIOUR - Respect for Our Game

A Behavioural Technical Foul – Obvious Negative Behaviour

- Shows some form of dissent (by word or action) towards a referee or their calls.
- Shows some form of disrespect (by word or action) towards match officials

Warnings can be issued for the following:

In cases like these, the referee will attempt to issue a warning to the player/coach although they are not required to do so.

- Continuing to discuss a call after the referee has responded
- Holding arms in the air following a call for a prolonged period of time
- Attempting to demonstrate actions such as traveling etc.
- Repeatedly asking questions, making comments, or gesturing in response to calls.

Behavioural Technical Foul without warning:

In cases like these, the referee will issue a Technical Foul ;

- Wave offs, aggressive or excessive motioning of the arms
- Aggressive hand claps directed at an official or showing resentment for a call or non-call
- Running towards or aggressively approaching a referee
- Shouting a reaction to a call or using profanity
- Extended or prolonged complaining about a call, particularly after being told to stop
- Not responding to a warning by repeating the action (or some other disrespectful action)

Three Step Process

Officials are encouraged to try where possible, to prevent from calling a technical foul by anticipating and reading the problem and consequently addressing the behaviour before having to deal with it with a technical foul.

Officials are to consider using a 3-step process when dealing

Step 1:

Officials are encouraged to attempt to de-escalate the situation with effective communication techniques; clearly articulating the behaviour is not acceptable. Give the player respect by acknowledging you have heard their comments.

Step 2:

If the inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour continues, the referee is to issue a warning.

This will involve the referee blowing their whistle and giving an obvious, clear and audible warning to the player / coach in a way that everyone knows a warning has been given.

The official will use words similar to “Coach / Player, your behaviour is unacceptable / inappropriate and this is a warning for you to stop that behaviour. If you continue, next time will be a technical foul.” The official is to ensure that their partners are aware of this warning.

At the same time, the official will reinforce this verbal warning with visual signals. This includes a ‘continuation / next time’ hand gesture and a “technical foul” signal.

Step 3:

If the inappropriate / unacceptable behaviour continues, issue a technical foul.

NOTE:

In the event that the behaviour of the coach / player is at such an unacceptable level, officials are entitled to progress immediately to either Step 2 or Step 3.

The process described does not preclude the possibility of the Player/Coach being reported directly to the Tribunal using existing systems.

(Please Note: Behavioural Technical Fouls in NSBL are centrally recorded by administration. Repeat offenders will receive additional penalties involving match suspension and/or fines)

Permissible, Under the Respect for Our Game rules

Coaches and Team Captains can:

- Question a call, as long as the reaction is not aggressive, overly demonstrative nor prolonged.
- Approach the referee to ask a question, as long as it’s done in a courteous manner, is not prolonged and ends when the official has provided an answer.
- Communicate with the referee to obtain information, only when the ball is dead and the game clock is stopped.

Not permissible under the Respect for Our Game rules, but can and should result in a warning:

- Holding arms in the air for a prolonged period of time.
- Continuing to try and discuss a call after the official has responded.
- Demonstrating a signal for a call – for example, travel or a type of foul.
- Repeatedly asking questions, making comments or gesturing.

Not permissible under the Respect for Our Game rules, (usually) resulting in the calling of a Technical Foul

Clear examples of dissent or disrespect are:

- Using profanity or shouting after a call.
- Aggressive hand claps directed at an official.
- Running towards or aggressively approaching an official.
- Wave offs, aggressive or excessive arm motions.
- Prolonged complaining about a call, particularly after being told to stop.
- Frantically running away from a play after a call or non-call.
- Not responding to a warning by repeating the action (or some other disrespectful action)
- Using language or gestures likely to incite or offend spectators.

Technical Foul – the penalty is 2 shots plus possession.

Team Benches

Teams are expected to remain seated whilst the game is in motion. It is understood that teams will stand to acknowledge their teammates or exciting play from time to time. Teams are expected to remain seated and comply with requests from officials to be seated.

Score Bench Interaction

At no time shall a player or coach be disrespectful to the technical officials (score bench and statisticians). Players and coaches are asked to approach and engage with technical officials in a positive manner and be respectful of the supporting role they play in the delivery of the game.

As a general comment we have been a little concerned that referees appear to be issuing Technical Fouls without warning or following the three step process. While many of these automatic technical fouls are justified the general consensus from the jotforms coming through is that many referees are choosing to ignore the three step process.

Automatic technical fouls are warranted if the player/coach clearly uses one of the examples mentioned as not being permissible under the Respect for the Game rules, referees are usually put in position where they have no choice but to issue a technical foul without warning or following the three step process.

However, In all other cases, referees are instructed to follow the three step process. Any official warning needs to be clearly spelled out to both the player and the coach as the one warning for the entire team. The official warning then puts the onus back onto the team that any further infractions will result in a technical foul. In formal verbal warnings where you ask a player or coach to calm down are Step One of the three step process. However, informal verbal warnings may occur on several occasions throughout the game and should be used as part of your ongoing communication with players and coaches to help maintain control.

When issuing a formal warning against a player, (Step Two) the referee is required to blow their whistle loudly and make it clear to all participants that a warning has been issued. This warning also needs to be communicated to the head coach. If it is the coach that is receiving the warning then the referee should blow their whistle loud enough for everyone to hear and issue the warning directly to the coach. It is also important that the referee issuing the warning communicates this to his partner / crew that any further infractions will result in a technical foul.

It is also important that as referees we distinguish the difference between protesting vs abuse from participants. 'And 1', 'come on ref', 'that's 3 seconds' are forms of protesting that are part of the game and can be defused through informal verbal communication. As referees we often need to determine at times, if some of the comments made by participants can be ignored. In some cases it might be best we turn a deaf ear to some comments that are made out of player frustration and/or passion and within the spirit of the game. In saying this, if these comments continue then a formal verbal warning and following the three step process maybe the easiest way to defuse this form of ongoing behavior.

Comments like "that's a bullshit call ref" is verbal abuse and the referee should commence the three step process. (Step Two).

That's f#@cking bullshit ref" out loud for everyone to hear, we would have no issues with a technical foul being called without having to follow the three step process.