

Senior and Junior Country Championship By-Laws

1. Establishment of By-laws

1.1. The By-laws apply to all divisions. There are some differences and where this is the case it is noted in the By-laws.

2. **The By-laws have been provided to each Association** and have been developed to ensure the efficient operation of the Country Championships, they may change from time to time subject to section three (3).

2.1. Association delegates should acquaint themselves with the responsibilities within the By-laws and ensure the relevant Association personnel are aware of their individual responsibilities.

3. Variation to the By-laws

3.1. The By-laws may be amended only by approval of the Council Executive (CE) or any urgent matters may be considered for adoption by the SACBCI at SACBCI's discretion.

4. Management and appeal

4.1. The Executive Officer (EO) shall interpret and apply the By-laws in the first instance and make decisions based on them.

4.2. The CE shall act as a point of appeal for decisions made by the EO in relation to the By-laws.

4.3. The EO is empowered to apply penalties in accordance with the By-laws.

5. Appeals

5.1. Appeals relating to decisions made by the EO shall be referred to the CE. There shall be no further appeal.

5.2. Associations must lodge an appeal, in writing through the EO, within seven (7) days of the decision being notified with a bond of \$100. If the appeal is proved to be frivolous, at the discretion of the CE, the bond shall be forfeited.

6. Appeal process

6.1. An appellant seeking an appeal must submit the appeal in writing with the full details of the matter and the decision made by the EO including:

6.1.1. Ground (s) on which the appeal is made; and

6.1.2. Reason (s) or circumstances supporting the ground (s) of appeal.

- 6.2. Upon receipt the EO will forward the submission to the Chair of the CE. The Chair will ask the CE to consider the appeal within seven (7) working days of receipt.
- 6.3. No appellant has the right to appear before the CE, the CE will deal with the matter (s) on written submission only.
- 6.4. The CE shall have the power to:
- 6.4.1. Dismiss the appeal;
 - 6.4.2. Uphold the appeal;
 - 6.4.3. Impose any penalties in accordance with the By-laws;
 - 6.4.4. Reduce, increase or otherwise vary any penalty of the initial decision of the EO in such a manner as it thinks fit.
- 6.5. The CE is not obliged to provide a reason for the decision.
- 6.6. At the conclusion of the appeal, the Chair of the CE shall ensure that the appellant and the EO are informed of the determination by the CE.

7. The Championships

- 7.1. All matches shall commence at the *advertised starting time*.
- 7.2. No team shall take the court with *less than five players*.
- 7.3. If a team is unable to take the court at the advertised time of commencement of a match in which it is participating:
- (a) One point for every minute, or part thereof, that such team is unable to take the court will be awarded to their opponents;
 - (b) The team shall forfeit the match if it cannot take the court within *ten minutes* of the advertised time of commencement, SACBCI may waive such forfeiture for just reason.

Note: It is the responsibility of the Coach/Team Manager to see that their team is ready to play on time.

NB: If a team forfeits a finals match they will be excluded from the remainder of the final series.

- 7.4. The Championships will be conducted under the official FIBA Rules except for the specific rule changes for the championships detailed in these By-laws.

8. Players

8.1. To be eligible to play in the Country Championships, players must be:

8.1.1. A registered financial player of SACBCI and the Association nominating the team (who is also covered by the SACBCI insurance);

8.1.2. Have no immediate family members who are unfinancial with SACBCI. This includes, but is not limited to brothers, sisters and parents;

8.1.3. Juniors Championships – players must have played a minimum percentage (30%) of games for a team competing in the Association's competition in the winter season immediately prior to and/or current summer season.

Senior Championships – players must have played a minimum percentage (30%) of games for a team competing in the Association's competition in current or past seasons.

SACBCI may request proof games played.

When calculating player's games played and where the number is not a whole number, the number will be rounded up to the next whole number e.g. 3.1 goes to 4.

A player, who due to injury/illness fails to qualify with the minimum number (30%) of games played in an Association's competition may apply in writing to SACBCI at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Championships for permission to play. Applications subsequent to the timeline may only request consideration due to injury /illness, which has occurred within the fourteen (14) day period to the start of the Championships. In considering the application SACBCI shall have regard only to two criteria:

- (a) Whether the player is a bona-fide player for the team as indicated by the player being registered and have played for the team prior to the date of the injury/illness or commencement of the season;
- (b) The validity of the injury/illness preventing the player from otherwise qualifying to play in the Championships as indicated by submission of a medical certificate with dates the player was medically unfit to play from a suitably qualified medical practitioner (doctor).

8.1.4. EXCEPTION: In the case of a Junior player (Under 18 and below) they must satisfy Rule 8.1.1 but are exempt from **Rule 8.1.3** if the family home is within the country area of the Association referred to in Rule 8.1.1 and they have represented that Association in a previous SA Country championships.

8.1.5. EXCEPTION: Masters competition.

8.1.6. Teams from Associations not directly affiliated with SA Country Basketball Council may be accepted, subject to the approval of the SACBCI.

8.2. Junior Competition Only

8.2.1. Associations MUST enter their 'number 1' (or best) team in Division 3 or higher in each age group.

8.2.2. A player who is a member of the SA Country Under 16 or 18 State teams in the previous year and/or a member of an SA Country junior development team (such as Southern Cross Challenge, Australian Country Junior Basketball Cup or similar, for U13-18 age groups) team in the current year must be indicated on the official Team Registration Form.

8.2.3. Any Team containing two or more players in the categories in 8.2.2 must nominate in Division 1 of that age group.

8.2.4. Associations may make a request for a review of the division nominated pursuant to 8.2.1 or 8.2.3. A request to review the Division nominated will be considered in accordance with the grading criteria set out in 8.2.5.

8.2.5. Teams will be graded in Divisions and Pools in accordance with the following criteria:

8.2.5.1. All Junior Association tournament results in twelve months prior to the Championships;

8.2.5.2. The results from the Junior Country Championships of the age group below two year's prior;

8.2.5.3. Number and level of development and/or representative players in a team;

8.2.5.4. Ability and/or number of top or bottom age players within the team;

8.2.5.5. Competition balance.

8.2.6. Divisions and Pools may be capped to ensure even and manageable Divisions and Pools.

8.2.7. Pools will be seeded in accordance with the above grading criteria.

8.2.8. If a player is registered and qualified to play with more than one Association, the Association nearest to the player's place of residence will have first claim on that player's services provided that both Association's teams are playing in the same division. Where the Associations' teams are playing in different divisions, the player is entitled to play in the highest division.

8.2.9. If the Association nearest the place of residence of a player (the player's home Association) is not nominating a team in the player's age group the player may request to play for the next nearest Association that has a position available for the player.

8.2.9.1. The player need only have qualified with the minimum percentage of games with the Association nearest the player's place of residence.

8.2.9.2. The request must be made in writing by the player's home Association or must be accompanied by written confirmation from the player's home Association that the Association is unable to nominate a team in the player's age group and consents to that player playing for the nominating Association.

8.2.10. Players must be under age of grade as at December 31st of the current year. SACBCI may request proof of age.

8.2.11. No team will be able to nominate or play with more than 2 players from a lower age group. E.g. U12 > U14 > U16 > U18.

8.3. **Overseas players** contracted to play Basketball and/or with a sporting visa are not eligible to play. Overseas players who have been registered with FIBA for at least three (3) years are eligible to play in the SACBCI Senior Country Championship.

8.4. Any senior player who plays in a higher grade than any Country Association competition (i.e. Premier League or BSA Metropolitan Division 1) must be listed on the Country Championships Nomination form. These players cannot play unless permission from SACBCI is given prior to the Championships. Written proof may be required for eligibility at the request of SA Country Basketball.

In senior divisions, a player must be 14 years of age prior to the Championships in which the player seeks to register and play.

8.5. Any Association, which plays an ineligible player, will be subject to a penalty, which will include forfeiting all matches in which the player took part.

- 8.6. A team may use as many different players as they desire providing all players are named on the official Team Registration Form and have registered online into the Sports TG system, the maximum number of players in a team in any one match is ten.
- 8.7. Players (Senior or Junior) may only play for one team during the course of a Championship weekend.
- 8.8. In an exceptional case, an Association may seek exemption from the above rules for one or more of its players. In such a case, a written request to SACBCI including the appropriate justification must be submitted to SACBCI at least 14 days prior to the start of the Championships.
- 8.9. A fully completed Team Sheet must be sent to the SA Country office by the nominated date. All players must register in the Sports TG online registration system prior to the nominated date. The Sports TG system needs to be checked prior each game and only those participating in that game are to be selected. Team Sheets cannot be altered after all players have registered in the Sports TG system. Players cannot be added courtside after the Team Sheets have been submitted without the express permission of SACBCI.

9. Eligibility for semi-finals and/or grand final

- 9.1. In order to be eligible for finals a player shall:
- (a) Comply with Rule 2
 - (b) Have his/her name on the appropriate TEAM SHEET
 - (c) Have played in TWO PREVIOUS MATCHES (which can include a ¼ Final) for his or her team in the Grade or Division in which they are participating.

10. Uniforms

- 10.1. A player shall not take the court unless wearing his or her team's correct uniform. CORRECT UNIFORM refers to uniformity of tops and shorts. The tops must bear legal numbers and must be tucked in.
- 10.2. T-Shirts are not to be worn under playing uniform unless a medical certificate is provided justifying the need to wear a T-shirt. If a T-shirt is worn it must be the same singlet colour as the playing uniform.
- 10.3. [Undergarments](#) can be worn in accordance with [FIBA rules](#).
- 10.4. Long Shorts with pockets are not correct uniform. Playing uniform with logos (i.e. NBA) are allowed if every member of the team is wearing exactly the same.
- 10.5. Shoes, which mark the playing surface, must NOT BE WORN.

10.6. It is essential that ALL TEAMS are properly dressed. Teams should bring an alternative set of uniforms (different colour) to avoid any clash in colours during the weekend. The second named team is to wear an alternate uniform if there is clash of colours. Teams should check their draw to see if there are any potential uniform clashes and organise their alternate set prior to the game.

In the event of a clash and the second named team does not have an alternate playing strip, the second named team will forfeit the match.

11. Points

11.1. Points will be allocated as follows:

- | | |
|---------|---------------------|
| Win | - three (3) points, |
| Loss | - one (1) point, |
| Forfeit | - nil (0) points. |

11.2. If two teams have the same number of points and tie for a position the final standings will be determined on head to head results.

11.3. If three or more teams have the same number of points and tie for a position after the preliminary rounds, the final standings will be determined on a percentage basis (points for/points against) from only the preliminary games played between the team involved.

11.4. If a grade or division has an odd number of teams and each team does not have the opportunity to play every other team because of the draw, final position placing for teams on equal points will be determined by the final percentage for all minor round matches for all teams in that grade or division.

12. Officials

12.1. Every nominating team shall provide a competent scorer or timekeeper (including a 24 second clock operator where required) as a bench official during a match in which the team participates. The Home team's scorer will be required to use the Sports TG system, the timekeeper position will be filled by the away team. Penalties (a compliance fee) will apply if the absence of a team scorer or timekeeper delays the game from the scheduled starting time.

12.2. Each nominating Association is to provide referees for the championship who are to be included in the "pool" for rostering by the Umpire in charge. Team nominations will not be accepted without nominated referees who are available to attend.

An additional fee of \$200 is to be added to the nomination fee if the name and availability details of a referee are not supplied or if the name and availability details of a non-country referee are supplied.

A refund of \$50 will be applied if the name and availability details of a referee from the nominating Association country referee are supplied.

SACBCI shall have regard to whether the referee is a bona-fide country referee by considering:

- Referee's place of birth;
- Referee's place of residence;
- Whether the referee officiates or has officiated regularly for an SACBCI affiliated Association prior to the date of the Championship

The number of referees to be nominated by an Association at any one Championship is to be in line with the schedule below:

- 1-4 teams nominated = 1 referee per team
- 5-6 teams nominated = 4 referees
- 7-9 teams nominated = 5 referees
- 10+teams nominated = 6 referees

A referee cannot be named more than once at any Championships.

If a team is withdrawn from the tournament prior to the fixture being released the number of referees required from that Association will be based on the number of teams competing. If a team is withdrawn from the Championships after the fixture has been released the number of referees required from that Association will be based on the number of teams that were in the original fixture.

The value of fines/refunds will be determined by the number of referees required according to the schedule above.

13. Match rules

13.1. All matches shall be under the control and management of SACBCI

13.2. For U16 and U18 division one (1) and A grade, games will be fully timed with 14/24 second shot clocks, championship conditions will apply as per FIBA rules.

13.3. For all other games, the clock will only stop for time outs, except in the last two (2) minutes of the final quarter when championship conditions will apply (fully timed, as per FIBA rules, clock stops on every whistle, with the exception the clock will not stop on a made basket during the last two (2) minutes of play).

13.4. No substitutions (except for a player with five (5) fouls) will be allowed in the last minute (1) of the first three (3) quarters. (See Junior Competition Only section for a variation to this rule).

$\frac{1}{4}$ & $\frac{3}{4}$ Time Breaks will be one (1) minute. Half Time Break will be two (2) minutes.

13.5 For all other games, in the case of a draw an extra three (3) minutes will be played to achieve a result. During extra time the clock shall stop for time outs. **Championship conditions will apply in the last minute (fully timed, as per FIBA rules, clock stops on every whistle, with the exception the clock will not stop on a made basket during the last two (2) minutes of play).**

13.6 In the case of a draw in U16 and U18 Division one (1) (juniors) or 'A' Grade (seniors) **five (5) minutes extra time will be played to achieve a result, championship conditions will apply as per FIBA rules.**

Note: SACBCI reserves the right to alter timing rules during the course of the Championships for any just reason.

1.1. All matches will use the Sports TG stadium scoring system. If the Sports TG system is unable to accommodate a game SACBCI will complete the game through the traditional pen and paper. After the match is completed the referees will sign the game off as completed. Only referees are to complete this process.

1.2. Junior competition only

Zones

Zone defence will not be played at the Under 12 & 14 Championships.

Penalties

A warning to the Coach by an SACBC Official in the first instance, unless it is a deliberate and premeditated use of zone at a critical time in the game the coach must be penalised immediately.

If there is a continued use of zone the SACBCI Official will request the score table to request at the next dead ball, the Referees to charge a Technical Foul – Personal Unsportsmanlike conduct of the Coach of the offending team. The Referee does not have to determine if the violation occurred, the decision rests with the SACBCI Official.

Disqualification of the Coach if the same team incurs a second violation, a technical foul is called and the coach will be disqualified from the game.
Disqualification of the Assistant Coach if the same team incurs a third violation a technical foul is called and the Assistant Coach is disqualified from the game.

If these warnings are ignored the match will be forfeited in favour of the other team.

The 3.7 metre foul line will be used for all Under 12 Divisions.

The 3 point line will not operate in any U12 Division or U14 Division 2-4.

Coaches

During the course of game coaches will remain seated in the team bench area at all times except under the following conditions:

- (a) Coaches may stand to approach the bench to call time-outs and may stand during time-outs to address players.
- (b) Coaches may stand within their area of the bench to deliver instructions to players on court and bench players, but must resume seat immediately once finished.

The Coach may communicate in a courteous manner with the officials during the game to obtain information only when the ball is dead and the game clock is stopped.

Coaches who fail to respond to a warning regarding this rule will receive a personal technical foul. Any subsequent breach will lead to disqualification from the game.

Timing Rules

With the exception of time outs, Championship timing conditions will not apply in a Junior Championship game in the last two minutes of the last quarter when the score at the two minute mark differs by 20 points or more. The rule shall continue to apply regardless of the score difference for the remainder of the game.

2. Senior competition only

2.1. Most Valuable Player (all grades) & All Star Five (A grade only)

- 2.1.1. Points for the Most Valuable Player awards will be made by either the court officials or others as designated by SACBCI. Points will be awarded in any matches designated by the Controlling Committee.

3. General

- 3.1. Players and persons involved in the Country Championship do so at their own risk.
- 3.2. It is the responsibility of each team competing to check the notice board at their respective stadium for any late program changes and other important messages throughout the Championships.

- 3.3. SACBCI has the right to refuse entry to or eject from any stadium any person for any just cause. The Championships will be conducted under the codes of conduct which will be issued to all Associations prior to the Championships.
- 3.4. Associations will be held responsible for the behaviour of their players and supporters in the stadium and their surrounds during the weekend.
- 3.4.1. Any player or official affected by alcohol or drugs will be excluded from competition and can be ejected or refused entry to the stadium.
- 3.5. Court officials and members of SACBCI may report players.
- 3.5.1. Such reports are to be made in writing to a member of the SACBCI, who in accordance with SA Country Basketball Council rules, will deal with any reports. A transcript of the evidence of the hearing and findings of SACBCI there in shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Association to which the reported persons belongs.
- 3.5.2. Any player or team official found guilty of an offence shall take no further part in the championships.
- 3.6. Balls for matches shall be chosen by the referees from the warm-up balls supplied by the competing teams.
- 3.6.1. Size 7 balls will be used for all matches, except for all female competition and Under 12 & 14 Junior male competition, where a Size 6 basketball will be used.
- 3.6.2. EXCEPTION: where SACBCI has arranged a sponsorship that includes the supply of balls to the tournament, these balls are to be used. No team supplied balls will be used in this case without the consent of the Controlling Committee.
- 3.7. SACBCI reserves the right to rule on any matter or make adjustments to these by-laws during competition if required and its decision in any matter shall be final.
- 3.8. Any special requests by teams competing will only be considered if submitted in writing by the Secretary/Administrator of the Association nominating the team 2 weeks prior to the start of competition.
- 3.9. As facilities in some stadiums may be limited each team is required to supply their own first-aid requirements.
- 3.10. Forfeit fines, payable by the Association nominating the team, will apply for the Championships. The amount of the fine will be determined by SACBCI and based on the recovery of expenses and inconvenience to the other team. Games for teams withdrawing after the draw has been completed will constitute a forfeit and fines will apply.

- 3.11. Teams who withdraw after their nomination has been accepted and after the closing date for nominations will forfeit their nomination fees.
- 3.12. SASCBCI reserves the right to grade teams to higher divisions than nominating and to ensure where possible that there are 8 teams in the A grade (Senior) and Division 1 (Junior) competition.
- 3.13. Dunking the ball which involves hanging on or pulling down on the ring during warm ups, is not permitted and could result in the offender being disqualified from participating from that game.
- 3.14. Team nomination fees must be paid at time of team nomination, unless the SACBCI Executive Officer approves alternative payment arrangements.
- 3.15. Player nomination fees for players must be paid at the time of team nomination, unless the SACBCI Executive Officer approves alternative payment arrangements.
- 3.16. Protests – Any protest must be lodged in writing with SACBCI within 30 minutes of the game ending, with a \$50.00 lodgement fee, which will be forfeited if the protest is dismissed and returned if the protest is upheld.

All decisions of SACBCI will be final.

- 3.17. Where First Aid trainers are available, the decision of the trainer will be upheld.

If this is not upheld the player will be deemed as an ineligible player and penalty will be as per 2.5. E.g. Trainer recommends that the player is not to continue in the game and is to seek further medical advice prior to recommencing. Prior to recommencing in the Championships must have a clearance from a Medical Practitioner.