



Game Rules &  
Behavior Guidelines -  
Primary /Intermediate  
2025



**Harbour Basketball** is launching a campaign specifically targeted at the basketball community to provide an appropriate environment for our referees under the age of 18.

Within Harbour Basketball's Primary/Intermediate referee cohort, over 70% are under the age of 18. Therefore, it is inevitable that some of these children are being exposed and subject to negative behaviour in an environment that is meant to be safe and supportive. Adults that lose perspective in a competitive environment can have harmful effects on the participants, specifically those who are under the age of 18.

Community sport relies heavily on referees under the age of 18 both from an economic and logistical point of view. If we relied on adults only to referee games, we would have to increase the cost to participants significantly. We also know that we don't have access to enough adults to service the 1000's of games HBA hosts at a community level each year.

Understanding that we rely on referees under the age of 18 to allow us to enjoy the sport we love means we have a strong responsibility to ensure they are protected and feel safe.

## **Negative Behaviour**

There are two types of negative behaviour that we are concerned with for our Under 18 referees. The first is negative behaviour directed towards the Under 18 referee. This can be extremely confronting for the child and may also cause them to feel threatened or intimidated. The second is negative behaviour displayed in the vicinity of the Under 18 referee. This can be uncomfortable for the child to witness and also may challenge what they consider appropriate behaviour, especially if it occurs frequently.

There are many ways in which you can contribute positively to those referees under the age of 18 including but not limited to:

- Communicate to the U18 referee what a great job they did as this will make them feel proud and want to continue.
- Cheer positively for both teams competing as this will create an environment filled with great sportsmanship.
- Call out others who may be behaving poorly as this will help create an environment where we help each other self-regulate.
- Comment to others what a great job the young referees did to continue to highlight how important they are to the sport we love.

**On the following pages are the rules  
for both Primary and Intermediate  
Basketball.**

**Please have a read and understand  
for the different leagues there are  
different rules.**

## Primary School

1. **Game time:** There will be two 12-minute halves running clock with 30 second Intervals
2. **Balls:** Year 2-3-4 size 5, Year 5-6 size 6 basketball
4. **Violations : Year 2-4** Travel and double dribbles calls to be kept to a minimum as players are still learning the game. This helps with game flow as time is limited.
5. **Substitutions:** Can be made at any time but players must leave the court before being replaced. Teams will incur a technical (Rule 10) foul for breach of this rule: One foul shot.

6. **Team management:** All Teams **must have** a Coach/Manager or Parent seated with the team for each game. If this person is not present, the game will be cancelled, and the opposition win by forfeit.
7. **Scorebench:** The two playing teams **must each** provide a person to do the scorebench for their own game.
8. **Disputes:** If there is a dispute you need to notify the **Venue Controller** do not approach the referee.  
  
**Shooting foul:** 1 free throw, with everyone else outside the restricted area and shooting team will retain possession at the free throw line extended (sideline).
9. **Technical fouls:** Arguing with referees, bad language, or unsportsmanlike behaviour will **NOT** be tolerated by coaches/players or spectators. This will result in a technical foul one free shot

10. **Default games:** If your team is unable to play a scheduled game due to any circumstance, it is your duty to contact the school team you are scheduled to play and advise them of the default. You also need to contact **Harbour Basketball**

**Harbour Basketball the Competitions**

**Manager:** [comps@harbour.basketball](mailto:comps@harbour.basketball)

11. **Mouthguards:** All players must wear a mouthguard when they play.
12. **Late arrival/Forfeit game:** If a team is not ready to take the court with the minimum of 5 players at the scheduled start time, they will be penalised 2 points per 30 Seconds for a maximum of 3 minutes. At this point, the game will be forfeited, and the score will be recorded as 12-0. The offending team will lose the game in the same circumstances a forfeit. **Referees are not required to ref these games.**
13. **Defence:** half court man-to-man defence only i.e. As soon as a team gains possession of the

ball in their backcourt, the defensive team must return to halfway.

14. **Wrist Bands:** Players on court will all be required to wear one of 5 coloured wristbands. Each player will only be able to play defence on the player in the opposing team with the matching colour band. If a player loses possession of the ball due to being guarded by a player with a different colour wristband, the game will be stopped, and possession of the ball will be returned.

**Mercy Rule:** If your team is 15 points or more ahead, they must return to the 3-point line to play defence whenever the opposition have possession

15. **Players may only play one game per night:** No player registered for one team may take the court for another team without permission of the Venue Controller. If a player is found to be playing another game that game will result in a forfeit. To encourage girls' participation in Junior Basketball- girls are permitted to play in



a mixed grade team on the same evening if registered.

**15.1** A player may play for a team in the same or higher grade but must be at the same school, for a maximum of two games only however the player must decide whether they play for their registered team or fill in for another team from their school on that night. The player may not play in both games.

**16. Time-outs:** There will be **NO TIME-OUTS**

## Intermediate School

1. **Game time:** There will be two 12-minute halves running clock with 1 min Intervals
2. **Balls:** Girls -5, Boys - 6
3. **Goalkeeping:** Boys - 1, Girls - 2
4. **Goalkeeping:** Boys - 1, Girls - 2
5. **Substitutions:** Can be made when there is a dead ball situation and called onto the court by the referee.
6. **Team management:** All Teams must have a Coach/Manager or Parent seated with the team for each game. If this person is not

present, the game will be cancelled, and the opposition win by forfeit.

7. **Scorebench:** The two playing teams **must each** provide a person to do the scorebench for their own game.
8. **Disputes:** If there is a dispute you need to notify the **Venue Controller** do not approach the referee.  
  
**Shooting foul:** 2 free throws will be awarded when a player is fouled in the shooting motion.
9. **Technical fouls:** Arguing with referees, bad language, or unsportsmanlike behaviour will **NOT** be tolerated by coaches/players or spectators. This will result in a technical foul one free shot
10. **Default games:** If your team is unable to play a scheduled game due to any circumstance, it is your duty to contact the school team you are scheduled to play and advise them of the

default. You also need to contact **Harbour Basketball**

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11. **Mouthguards:** All players must wear a mouthguard when they play.
  
12. **Late arrival/Forfeit game:** If a team is not ready to take the court with the minimum of 5 players at the scheduled start time, they will be penalised 2 points per 30 Seconds for a maximum of 3 minutes. At this point, the game will be forfeited, and the score will be recorded as 12-0. The offending team will lose the game in the same circumstances a forfeit.
  
13. **Defence:** There is to be no Zone defence to be played at anytime.  
  
**Mercy Rule:** If your team is 15 points or more ahead, they must return to the 3-point line to play defence whenever the opposition have possession

**15. Players may only play one game per night:**

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