

Bulleen-Templestowe Basketball Club



Club Policy: Responsibility for Game Control

1. Purpose

This policy explains the approach of the Bulleen-Templestowe Basketball Club (BTBC) to refunds of registration fees, game day payments paid in advance and other payments made to the Club.

2. Rationale

There have been an increasing number of incidents at all levels of basketball games at Bulleen venues involving behaviours from various participants which would be considered unacceptable under Basketball Victoria's Codes of Conduct.

Essentially, the Club is responsible for the conduct of all participants at all games at stadiums controlled by the Bulleen-Templestowe Basketball Club. To this end, this policy has been defined to make it clear what actions can reasonable be taken by Club officials and Committee Members of the Bulleen-Templestowe Basketball Club.

It is important that we take our responsibility seriously in these matters because we have a duty of care for all involved in the sport.

3. Definition

The Bulleen-Templestowe Basketball Club has resolved to take a hard line approach to unacceptable behaviour directed at game officials, including referees and scorebench personnel.

Research investigating the retention rates of referees has examined why they dropped out of officiating matches and found that one of the key reasons was due to the abuse by coaches and spectators.

In addition, it has been observed on a number of occasions that scorebench personnel have also been the subject of personal attacks, primarily by coaches but also by spectators, in regards to the resetting of the shot clock, incorrect stopping of the time clock or the accusation of cheating being levelled at them.

These behaviours are unacceptable. Everyone in basketball should have a rewarding personal experience, especially officials who volunteer to do a job that at times can be confronting but is necessary for the sport to continue.

The Bulleen-Templestowe Basketball Club adheres closely to the Basketball Victoria Codes of Conduct for all participants in the sport of basketball.

The Club has employed a Complaints Officer who will investigate any complaint against a game participant and recommend an appropriate course of action for the Club to take. This may involve a reprimand, exclusion from venues for a period of time or an appearance before the Club's Tribunal in more serious cases.

The Club has also established a Complaints policy which may be used by any person to lodge a complaint in regards to unacceptable behaviour observed at a BTBC venue.

4. Guidelines

Referees Game Control

In the conduct of basketball games, the referees always have primary control of the game.

The referees are responsible for the orderly conduct of a game, including the behaviour of participants both on and off the court. Referees call the game as they interpret the rules based on their training from qualified referee coaches. Generally, games are concluded without incident, despite there being times when the coaches or spectators involved with the game may disagree with the decisions made by the referees.

However, there are times when the behaviour of coaches or spectators can be interpreted as threatening, intimidating or unacceptable. These behaviours may be directed at the referees, players or coaches on the opposing team or occasionally spectators who are supporting the opposing team.

The only people permitted to speak with an official about a ruling during a game is the coach or captain. In this instance, the coach or captain may 'ask for an explanation' of a call during a break or after the game in an appropriate manner.

Interruptions to the game or continued questioning will not be tolerated. Coach or captain may ask the Referee Development Officer or Court Supervisor for assistance if required. Verbal abuse of any official -referee or score bench- during or after a game will also result in the offending players or spectators facing disciplinary action.

In this case various actions can be undertaken as follows:

1. The referee can advise the coach or spectator that his/her behaviour is unacceptable and that if it continues action may be taken
2. Call a technical foul on a coach, the maximum being two technical fouls and if this occurs the coach is asked to leave the venue (a technical foul cannot be called on a spectator)
3. In the case of a spectator displaying unacceptable behaviour the Venue Supervisor has the right to warn and if deemed necessary remove the offending person from the venue
4. The referee can ask for the Venue Supervisor to remove the coach or spectator from the venue
5. In addition, a Referees Coach has the power to admonish or remove the coach or spectator from the stadium
6. BTBC Committee of Management members also have the right to admonish or remove the spectator from the venue if their behaviour is deemed unacceptable
7. If the referee has witnessed first hand any of the abuse then they are required to submit a written report to the Venue Supervisor straight after the game – if this course of action is taken the offender needs to be notified that the report has been made

8. If the abuse is not noticed by the referee but by spectators then a complaint form can be filed for follow up action by the Club's Complaints Officer (a copy of this complaint form is at every venue), or any person can lodge a complaint with the Club office as per the BTBC Complaints policy
9. Referee Coaches can also play a vital role in supporting referees' decisions by speaking to coaches and spectators who have stepped outside the bounds of acceptable behaviour, especially at Primary School or Junior Domestic games - if the behaviour warrants removing from the stadium then a Referee Coach has this power.

Dealing with Unacceptable Behaviour

Where a Venue Supervisor or BTBC Committee of Management member undertakes a course of action to warn or remove a spectator or coach, care should be taken these people are more than likely to be in a highly elevated emotional state.

Initially the official should clearly identify themselves to the offender as being an official with the Club by stating their name and role. Then something along the lines of "can you come and have a quick chat" or "let us step outside for a quick chat" would be an appropriate starting point. A warning should be given using words to the effect that their actions are unacceptable and they need to tone down their behaviour. If the person is contrite and accepts the warning, then it is probably appropriate they be allowed to return to the stadium. If their behaviour continues to be aggressive or unacceptable, then the person should immediately be advised they are to leave the stadium.

Any continuation or aggressive or abusive behaviour, or unwillingness to leave the stadium would then be cause for the Club official to consider lodging a formal complaint against the individual.

In the case of the referee having to discipline a coach or ask for a spectator to be removed this can sometimes be difficult, especially if the referee is of a young age and has to confront a mature age coach or spectator. In this case, the Venue Supervisor has a clear role to actively support the referees decision, and BTBC Committee of Management members in attendance are also encouraged to support the game officials if necessary.

Scorebench Personnel Requiring Removal

All scorers are to remain neutral in any game they are requested to officiate on the bench. Scorer should be competent to undertake the task they are assigned i.e. understand how to correctly fill in the score sheet or operate the scoreboard or shot clock.

If it is clear to a referee that a scorer is not competent to perform their scorebench duties, then the referee is empowered to request a team to provide a replacement scorer. A referee may also request replacement of a scorer if they are barracking loudly and in an inappropriate manner from the scorebench.

If necessary, the entire scorebench may need to be changed if this is required to keep harmony between both teams. The Venue Supervisor, a Referee Coach or BTBC Committee of Management member may assist in directing the removal of the scorer(s).

There are also times when the Venue Supervisor can be quite young, especially during Primary School games and sometimes at EDJBA games. In this situation a Committee of Management member (if present) should take responsibility to ensure the appropriate action is taken.

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