



Rules of Operations



Amendments

Amended by the Country Championships Sub Committee - month year

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Definitions and Interpretations

In these Rules of Operation, unless the context requires otherwise, the following words and expressions have the following meaning

SAC: SA Country Basketball Council Inc

ROP (Rules of Operation): the governing rules applicable to the Championships.

JCC: the Junior Country Championships Basketball Competition, which is managed by SAC appointed staff.

U18s: the Under 18 Country Championships Basketball Competition, which is managed by SAC appointed staff.

SCC: the Senior Country Championships Basketball Competition, which is managed by SAC appointed staff.

Premier Tier: the divisions designated by SA Country Basketball as the highest competition tier of the Championships, currently comprising of Division 1 and Division 2 competitions.

Open Tier: the divisions designated by SA Country Basketball as the open competition tier of the Championships, currently comprising of Division 3, Division 4 and Division 5.

CCSC (Country Champs Sub-Committee): the committee who assist the Championship Manager for appeals, grading matters, and exemptions.

CE (Council Executive): the body authorised to approve amendments to the Rules of Operations.

Championship Manager: the person who is appointed by SAC to manage the Championships and interpret these Rules.

Association: the affiliated basketball association nominating a team into the Championships.

Association Delegate: a person appointed by an Association to act on behalf of that Association in relation to the Championships.

Residential Address: an address the player resides at and is their domicile address.

Definitions and Interpretations

Team: a team of an Association which participates in the Championships.

Coach: any person who is appointed to coach a team participating in any of the Championships.

Financial Player: a player who is registered with, and has satisfied all financial obligations to, their Association and/or SAC.

Ineligible Player: a player who does not satisfy the eligibility requirements prescribed by these Rules of Operation or who participates without the required approval or qualification.

Representative Player: a player selected in a recognised state, development or representative basketball program, including but not limited to Country Cup, Southern Cross, and the Australian Junior National Championships.

Underage Player: a player who is participating in an age group above the age group for which they are eligible based on their date of birth.

Officials: the person who holds the position of SAC Technical Commissioner, Referee and/or Referee Coach.

Technical Commissioner: a person appointed by SA Country Basketball to supervise game operations and matters relating to the appointment of referees, and to ensure compliance with Championship Rules and procedures.

Venue Supervisor: a person appointed by SAC to oversee venue operations, compliance and incident management during the Championships.

FIBA rules: the Official Basketball Rules issued by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA).

Player Exemption Request: formal approval requesting a player to participate outside standard eligibility rules due to exceptional circumstances for the Championship requested only.

Player Transfer Request: formal approval requesting a player to transfer from one Association to another Association outside standard eligibility rules due to exceptional circumstances for the remainder of the players junior career.

MVP: Most Valuable Player

Purpose

Country Championships provide a genuine representative competition for South Australian country associations, promoting local association pride, player, coach and official development, fair competition, high standards and a positive basketball experience.

The championships should operate through a clearly defined two tier structure, with Premier divisions providing a performance pathway environment for the strongest teams and officials, and Open divisions providing a competitive and supportive pathway for officials, emerging players, developing teams and smaller associations.

Both tiers are equally important to the strength of country basketball and must be underpinned by clear eligibility, consistent standards and respect for association representation.

Premier Tier

- Championship (Div 1)
- Reserves (Div 2)

Open Tier

- Open 1 (Div 3)
- Open 2 (Div 4)
- Open 3 (Div 5)

Section 1: Championship Administration

1.1 RULES OF OPERATION

1.1.1 Establishment

The Rules of Operation apply to all tiers. There are some differences and where this is the case, it is noted in the ROP.

Association Delegates should acquaint themselves with all responsibilities contained in this document and ensure that relevant Association personnel are aware of their individual responsibilities and rights.

The onus of knowledge and compliance with the ROP lies with the Association.

1.1.2 Variation to the Rules of Operation

The ROP may be amended only by approval of the CE or any urgent matters may be considered for adoption by the CCSC and the Championship Manager.

1.1.3 Management and Appeals

The Championship Manager shall interpret and apply the ROPs in the first instance and make decisions based on them.

The CCSC shall act as a point of appeal for decisions made by the Championship Manager in relation to the ROPs. There shall be no further appeal.

The Championship Manager and CCSC are empowered to apply penalties in accordance with the ROP.

Appeal Process

Associations must lodge an appeal, via email to the Championship Manager (countrychamps@sacbc.com.au), within seven (7) days of the decision being notified with a bond. (refer to Appendix 1 for cost)

The appeal must include full details of the matter including:

- Ground/s on which the appeal is made; and
- Reason/s or circumstances supporting the ground/s of appeal.

Upon receipt the Championship Manager will forward the submission to the Chair of the CCSC. The Chair will ask the CCSC to consider the appeal within seven (7) business days of receipt.

No appellant has the right to appear before the CCSC, the CCSC will deal with the matter/s on written submission only.

Appeal Process (continued)

The CCSC shall have power to:

- Dismiss the appeal.
- Uphold the appeal.
- Impose any penalties in accordance with the ROP.
- Reduce, increase or otherwise vary any penalty of the initial decision of the Championship Manager in such a manner as it thinks fit.

The CCSC is not obliged to provide a reason for the decision.

The Chair of the CCSC shall ensure that the appellant and the Championship Manager are informed of the determination by the CCSC within 14 days after receipt of appeal.

If the appeal is dismissed at the discretion of the CCSC, the bond may be forfeited.

1.2 CHAMPIONSHIP FINANCE

1.2.1 Championship Entry Fee Structure

An Association Entry Fee per team will be charged. The fee will be displayed in the Information Pack this fee covers the team's nomination cost only.

All fees will be invoiced at the conclusion of each Championship.

1.2.2 Timelines and Penalties for Withdrawal of Teams

- a)** If an Association withdraws a team after team nomination close, an Association is liable for 50% of the team nomination fee.
- b)** If an Association withdraws a team once initial grading has been released, an Association is liable for 100% of the team nomination fee.
- c)** If an Association withdraws a team once the fixture has been released, an Association is liable for 100% of the team nomination fee and will also be fined.

1.2.3 Forfeit Fines

Forfeit fines, payable by the Association nominating the team, may apply for the Championships.

The Championship Manager will have the final say on any forfeit fines.

1.2.4 Referee Payments, Fines and Rebates

The Officials Pay Structure will be set by SAC prior to the Championships each year these will be included in the Information Pack distributed to all Associations.

All Referee and Referee Coach payments will be made electronically following the Championship.

A fine may be added to the final invoice if the Association does not supply the required number of country referees to cover their quota as listed in 5.1.1 and Appendix 3.

An additional late withdrawal fine as well as any non-compliance referee fines may be added to the final invoice if a referee withdraws after the referee roster has been published without suitable reasoning.

Any rebates for Referee Coaches will be deducted from the invoice sent to Associations with all other fees and penalties at the conclusion of the Championship.

1.2.5 Payment of Fines

All penalties and charges incurred must be paid within fourteen (14) calendar days of receipt of invoice, except when a required date of payment is otherwise advised on the invoice. If after a reasonable period, payment remains outstanding the Association may be declared un-financial.

1.2.6 Championship Penalties

- The Championship Manager may impose penalties upon individual players, Associations, members of Associations or technical officials at their discretion.
- Penalties may be in the form or combination of compliance fees, forfeit, suspension or disqualification from Championships, or any other penalty deemed appropriate by the Championships Manager from time to time.
- The Championships Manager will notify all penalties in writing to Associations.
- The Championships Manager is empowered to impose penalties for non-compliance with the Rules of Operation and as specified in Appendix 1.

Section 2: Association Administration

2.1 MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Only Associations affiliated with SAC in the country area as defined in the SA Country Zone/ Metro Boundary are eligible to be considered for approval by the Championship Manager to compete in the Championships.

The Championship Manager may also accept nominations from interstate Country Associations. To be considered, the interstate Country Association must be an affiliated member of their state body.

Teams from Associations not directly affiliated with SAC may be accepted, subject to approval of the CCSC.

2.2 ASSOCIATION DELEGATES

Each Association is required to appoint a Country Championships Association Delegate. This will be the first point of contact for all information for the Association. Associations may nominate a secondary Association Delegate.

During a Championship, the Championship Manager will ensure communication occurs through the Association Delegate/s.

It is the responsibility of the Association to ensure it communicates to the Championship Manager of any changes required, after initial submission of contact persons details.

2.3 ASSOCIATION UNIFORMS AND ATTIRE

2.3.1 Uniforms

A player shall not take the court unless wearing their team's correct uniform. Correct uniform refers to uniformity of tops and shorts.

An Association that changes the design of their uniform requires prior approval by the Championship Manager and design must be in accordance with the SAC Style Guide (Appendix 5).

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 primary colour as the playing uniform.

Undergarments can be worn in accordance with the FIBA rules.

2.3.2 Uniform Clash

Teams must bring an alternative set of uniforms (different colour) to avoid any clash in colours during the Championship. Team B is to wear an alternate uniform if there is a clash of colours. All 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 that Team B does not have an alternate uniform Team A will need to change to their alternate uniform for the match and Team B may incur a Uniform Clash fine as per Appendix 1.

2.3.3 Team Bench Dress Code

All team players and non-playing officials shall be required to dress in a way that clearly distinguishes them as part of the team and from other game officials.

The best description of the standard for non-playing officials would be neat casual. The best description for players would be playing uniform.

The requirements are:

- Team staff should wear an Association branded shirt. During colder weather it is understandable this will be covered by a jacket, jumper or hoodie that should be Association branded.
- Team Staff may wear shorts; however these must follow the description of neat casual.
- Shoes must be clean and tidy.
- Open toed footwear is not permitted.
- SAC branded clothing is not permitted to be worn by team staff while coaching for an Association.
- Hats and sunglasses must be removed while coaching or on a team bench.

Failure to comply with Dress Code Requirements may result in removal from team bench area.

Section 3: Players and Team Staff

3.1 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

3.1.1 JCC and U18 Player Eligibility

For players to be eligible to compete in the JCCs or U18s they must satisfy the following criteria:

- A registered financial player of the Association nominating the team, or an individual player registered directly with SAC.
- The player **MUST** reside at a “country” address as defined in the SA Country Zone/ Metro Boundary.
- All players must be representing the same Association as their most recent Championship participated in (exception for circumstances under 3.1.5).
- All players must have played a minimum of 30% of games in either a Summer or Winter season within the previous 12 months (1 April – 31 March) for a team competing in the Association's local competition.
- Have no outstanding debt with SAC, unless an approved payment arrangement is in place.
- A Transfer will be required for any movement between Associations 3.1.7.

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.

3.1.2 SCC Player Eligibility

For players to be eligible to compete in the SCCs they must satisfy the following criteria:

- A registered financial player of the Association nominating the team, or an individual player registered directly with SAC.
- All players must have played a minimum of 30% of games in either a Summer or Winter season within the previous 12 months (1 April – 31 March) for a team competing in the Association's local competition.

or

- Have represented that Association in a previous SAC Junior or Senior Country Championships.
- Have no outstanding debt with SAC, unless an approved payment arrangement is in place.
- A player must be 14 years of age prior to SCC.

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. (i.e. 3.2 goes to 4.)

3.1.3 Medical Qualification

A player, who due to injury/illness fails to qualify with the minimum number (30%) of games played in an Association's competition may submit a Player Exemption Request form at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Championships for permission to play.

Applications after 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 CCSC shall have regard only to two criteria:

- 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;
- 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).

3.1.4 SAC Representative Players

A player who is a member of the SA Country Under 16 or Under 18 State teams in the previous 12 months and/or a member of an SA Country Emerging Athlete Development Program or Future Development Program team (such as Southern Cross Challenge, Australian Country Junior Basketball Cup or similar) in the current year, must be indicated on the official Team Sheet submitted at time of team nomination.

3.1.5 Competing within Multiple Associations

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 may be entitled to play in the highest division, with written notice to their closest Association and submit a Player Exemption Request.

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.

- The player needs to have qualified with the minimum percentage (30%) of games with the player's home Association.

Competing with Multiple Associations (continued)

- The request must be made via the online Player Exemption Request form by the nominating Association and must be accompanied with 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.

3.1.6 Player Eligibility Exemptions

Player exemptions must be submitted through the online Player Exemption Request form no later than 48 hours prior to the Championships.

The following scenarios will require a Player Exemption Request to be completed:

- In the case of a junior player who does not reside in their family home within the country area (i.e. boarding school) they must satisfy Rule 3.1.1 dot point 1 but are exempt from dot point 4 under 3.1.1.
- Playing for next nearest Association that has a position available for the player if home Association does not nominate a team within the players age group (Refer to 3.1.5).
- Medical Exemption (Refer to 3.1.3).
- Underage player Exemption (Refer 3.1.8).
- Changes to Team List after team nominations have closed.
- Location of family home has moved.
- Can represent SAC as a Representative Player but does not meet the requirements of 3.1.1 dot point 2.
- General Exemptions for players who do not meet Player eligibility (3.1.1).

Failure to submit an exemption could result in forfeits or team disqualification.

3.1.7 Player Transfers

All Player Transfers are required to be submitted through the online Player Transfer Request form no later than the 1st of September, prior to the summer season. All transfers are subject to approval from the Championship Manager & CCSC.

- Players who intend to play for a different Association and do not satisfy 3.1.1 dot point 3 must have an approved player transfer.
- For a Player Transfer to be considered it must have adequate information and reasoning within the Player Transfer Request form.
- Associations will only be allowed to accept one (1) Player Transfer per Age Group per 12 month period.
- Junior Players will only be eligible for one (1) transfer throughout their junior career.

Failure to submit an online Player Transfer Request could result in forfeits or team disqualification.

3.1.8 Age Requirements

Junior players must be within the age range for each Age Group as specified in the information pack sent out by SAC prior to the Championships. CCSC may request proof of age if required.

Minimum Age Requirements

- In Under 12 divisions, a player must be 8 years of age prior to the Championships in which the player seeks to register and play.
- In senior divisions, a player must be 14 years of age prior to the Championships in which the player seeks to register and play.
- Players must play in their own age groups. (Refer to 4.1.2)
- SAC Representative Players are not permitted to play in a higher age group in the Open Tier competitions.

3.1.9 General Qualification

Any senior player who plays in a higher grade than any Country Association competition (i.e. NBL1 or equivalent) must be listed on the Team Sheet.

- 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 SAC SCC. Players must still qualify under 3.1.2.
- Players (Senior or Junior) may only play for one team during a Championship.
- Player registrations for masters competition (over 35 years of age), are exempt from 3.1.2 dot point 2 as long as 3.1.2 dot point 1 is satisfied.

In an exceptional case, an Association may seek an exemption from the above rules for one or more of its players in line with Player Exemption Request rules (refer to 3.1.6)

3.2 FINALS ELIGIBILITY

3.2.1 Finals Eligibility

To be eligible for finals a player shall:

- Have their name on the appropriate scoring system and;
- Have played in two (2) previous matches during the Championship (including Quarter Finals) for their team.
- Any Team, which plays an ineligible player, will be subject to forfeiting all matches in which the player took part.
- Where a game is unable to be played, all registered players of the scheduled participating teams will be credited as one (1) game played towards their finals eligibility.
- Byes do not count as a game played towards Finals Eligibility.

3.3 PLAYER AND TEAM STAFF REGISTRATION

3.3.1 Player Registration

It is the Associations responsibility to ensure the correct registration procedure (online system) is followed and completed for all players.

- Before any player of any Association Team is eligible to participate in any of the Championships, they must be registered via the online system by no later than the date specified in the Information Pack distributed by the Championship Manager. **Any player needing to be registered after this date will require approval from the Championship Manager.**
- Registration does not mean the player is automatically eligible, the player and Association are responsible for ensuring the player has received approval if required for Exemptions or Transfers before being considered eligible.

3.3.2 Team Staff Registration

It is the Associations responsibility to ensure the correct registration procedure (online system) is followed and completed for all team staff.

- Before any team staff of any Association Team are eligible to participate in any of the Championships, they must be registered via the online system by no later than the date specified in the information pack distributed by the Championship Manager. **Any team staff needing to be registered after this date will require approval from the Championship Manager.**
- It is the Associations responsibility to ensure that all team staff 14 years and older hold a valid Working with Children Check as per the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016. These details must be provided when registering via the online system.

Section 4: Teams

4.1 TEAM NOMINATIONS

4.1.1 Team Nomination

Associations MUST nominate their 'number 1/ best' team for the Age Group in the competition based off Association size, listed in Appendix 2. Associations will be able to submit a grading request to be graded into a lower competition via the online Grading Request form (refer to 6.1.3) by the date set out in the Information Pack.

If Associations do not nominate in the correct competition, they will be automatically moved into the correct competition with no ability to be regraded.

Teams from Associations not directly affiliated with SAC may be accepted, subject to the approval of the CCSC.

Teams may be re-graded to other competitions (refer to 6.1.1)

4.1.2 Team Composition Requirements

Where a team includes players who meet the criteria outlined below, the team may be required to nominate in a higher division than would otherwise apply.

- Any team containing two (2) or more players who satisfy rule 3.1.4 must nominate in the Championship Division of that Age Group. Teams may submit a Grading Request to play in a lower competition.
- No team will be able to nominate or play with players from a lower age group, unless an Exemption Request has been submitted and approved by the Championship Manager and CCSC.
- A team may use as many different players as required, providing all players are named on the Team Sheet and are registered as per 3.3.1.
- The maximum number of players permitted in a team for a single match is ten (10).
- SAC Representative Players are not permitted to play in the Open tier in a higher age group.

4.1.3 Team Exemptions

The Grading Request for 4.1.2 dot point 1 MUST be submitted at the time of nomination, failure to submit this form may result in the team remaining in the Championship Division.

An Exemption Request for an underage player MUST be submitted at the time of nomination, failure to submit this form may result in the underage player being de-registered and removed from the team sheet.

Team Exemptions (continued)

If teams need to replace a player for any reason they must fill from their lower graded team in the that same Age group. If the team is the lowest or only nominated team for that age group, an Exemption Request can be submitted for an underage player to fill the position.

Associations making ANY changes to the original Team Sheet must submit a Player Exemption Request. Any names registered within the online system but not on the Team Sheet at the time of the Championships will be removed and de-registered.

4.2 TEAM REGISTRATION

4.2.1 Team Registration

It is the Associations responsibility to ensure the correct registration procedure is followed and completed for all teams by the set date within the Information Pack.

For a team to be considered registered, the Association Delegate must ensure both Team Sheet and online system registration has been completed, this includes

- Team Sheet with all player information completed.
- Team named correctly in online system.
- Initial grading submitted in online system.
- Any Exemption Requests submitted

All teams will be considered “nominated” once Team Nominations are closed as per the date set within the Information Pack.

Penalties may apply for withdrawals of teams after Team Nominations are closed (Refer to 1.2.2 and Appendix 1)

Only registered Players and Team Staff will be permitted to be seated within the Team Bench area during a match and must comply with the Team Bench Dress Code (refer to 2.3.3).

Section 5: Administration of Officials

5.1 REFEREE REQUIREMENTS

5.1.1 Referee Nomination

Each Association is to provide referee/s for each Championship they nominate a Team/s. The referee/s are to be included in a “pool” for rostering. The number of referees to be nominated by an Association at any one Championship will depend on number of teams nominated and distance to travel and length of the Championship.

Associations will be split into two categories based on travel distance to the State Basketball Centre, Wayville SA. (refer to Appendix 3)

For a referee to be considered “nominated” they must meet the below requirements:

3+ Day Championship

- **Category A** - Must supply a minimum 1 Referee per 2 Teams; with a minimum number of 10 games to be covered across the Championship.
- **Category B** - Must supply a minimum of 1 Referee per 1 Team; with a minimum number of 5 games to be covered across the championship.

2 Day Championship

- **Category A** - Must supply a minimum 1 Referee per 2 Teams; with a minimum number of 8 games to be covered across the Championship.
- **Category B** - Must supply a minimum of 1 Referee per 1 Team; with a minimum number of 5 games to be covered across the championship.

Referee Coaches are not considered as part of “the pool of referees” therefore they are not counted towards the number of referees required.

It is the Associations responsibility to ensure their Referee/s are nominated & registered correctly and understand the potential penalties if they fail to meet the requirements listed above.

The Championship Manager shall have final decision on:

- whether a referee is a bona-fide country referee
- any referee fines (based on all information received)

5.1.2 Officials Registration

It is the Associations responsibility to ensure the correct registration procedure is followed and completed for all officials (referees and referee coaches) by the set date within the Information Pack.

For a Referee to be considered “nominated” and eligible to participate in any of the Championships they must be registered via the online system and submit the online Officials Availability Form by no later than the date specified in the Information Pack distributed by the Championship Manager.

All Officials 14 years and older MUST hold a valid Working with Children Check as per the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016. These details MUST be provided when registering via the online system.

5.1.3 Withdrawals

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 Championship after the fixture has been released the number of referees required from that Association will be based on the number of teams that were originally nominated.

If a referee/s withdraws from the Championship after the fixture has been released it is up to the Association to find a replacement referee/s.

If a referee/s withdraws from the Championship after the Referee Roster has been published the Association may incur a late withdrawal fee on top of any non-compliance fines.

5.2 REFEREE COACHES

Referee Coaches are not considered as part of “the pool of referees” therefore they are not counted towards the number of referees required.

A rebate will be applied to an Association’s final Invoice for each country Referee Coach nominated.

For a referee coach to be considered “nominated” they must be rostered to referee coach a minimum of six (6) games for the Championship.

Section 6: Game Operations

6.1 GRADING

6.1.1 Grading Process

Teams may be regraded in competitions and pools in accordance with criteria which can include the following:

- All Association tournament results prior to the Championships;
- The results from the Junior Country Championships of the age group below two years prior;
- Number and level of SAC Representative Players in a team;
- Ability and/or number of top or bottom age players within the team;
- Quality and size of competition and/or pools.

6.1.2 Competition Balance and Pools

To maintain a fair, competitive, and enjoyable competition for all participants, divisions and pools may be capped or adjusted at the discretion of the organisers. This may include limiting the number of teams within a division or pool to ensure balanced competition, manageable scheduling, and an appropriate standard of play.

Any decisions regarding division or pool sizes will be made with consideration to competition integrity, team numbers, and the overall participant experience.

Pools will be seeded in accordance with 6.1.1.

6.1.3 Grading Exemption Requests

Associations may submit a Grading Request within the timeframe set out in the Information Pack for a review of the draft grading structure. The Association is responsible for collating and submitting all relevant information to be considered as a part of the Grading Request. A request to review the grading will be considered in accordance with the grading criteria in 6.1.1.

6.2 FIXTURING

6.2.1 Competition Structure & Venues

The Championship Manager will determine the structures, formats and fixtures for the Championship that will be as fair, both competitively and economically, as possible. These will be published as early as possible following final grading changes.

Venues for specific competitions will be announced as soon as the draft fixture has been completed.

6.2.2 Fixture Requests

Association Delegates can submit a Fixture Request form this includes, but is not limited to, requests relating to:

- team scheduling.
- player availability.
- clashes.

Requests must be made at the same time as Team Nominations.

The Championship Manager will make every reasonable effort to accommodate scheduling requests; however, no request can be guaranteed. All scheduling decisions will be made in the best interests of the overall competition and event.

6.2.3 Official Fixtures

At least 4 weeks prior to the championships start, the Championship Manager will publish the final fixture to the public via the online system.

It is the responsibility of each team competing to check for any late fixture changes and other important messages throughout the Championships.

6.2.4 Game Abandonment

If the match has not commenced the Association requesting the match to be abandoned must contact via phone the Championships Manager to submit any game abandonment review request to the league in writing via email no later than two (2) hours prior to tip off. (Refer to 6.7.1 dot point 2)

The Championships Manager will reference a Guideline List to assist in its decision making. (Refer to Appendix 4). The Guideline List is simply a reference point, and the Championships Manager will have the authority to make decisions outside this Guidelines List in its final determinations of whether the game is abandoned or proceeds, which cannot be protested by either Association.

The following criteria will be used to determine the result for a game that has commenced but cannot be completed:

- If a game is abandoned before it commences, before or at half time and cannot be rescheduled it will be counted as abandoned game and no points will be issues.
- If a game is abandoned after half time, the game score stands as the final result.

Game Abandonment (continued)

If a game official calls off a game because of bad behaviour of one or both teams, it shall be deemed a forfeit, and a report must be lodged to the Championships Manager. If the behaviour is, in the opinion of the game officials, primarily that of one team, that team shall be deemed to have forfeited the game. If the behaviour is, in the opinion of the game officials, that of both teams, both teams shall be deemed to have forfeited the game.

6.3 THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

6.3.1 General

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

Players and persons involved in the Championship do so at their own risk.

The Championship Manager and CCSC reserves the right to rule on any matter or adjust these ROP during competition if required and its decision in any matter shall be final.

6.3.2 Game Commencement Requirements

All matches shall commence at the advertised starting time.

No team shall take the court with less than five players.

If a team is unable to take the court at the advertised time of commencement of a match in which it is participating:

- One point for every minute, or part thereof, that such team is unable to take the court will be awarded to their opponents.
- The team shall forfeit the match if it cannot take the court within ten minutes of the advertised time of commencement, the Venue Supervisor in consultation with the Championship Manager has final decision on any forfeiture.

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

6.3.3 Scoretable

Players cannot be added court side if they are not showing as one of the available players without permission from the Championship Manager.

Every 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.

Team A's scorer will be required to use the online scoring system and provide the 24 second clock operator, if required, and the timekeeper position will be filled by Team B.

Penalties will apply to the team, as per 6.3.2 if the absence of a team scorer or timekeeper delays the game from the scheduled starting time.

6.3.4 First Aid

As facilities in some stadiums may be limited, each team is required to supply their own first- aid requirements.

Where Sports 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 Appendix 1.

e.g. Trainer recommends that the player is not to continue in the game and is to seek further medical advice prior to recommencing in the Championships, must have a clearance from a Medical Practitioner.

Basketball Australia Concussion Policy applies as the official Concussion Protocol for the Championships.

This policy can be found within the information folder on each scoretable, on the SAC website and Basketball Australia website.

6.4 PLAYING RULES

6.4.1 General Match Rules

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

All matches shall be under the control and management of SAC. Timing regulations will be included in the Information Pack which will be sent out prior to the Championships and displayed on each scoretable.

SAC reserves the right to alter timing rules during the Championships for any reason.

General Match Rules (continued)

All matches will use the online scoring system selected by Basketball SA and SAC. If the online scoring system is unable to accommodate a game, the scoretable will complete the game through the traditional pen and paper method. After the match is completed, the referees will sign the game off as completed and return the scoresheet to the Venue Supervisor.

6.4.2 Zones

Definition of Zone

A Zone, for the purpose of this ban is defined as:

- Any defence played **in** the quarter court, which does not incorporate normal man- to-man defensive principles.

Zone Defence is **NOT** permitted in;

- All Under 12 competitions.
- All Under 14 Competitions.
- Open Tier Under 16 Competitions.

Definition of Extended Zone

An Extended Zone, for the purpose of this ban is defined as:

- Any defence played **beyond** the quarter court, which does not incorporate normal man- to-man defensive principles.

Extended Zone is **NOT** permitted in;

- All Under 12 competitions.
- Open Tier Under 14 Competitions.

For detailed policy refer to Appendix 6

6.4.3 Mercy Rule

Under 12 and Under 14 Open Tier only

If at any point a team is leading by a margin of 20 points the leading team must return to their backcourt behind the 3 point line until the offensive team has moved the ball into their front court, then man to man defence must be played.

If the deficit gets below 20 points at any point in the game the mercy rule does not apply and the team leading can go back to full court defence unless they start to lead by 20 points + again.

6.4.4 Under 12 Competition Amendments

- All Under 12 Competitions will use the 3.7 metre free throw line.
- The 3 point line will operate in all Under 12 competitions.
- Zone defence is not permitted in all Under 12 competitions. (refer to 6.4.2 or Appendix 6)
- Extended Zone defence is not permitted in all Under 12 competitions. (refer to 6.4.2 or Appendix 6)

6.4.5 Game Balls

Balls for matches shall be chosen by the referees from the warm-up balls supplied by the competing teams using the size guide below.

- All Under 12 competitions - Size 5
- All Under 14 competitions - Size 6
- Under 16, Under 18 Girls and Senior Women competitions - Size 6
- Under 16, Under 18 Boys and Senior Men competitions - Size 7

If SAC has arranged a sponsorship that includes the supply of balls to the Championship, these balls are to be used. Team supplied balls can be used but must comply with any sponsorship agreements (brand of basketball).

6.4.6 Shotclock

All Premier competition games (excluding Under 12s) will operate a shotclock as per FIBA Rules.

The Under 14 age group has additional differences as the shotclock shall not start until the ball enters the team's front court.

The ball enters the teams front court when:

- It touches the frontcourt.
- It touches a player or official who has part of their body in contact with the frontcourt.

6.5 COMPETITION LADDER

6.5.1 Championship Points

Championship Points will be allocated as follows:

- Win = three (3) points
- Draw = two (2) points
- Loss = one (1) point
- Forfeit Win = three (3) points
- Forfeit Loss = zero (0) points
- Abandon Match = zero (0) points
- Bye = zero (0) points

6.5.2 Ladder Calculations

In competitions in which team have an equal number of games played, ladder positions are classified as follows:

- Win-Loss record (championship points)
- If two (2) or more teams have the same Win-Loss record, the following tiebreakers shall be applied in order until the tie is broken;
 1. Championship points gained in head-to-head (H2H) games between tied teams only.
 2. Score differential in the games between the 6ed teams.
 3. Tournament score differential.
 4. Tournament score for.

In competitions where teams have an unequal number of games played, ladder positions will be determined above, except dot point 1 Championship Points will be replaced by Game Ratio, which is calculated as follows:

- $(Wins + (1/2 \times Draws) - (1/2 \times Forfeits)) / Games\ Played$.
- Game Ratio will also be applied above in dot point 2 in cases where tied teams have played an unequal number of games against each other.

As per Appendix D - Classification of Teams in the FIBA Rule Book

6.6 Forfeited Games

- A forfeit is deemed to occur when insufficient players representing a team are present at the fixtured starting time for the match. An Association whose team for any reason fails to appear for or complete any fixtured game, including overtime, except for acts of God or events beyond such team's control shall be deemed to have forfeited that game and may be liable to a fine and incur additional penalty as shall be deemed appropriate by the Championships Manager. (Refer to 1.2.3)
- Notwithstanding Rule 6.2.4, a forfeited game shall not be replayed.
- In the event of a forfeit, the team forfeiting shall be deemed to have lost the game with a score of zero (0) points to twenty (20). If there is no reversal in the winner of the match and the winning score margin is greater than 20 points, there will be no adjustment to the score made.
- When a fixtured, game has commenced and the game is subsequently abandoned, all players on the score sheet shall be deemed to have participated in the match. For the purposes of player finals eligibility, if the game is subsequently replayed, any player on the score sheet who was on the score sheet for the abandoned game shall only be credited with one game's participation.
- When a game is forfeited, only players on the score sheet for the team which did not forfeit will be deemed to have participated in the match.
- If a team forfeits a finals match, they will be excluded from all remaining finals matches

6.7 PROTEST PROCEDURES

6.7.1 Protest

- Any Team desiring to lodge a protest (as defined by FIBA except no protest may be made concerning a decision by a Referee or Umpire) in respect to any match, must lodge such a protest first by phone then followed up by email to the Championship Manager within ten (10) hours of the match. The parties concerned shall be entitled to attend a meeting at which the protest shall be heard. The Championship Manager is not obliged to meet face to face and may deal with the protest by phone, video conferencing, email or such means as they require.
- If a team has concerns with the match conditions and wish for the game to be abandoned, they must contact the Championship Manager prior to commencement of the match. The Championship Manager will have sole determination if the match is played and in which the Association cannot protest post-match this decision. A match will be considered “live” once commenced. (Refer to Rule 6.2.4)
- If a referee has concerns with the match conditions and/ or a team has raised their request to have the match abandoned to the referees directly. The referees shall contact the Venue Supervisor who in conjunction with the Championship Manager to any announcement determination if the game is abandoned or not.

6.7.2 Notification of Protest

Upon receipt of a protest, the Championship Manager shall immediately notify the opposing team in the match, which is subject to protest.

6.8 AWARDS

6.8.1 Tournament MVP Awards

Junior and Senior Tournament MVP Awards are presented to the Most Valuable Player in the Championship Division of each age group. The award is determined based on votes received during the minor round matches of the competition.

The officials appointed to each match will award votes of 3, 2, and 1 (with 3 being awarded to the most valuable player) to the players, from either team, whom they consider having had the greatest impact on that match.

6.8.2 Senior Grand Final MVP Awards

Senior Grand Final MVP Awards are presented to the Most Valuable Player in the Championship Division Grand Final, as determined by the appointed officials and the Head Coach of each participating team.

The appointed officials and each team's Head Coach will independently award votes of 3, 2, and 1 (with 3 being awarded to the most valuable player) to players from either team whom they consider having had the greatest impact on the Grand Final. The player receiving the highest total number of votes will be named the Grand Final MVP.

6.8.3 John Spooner Trophy

The John Spooner Trophy is awarded each year to the Association with the most minor round wins in the Championship Division of the Junior Championships which include U18s and JCC.

Section 7: Other Items

7.1 USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS

SAC will abide by the Anti-Doping Policy of Basketball Australia.

7.2 INTEGRITY

Participants in the Championships must abide by the Basketball Australia National Integrity Framework (<https://australia.basketball/integrity/>).

In accordance with the BA National Integrity Framework, BA may share personal information relating to Participants with Betting Operators, law enforcement agencies, government agencies or other sporting organisations to prevent and investigate match-fixing incidents.

7.3 CONDUCT

Associations will be held responsible for the behaviour of their players and supporters in the stadium and their surrounds during the Championship.

All attendees of the Championships (officials, players, coaches, parents and spectators) must adhere to the relevant Code of Behaviour. These can be found on our website (www.sacbc.com.au/admin/policies/), and will be displayed at the entry along with the Conditions of Entry at each venue.

Failure to comply with the relevant Code of Behaviour or Conditions of Entry may be removed from the venue or banned from returning to the tournament.

Referees, Referee Supervisors, Venue Supervisors and SA Country Basketball staff may report players, coaches, team officials or spectators.

The Championships Tribunal acts in accordance with the SA Country Basketball Tribunal By-Laws (Rules of Operation).

- The Championship Tribunal consists of the Championship Manager, CCSC Chairperson, and a general member of the CCSC

7.4 MEMBER CONDUCT

Any Association, coach, player, Association support staff, spectator or technical official that behaves in a manner that adversely, or is likely to, adversely affect the Championships in either its promotion or operation may be referred to the SAC Tribunal. This will include:

Unsportsmanlike behaviour Any Association, coach, player, Association support staff, spectator or technical official that acts in an unsportsmanlike manner may be referred to the SAC Tribunal.

Member Conduct (continued)

Disorders The behaviour of players, coaches, management, spectators and technical officials can have a major effect on crowd behaviour. Any misconduct by such a person or persons that stimulates or encourages crowd disorder, may be referred to the SAC Tribunal.

Criticism of the Championships, Associations, coaches, players or technical officials is a matter of concern for SAC. Any Association member or other participant, including coaches, players and management who publicly criticise any of the above persons or bodies will be deemed to have acted in a manner detrimental and prejudicial to the Championships and will be liable to penalty and may be referred to the SAC Tribunal. Furthermore, any Association member or other participants including a spectator who is found by the Championship Manager to have pursued and/or harassed technical officials before, during, or after a game will be subject to similar penalties and may be referred to the SAC Tribunal. Associations will support SAC in dealing with any adverse media or public comments of all their members or other participants by way of the public address system, multimedia, in a public place or through any forum or media outlet including any form of social media where the association has some direct control over the person. The Championship Manager is empowered to impose a penalty or recommend expulsion, in the event that any adverse media comment is reported, and after investigation is proven. The Championships Manager has the discretion with respect to the amount of fine to be imposed. (Refer to Appendix 1);

Bribery and tampering Any person who directly or indirectly entices, induces, persuades, or attempts to entice, induce or persuade any player, coach or technical official, management or other person associated with an Association to alter the natural outcome of a Championships game will be deemed to have engaged in conduct detrimental to the Championships, may be referred to the Basketball Australia National Integrity Unit, SAC Tribunal.

Language Coaches, assistant coaches, players, technical officials and spectators must refrain from any profane or objectionable language or music which might be heard by spectators, technical officials or picked up by broadcast microphones in the vicinity of the benches and/or playing court may be liable to penalty from the SAC Tribunal;

Code of Behaviour Each player, coach, administrator, supporter and technical official is required to comply with the relevant SAC Code of Behaviour and relevant Basketball Australia integrity requirements on a continuing basis including any pre-championship matches.

7.5 ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

There will be a zero-tolerance policy towards any inappropriate or abusive behaviour from team officials, parents or spectators towards game referees, players, score bench personnel or members of the public.

Any person who feels the necessity to:

- Persistently or wilfully question or challenge the rulings of the referees
- Berate or abuse referees •
- Berate or abuse players •
- Berate or abuse parents or spectators •
- Display conduct which is inappropriate in a junior sporting environment;

should expect to be disqualified from the game and be required to leave the court area. This disqualification notification may be issued by the Referee Supervisor or championship Staff.

Any spectator observing instances of the above behaviour should immediately report this behaviour to the Venue Supervisor or an official representing SAC.

Whether or not technical fouls have been called against any team official or not during the game will have no bearing on the decision to disqualify any team official under this policy. Warnings are not required to be given in the event of the above action becoming necessary and failure to heed the disqualification will result in the team of the disqualified official forfeiting the game in question.

Any appeals against disqualification under this policy should immediately be directed to SAC.

The Game officials appointed by SAC also have the power under rules in operation to utilize all available powers to control the game and the surrounding court area.

Please note that any action taken under this new policy and procedure is entirely separate to any action that may be necessitated by law under Child Protection Legislation or SAC Member Protection policy.

This action has become necessary due to the reported instances of inappropriate and abusive behaviour in sanctioned events thus far and our desire to nurture a safe competitive environment for all participants.

Zero Tolerance Policy (continued)

Team officials who would like to offer feedback or request clarification on officiating issues should either speak to an appointed Referee Coach or direct their correspondence to the Technical Commissioner.

The health of our game depends on the nurture and development of game officials. The realistic barometer of the health of any Basketball Association is their capacity to provide well organised and officiated competitions for the communities they service. It is the aim of SAC to help associations increase this capacity.

Any player or team staff member who is ejected from a match will automatically incur a one (1) game suspension, which must be served in the next scheduled match for the team they were representing at the time of the ejection.

If the individual is involved with multiple teams during the Championship, they will not be permitted to participate in any capacity with any team until the one (1) game suspension has been served with the original team, or until the Championship concludes. Additional penalties may be imposed at the discretion of the Championship Tribunal or the Championship Manager where appropriate.

7.6 COMPLAINT HANDLING

Any formal complaints will follow the SAC Complaints and Grievance Policy which can be found on the SAC website (www.sacbc.com.au/admin/policies/)

All complaints must come from the Association Delegate in accordance with the SAC Complaints and Grievance Policy using the official Grievance Form (https://form.jotform.com/sacbc1234/Grievance_and_Complaints_Form)

7.7 HEAT POLICY

The Championship Manager reserves the right to amend the Championship fixture after it has been published if circumstances require, including but not limited to extreme weather conditions, or other unforeseen events.

Any changes to the fixture will be updated through the official online competition system and communicated directly to participating Associations, who will be responsible for distributing the information to their teams.

The SAC Heat Policy which can be found on the SAC website (www.sacbc.com.au/admin/policies/)

Appendix 1: Offences and Penalties

The following table sets out the standard penalties to be applied for a breach of the Rules of Operations at the determination of the Championship Manager. Fine amounts exclude GST.

Offence	Rule Reference	Penalty (Per Offence)
Referee Fines & Rebates	1.2.4	Non compliance - \$350 Late notice withdrawal - Non compliance + \$350 Ref Coach Rebate \$50
Forfeit	1.2.3	\$100
Change to Fixture	1.2.5, 6.2.2	\$50
Appeal	1.1.2	\$100
Withdrawal of teams	1.2.2 a) 1.2.2 b) 1.2.2 c)	Minimum 50% of Team Entry Fee Full Payment of Team Entry Fee Full Payment of of Team Entry Fee + \$300
Uniform Clash	2.3.2	\$50
Association uniforms and attire including placement of logos	2.3.1	\$50
Playing Ineligible Player	3.1, 3.2.1, 3.3.1, 7.5	Forfeit of game and \$100
Ineligible Coach or Team Manager	3.3.2, 7.5	\$100
Use of Illegal drugs	7.1	Subject to BA, ASADA, WADA penalties
Conduct detrimental or prejudicial to SAC or the Championships	7.3, 7.4	Subject to the outcome of the SAC Tribunal
Integrity	7.2	Subject to SAC, BSA, BA and National Integrity outcomes
Spectator conduct	7.3	Subject to the outcome of the SAC Tribunal & Championship imposed sanctions
Zero Tolerance Policy	7.5	Subject to the outcome of the SAC Tribunal & Championship imposed sanctions

Appendix 2: Nomination & Grading

The following table sets out the minimum grade each Association's first/best team MUST nominate into. (Divisions are based on Junior numbers only)

Association	Juniors	Seniors	All
Premier Tier - Championship			
Eastern Hills	840	570	1410
Barossa Valley	811	301	1112
Great Southern	618	488	1106
Riverland	602	444	1046
Yorke Valley	592	285	877
Whyalla	550	665	1215
Broken Hill	546	191	737
Port Augusta	502	372	874
Mount Gambier	456	364	820
Premier Tier - Reserves			
Port Lincoln	448	138	586
Murray Bridge	412	130	542
Port Pirie	366	241	607
Light	328	213	541
SYP	321	136	457
Willunga	287	128	415
Strathalbyn	281	164	445
Adelaide Plains	254	72	326
Naracoorte	225	108	333
Kangaroo Island	220	183	403
Millicent	169	111	280
Bordertown	158	171	329
Open Tier - Open 1			
Roxby Downs	145	123	268
Keith	114	63	177
Mallee	73	58	131
Northern Bullants	-	-	-
Peterborough	124	0	124
Clare	251	101	352
Gilbert Valley	100	10	110
Burra	71	69	140
Jamestown	128	83	211
Crystal Brook	125	49	174

Appendix 3: Referee Categories

The following table outlines the referee nomination and compliance requirements that each Association must meet in accordance with their allocated category. (Rule 5.1.1)

Category A (>150km)	Category B (<150km)
Bordertown	Adelaide Plains
Broken Hill	Barossa Valley
Burra	Eastern Hills
Clare	Great Southern
Crystal Brook	Light
Gilbert Valley	Murray Bridge
Jamestown	Strathalbyn
Kangaroo Island	Willunga
Keith	
Mallee	
Millicent	
Mount Gambier	
Naracoorte	
Northern Bullants	
Peterborough	
Port Augusta	
Port Lincoln	
Port Pirie	
Riverland	
Roxby Downs	
SYP	
Whyalla	
Yorke Valley	

Appendix 4: Guidelines for Abandonment of a Game

Rule 6.2.4 manages the event of a game abandonment if it happens during a game if there has been enough court time and leading margin to constitute a game. The below is a Guideline List which the Championship Manager will refer to in the event a team requests abandonment of a match prior to starting.

This is simply a Guidelines appendix, and the Championship Manager have the final authority to abandon or proceed with the playing of the match on any items outlined on and outside this list.

What may constitute abandonment:

- Court/stadium condition
- Water leakage
- Power Outage
- Injured athlete that cannot be moved
- Referees in fear
- Missing referees
- Spectator issues
- Unforeseeable transit accidents resulting in not enough athletes to start game
- Extreme weather where the safety of players, coaches & referees is compromised

What may not constitute abandoning a game:

- No 14 second clock
- No 24 second clock
- No scoreboard
- Score bench numbers
- Late arrival of athletes and coaches

Appendix 5: Uniform Style Guide

All new uniform designs require approval of SAC Operations and Events Manager or Executive Officer prior to manufacturing.

Player Singlet Guide:

- Numbers should be of a contrasting colour to the primary colour of the uniform.
- Numbers may be placed over watermarks, but the number must be clearly visible and unimpeded by the watermark.
- Club trademark watermark designs are acceptable
- Numbers must be as high on the singlet as practical
- Designers should work from the top-down approach and in all instances ensure all numbering and sponsor logos are clear of any possible singlet tuck line, irrespective of gender, size and pattern of singlet

Player Shorts Guide:

- Player numbers are acceptable on shorts
- Association logo/trademarks are acceptable for use in design of shorts outside designated areas
- Shorts may contain manufacturer logo (maximum 50mm squared)



Appendix 6: Zone & Extended Zone Defence

Overview

- SAC define Zone and Extended Zone defence as any defence that does not employ normal man to man defensive principles.
- There is general acceptance that the constant use of Zone and Extended Zone defences in the younger age groups adversely effects the development of both defensive and offensive skills in younger athletes.
- For many years, Basketball Australia has introduced a rule banning the use of Zone defences at National level for Under 14 competitions and has called upon all State bodies to assist with the implementation of this policy right throughout Australia.
- SAC has banned Zone defence for the under 12, and under 14 age groups at the Championships for many years and has now extended this ban in the Open Tier of the under 16 age group.
- SAC has also extended this ban to Extended Zone defence for the under 12 age group and the Open Tier of the under 14 age group.

Definition

A Zone or Extended Zone defence, for the purpose of this ban is defined as:

- Any defence which does not incorporate normal man- to-man defensive principles.
- A Zone defence is played in the Quarter Court, and an Extended Zone defence is played beyond the quarter court (i.e. half, $\frac{3}{4}$ or full court).

An Illegal Defence is any Zone or Extended Zone defence which is played in grades in which it is not allowed.

Violations

The use of man-to-man defence is integral to the Country Championships. Supervisors will be concerned about the determination of players or teams who are not executing acceptable man-to-man defensive principles.

Specifically, violations fall into one of the five categories listed below;

- One or more player(s) was/were just guarding a space on the court, with no attempt to be responsible for an opposition player.
- One or more player(s) was/were not in an acceptable man-to-man defensive position in relation to their man and the ball.
- A cutter moved through the keyway and was not defended using acceptable man-to-man defensive techniques - for example, bumped, switched or followed.
- Following a trapping or help and recover situation, one or more players made no attempt to re-establish man-to-man defensive positioning.

Zone Violations (continued)

- A team played an Extended Zone defence (in grades which allow this defence) but did not assume man-to-man defensive positioning once the ball had been advanced into the quarter court.

Penalties

Supervisors, SAC representatives or Referee Coaches will assess the following penalties against the team that commits an Illegal Defence violation. They will start at the appropriate level of penalty based on the severity and intent of the offending team.

- **Reminder.** A reminder may be given to the team via any one of the coaches, the team manager or (if present) an association coaching lead that they should actively coach one or more players to adhere to normal man-to-man defensive principles.
- **Warning.** The head coach will be warned that continued violations of the Illegal Defence will result in the coach being assessed with a behavioural technical foul.
- **Technical Foul.** The head coach will be issued with a technical foul.

Guidelines for Players, Coaches and Supervisors

The onus is on the offensive team to expose an Illegal Defence. They can do this in many ways. There can be no illegal defence ruling without the offensive team doing one or more of the following:

- sending a cutter through the keyway,
- playing an offensive alignment which differs to the alignment of the defence,
- having the ball change sides of the court.
-

The onus is on the coach of the defensive team to actively coach their players to execute normal man-to-man defensive principles. It may only take one player who is not executing normal man-to-man defensive principles for the team's defence to be illegal, even though a coach may not have specifically instructed their team to play a Zone or Extended Zone defence.

In grades which allow it, teams may play Extended Zone defence, provided they re-assume normal man-to-man defensive principles as soon as the ball reaches the quarter court.

No zones are allowed on sideline or baseline out-of-bounds plays.

A defender guarding a player who is on the side of the court opposite the ball, must clearly be defending a designated player not just standing in the keyway.

Guidelines for Players, Coaches and Supervisors (continued)

On cuts and screens, a defensive player may follow, bump, hedge or switch but there must be some defensive action which takes account of the action of the offence.

In a man-to-man defence, players may help or trap (where teams put 2 or more players on the ball) and the other players may temporarily stay in a zone alignment (e.g. 2 players on the ball and the other 3 players defending space) until the ball leaves the trap, after which all players must re-assume normal man- to-man defensive principles.

In grades which do not allow Extended Zone defence, supervisors are only concerned about defences after a made basket or after a side ball beyond the quarter court. On a missed basket or live ball turnover (e.g. transition defence) no illegal defence violations may occur with respect to Extended Zone defence.

The use of Extended Man-to-Man defence is allowed and strongly encouraged over the use of Extended Zone defences for greater player development outcomes in young players.

Examples

- A novice team is failing to match up when the ball enters the quarter court, but as the offensive team is continually shooting the ball early in the shot clock without a discernible offensive spacing or an alignment, running any cuts, screens or other offensive actions, or having the ball change sides of the court, they fail to expose any possible illegal defence. **Ruling: No action.**
- A novice player, Team A #4 is failing to match up with an opposition player when the ball enters the quarter court. The offense maintains a 5-out alignment, changes sides with the ball, and A4 does not leave the keyway and show that they are responsible for an opposition player. Due to the player's inexperience, the coach is reminded that they should actively coach A4 to be responsible for a player. **Ruling: Reminder.**
- As the game progresses, the player Team A #4 shows no discernible improvement, and the coach is not actively coaching the player to defend legally. The coach is given a warning that any further violations will result in a technical foul being assessed on the coach. **Ruling: Warning.**
- With 2 minutes to go in a tied game, after a time out, Team A plays a 2-2-1 zone press to try to force a turnover on a side ball in the back court. Provided they are in a grade which allows Extended Zone defence, and they fall back into man-to-man defence, there is no illegal defence. **Ruling: No action.**

Examples (continued)

- The game is in a grade which does not allow Extended Zone defence. No reminders or warnings have been given. The supervisor rules that the strategy is pre-meditated and that the coach has directed the players to play the defence. At the next break in play, the supervisor approaches the bench and instructs the referees to issue a technical foul on the coach of team A. Team B receives 1 free throw and the game resumes as it was prior to the technical foul. **Ruling: Technical Foul.**

Process

- If a coach suspects the opposition of an illegal defence violation, they should discreetly ask their team manager or assistant coach to alert the Supervisor to a possible breach of the illegal defence rule.
- The Supervisor will observe and either apply no penalties or a penalty depending on the severity and intent of the offending team.
- Referees will not be involved in the process, except when directed to administer a technical foul to an offending coach.
- Coaches who act demonstratively in alerting a supervisor or SAC Staff to a potential violation by the other team, may themselves be issued with a technical foul if appropriate.

Glossary

- **Quarter Court** The area of the court from the free-throw line or throw-in line to the nearest end line.
- **Man-To-Man Defence** Any defence where the primary purpose of the team's players is to primarily defend an opposition player rather than an area of the court.
- **Zone Defence** Any defence which does not incorporate normal man-to-man defensive principles in the Quarter Court.
- **Extended Zone Defence** Any defence which does not incorporate normal man-to-man defensive principles played beyond the Quarter Court.
- **Illegal Defence** Any defence, in certain competition grades, that does not incorporate normal man-to-man defensive principles.

