



# OFFICIATING GUIDELINES 2018

## 1. Use of Voice

Officials are expected to preventatively officiate the game with effective voice. This is a proactive approach to prevent illegal contact from occurring rather than being a reactive measure after contact has occurred. The use of voice however is not intended to replace the calling of fouls that would ordinarily have been called.

Officials are expected to verbally support their calls and signals during the game.

## 2. Contact and Criteria

- Officials shall decide whether illegal contact caused by a player has had an effect on the play. If contact caused by a player in any way restricts the freedom of movement of an opponent or forcibly moves an opponent, such contact is a foul.
- When deciding on a personal contact or violation, the officials shall, in each instance, have regard to and weigh up the following fundamental principles:
  - The spirit and intent of the rules and the need to uphold the integrity of the game.
  - Consistency in application of the concept of illegal contact and effect on the play. The officials should not seek to interrupt the flow of the game unnecessarily in order to penalise incidental personal contact which does not give the player responsible an advantage nor place his opponent at a disadvantage.
  - Consistency in the application of common sense to each game, bearing in mind the abilities of the players concerned and their attitude and conduct during the game.
  - Consistency in the maintenance of a balance between game control and game flow, having a 'feeling' for what the participants are trying to do and calling what is right for the game.

## 3. Shooter Protection

- **Illegal** contact on an opponent in the act of shooting is to be called a foul.

## 4. Fake a Foul

- Fake is an action by a player to simulate that he has been fouled or to make theatrical exaggerated movements in order to create an opinion of being fouled and therefore gaining an advantage.
- This type of behaviour does not fit within the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play and if identified should be controlled early.
- **Standard (normal) Faking**
  - A player who fakes being fouled but does not generate any illegal contact and the referee shows the fake signal:
    - I. i. A warning is given to the player and to the Head Coach during the next game interruption. This serves as a warning for that team.



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- II. ii. Any repetition of faking by the same team is a technical foul.
- III. iii. Each team is entitled to one warning.
  - **Excessive Faking**
    - i. A player who fakes excessively (without any contact with an opponent) and does not generate any illegal contact, this is a Direct Technical Foul.
  - **Faking and Illegal Contact**
    - i. If a player fakes generating illegal contact, call the foul on the faker.
    - ii. If there is a foul on the play there cannot be a fake on the same play.

### 5. Player / Coach Behaviour

- Officials are encouraged to have open and respectful communication with players and coaches. Conversations should be short, sharp and to the point and without debate. All attempts should be made to resolve any conflict in a timely and professional manner, ensuring the game is not unnecessarily delayed.
- Inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour by a player or coach will not be tolerated.
- Mistakes made by coaches, players, administrators and officials are a part of the game.
- Disrespectful, inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour when mistakes are made will not be tolerated.
- Either the coach or the assistant coach, but only one of them at any given time, is permitted to remain standing during the game. They may address the players verbally during the game provided they remain within the team bench area. **The assistant coach shall not address the officials.**
- Officials should not allow coaches to enter the court, or leave the team bench area. Except;
  - a) During a charged time-out to address the team (provided they remain within the vicinity of their team bench area).
  - b) Attending to an injured player.
  - c) Courteously requesting a time-out or statistical information from the score table.
- Respectful questions asked in a calm manner by a player or a coach are to be answered by the official when an opportunity permits. Officials are to **listen, understand, respect and respond** accordingly. Officials are to provide short, sharp responses to ensure that the game is not unnecessarily delayed.
- At no time shall a player or coach be disrespectful to officials and/or table officials.
  - A player/coach is not allowed an objectionable initial reaction to a call, including:
    - a) Any **obvious or blatant verbal or non-verbal disputation** of an official's decision.



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- b) Any action that **belittles or demeans an official**.
  - c) Any **obvious non-verbal reactions** which may incite the crowd.
  - d) Any use of **audible foul language**.
- Officials should not allow any **continuous questioning towards the officials or continual commentary on the game**.
  - Officials should not allow assistant coaches or bench players rising to their feet **to complain about an official's decisions**.
  - Officials should not allow coaches to become the centre of attention with **theatrical gestures and constant complaining**.

### **PROCEDURE**

- Officials are encouraged to try where possible, to prevent from calling a technical foul by anticipating and reading the problem and consequently addressing the coaches behaviour before having to deal with it with a technical foul. Officials are to consider using a 3-step process:

#### **STEP 1:**

- Officials are encouraged to attempt to de-escalate the situation with effective communication techniques; clearly articulating the behaviour is not acceptable.

#### **STEP 2:**

- If the inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour continues, the referee is to issue a warning.
- This will involve the referee blowing their whistle and giving an obvious, clear and audible warning to the player / coach in a way that everyone knows a warning has been given.
- The official will use words similar to "Coach / Player, your behaviour is unacceptable / inappropriate and this is a warning for you to stop that behaviour. If you continue, next time will be a technical foul." The official is to ensure that their partners are aware of this warning.
- At the same time, the official will reinforce this verbal warning with visual signals. This includes a 'continuation / next time' hand gesture and a "technical foul" signal.

#### **STEP 3:**

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

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