

Issue 18

Introduction from the CEO

Welcome to all you referees and technical officials who play such a key role in the success of this great sport!

There have been many changes at Basketball New Zealand's head office over the past six months. I want to briefly outline the systems and people in place to help you referee the sport of basketball in 2008..

Within the next few weeks, we will name **Regional Referee Officers** (RRO's). These are part-time, paid employees of Basketball New Zealand, charged with ensuring referees in their area have support, mentoring, coaching and opportunities available to them. These people will be on call to answer your questions and help further your skills. If you have any questions about any part of refereeing, the RRO's would be your first call. These officers will report to me and will have technical support from the newly formed Technical Commission.

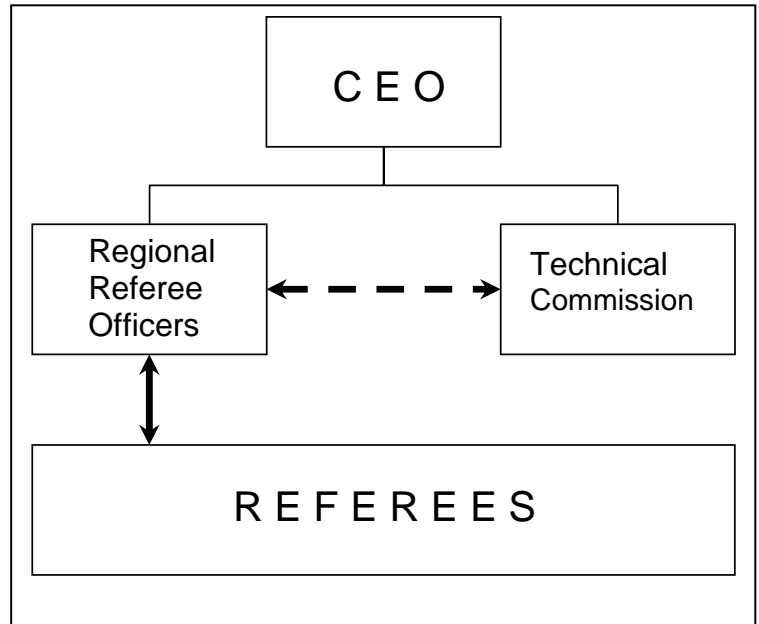
The **Technical Commission** is a new committee set up to oversee all matters regarding referee appointments and technical aspects within the game. The commission is responsible for all technical matters, appointments and the overall development of referees in New Zealand. The diagram below shows how the structure will fit together.

You will have read in the November edition of *Nothin' But News* that referee development has been included in Regional Cluster Camps. This is part of BBNZ's strategic 5-10 year plan to ensure the development of basketball in all areas of the country. Referees, like players and coaches, are encouraged to take part in these camps to receive intensive, up-to-date professional development to further them in refereeing basketball. This pathway will be used to move more quality referees into national championship tournaments, CBL, WBL, NBL and the international arena.

In the "Officials" section of the Basketball New Zealand website is a Referee and Evaluators Nomination Form. If you are interested in refereeing or evaluating at any of the 2008 national championships, you need to complete this form and send it to Tom Radomski as soon as possible. You are then placed on a nominations list for that tournament. Once nominations are in, the Technical Commission and RRO's will liaise to select referees for the tournaments. The RRO's speak on behalf of the community, so if you have any problems or concerns, please raise them with your RRO.

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- A new Referee Evaluation Sheet.
- Representing Basketball New Zealand.



I would like to thank the referees that have come forward to help in this exciting new time for the sport as we move forward to enhance the quality of officiating basketball in New Zealand. As a former referee myself (if there is such a thing), I well understand your role and wish you the very best for the year ahead.

Bounce Bounce
 Dale Stephens
 CEO

Keep Your Eyes on the Action!

Basketball New Zealand is finalising a sponsorship agreement for all the sport with a leading community safety trust.

This relationship, which will see referees wearing a key slogan on their shirts, will be announced during the first televised Dominion Finance NBL game this Thursday night.

Stand by for more details.

A Note from Ken Coulson

This year marks the year where the referees' programme will dove-tail into the existing player and coach development. After a very successful All-NZ Camp, this year's Action Days will continue the development of the game from grass roots through to the elite level.

As referees, we have the opportunity to be part of the development of basketball at all levels in a structured and planned programme that links all aspects of the game. The structure will enable referees to develop and improve with help from referee coaches, senior referees and team coaches without the pressures associated with tournament refereeing.

Remember we are all part of the big jigsaw that makes up the game of basketball. As referees, we need to know and respect the many other stakeholders, who each have a part to play in ensuring the unity and success of the game. We need to respect all those involved in the game and maintain high standards at all times, because without the game, there is no refereeing.

As part of maintaining high standards during BBNZ camps, all participants wear BBNZ apparel. The referees' black polo shirt is ideal for such camps, league games and tournaments. Be proud to be a New Zealand Basketball Referee on and off the court.

Some points for referees to work on during the up-coming season

While on court, referees assigned to games must always be seen as a team, supporting each other at all times. During games, the correct uniform should be worn so referees look like fit athletes, working hard at their craft. During pre and post-game discussions, be positive and accepting of advice and coaching. Ensure that all signals and mechanics are as prescribed by FIBA manuals.

There seems to be a wide variety of methods for signalling numbers not shown in the FIBA rulebook, including the high numbers of 20-25, 30-35 40-45, 50-55 and other two-digit numbers that have started to appear at tournaments. I would like to standardise all numbers to ensure clarity and uniformity of signals to benches. Thus, the following ruling will apply: **all numbers will be signalled with palms facing the bench, either on one or two hands**. This should clear up the issue and end the habit of turning hands around, which for some numbers could be seen as an offensive gesture.

This year's *Points of Emphasis* are based on those used for the past few seasons in the Australian system and from points raised at the All-NZ Camp by coaches and referees. With the Breakers and Sirens playing in the Australian national leagues and New Zealand junior teams travelling to Australia each year, it is important we align refereeing in all New Zealand leagues and tournaments with the *Points of Emphasis* used across the Tasman.

Investment ... what does this mean for refereeing? Many referee and referee coaches acknowledge they have had opportunities provided and investment in them, and have made an effort to return something back into the sport. It would be great to see more senior referees assisting at club level and tournaments, both regional and national, rather than just doing league games. Collectively, we grow stronger and better through the support of others.

We need to see and encourage all referees to get involved, and supporting the development of refereeing across all areas of the sport during 2008. So, to all the referees and referee coaches, best of luck for a successful and enjoyable season ahead.

Ken Coulson
FIBA Educator

Koru Tour 2008

Six young referees – Alex Churchill, Paul Smith, Nick Naylor, Marchy Pang, Brad Quinn and Todd Barclay – took up the opportunity to travel with referee coaches Kelly McLeod and Ken Coulson to the annual Australian Country Cup. With only two returning from last year, it was an all-new experience for the four rookies. The group assembled in Melbourne after a very early morning start for the flight from Auckland and had to cool our heels for two hours before passing through Australian customs. The team enjoyed their days in Melbourne, visiting shops and markets, and participating in team building exercises and lectures back at the motel.



The group made good use of the sporting nature of Melbourne by spending an afternoon touring the MCG, a great sporting venue. In the evening, they off to Telstra Stadium to support the Wellington Phoenix football team. What an experience! New Zealand student ID cards were not accepted, so all except Nick had to pay full price. Then, afterwards, we were locked in the stadium with the 70 other Phoenix supporters in case we caused a problem with the home fans. We appreciated that such crowd problems were not part of the New Zealand basketball scene.

Saturday, we travelled day up to Albury in two vans. On arrival at the motel, we were warmly greeted by the West Australian referees and, of course, old friendships were renewed with the typical Australian bagging of Kiwis, especially by many of the referee coaches. The referee camp began with a “meet and greet” BBQ for all 58 referees and 20 referee coaches at the SS&A Club. With less lectures for the camp, referees spent their time building up for the tournament. Sunday consisted of a few lectures, a swim and on-court drills in 39^o heat. The referees are divided into two groups, based on experience, for the lectures that covered new rules, foul situations, violations, contact principles and game philosophies.

The tournament began with an outstanding cultural ceremony at the Wodonga Stadium. For the first time in the history of the event, New Zealand was given the honour of hosting the 2008 tournament. New Zealand athletes were given the privilege of reading the oaths of participation and senior Koru referee Alex Churchill proudly read the officials’ oath. The opening ceremony was followed by the first round of games. Referees for the tournament were divided into two groups with the upper group refereeing U16 Boys, U18 Girls and U18 Boys, and lower group refereeing U14 Girls and Boys and U16 Girls. Referees were required to do at least one game and one scorebench for single-round days, and two games and benches on the two double-round days.

Bowling was again a tournament highlight with traditional format and rivalry. This year, the NZ team managed to hold their own, but could not compete with the WA team, who had been out practicing for the last few months.

All New Zealand referee’s again acquitted themselves with credit and all had fine performances over the six days. Nick Naylor was rewarded with the U14 Boy’s final. At the closing ceremony, Paul Smith was presented with one of the four scholarships for 2008, an invitation to a classic tournament in Melbourne during July.





Points of Emphasis 2008

This document is meant as a guide to how the game should be called to provide the optimum product for the League. The points raised have been made based on the style of play that the National Basketball League (NBL) would like as well as areas of concern from the last few seasons. The document was prepared after consultation with various coaches and senior referees. This process is part of the inclusive approach Basketball New Zealand (BBNZ) is taking with regards to future development of the game for New Zealand.

1. Game Management

Mutual respect for each of the participants (players, coaches and referees) is expected. Attention should focus on:

- a. Respect the referee's role in assessing at all times what is fair and consistent for everyone involved in the game.
- b. Allowance be made for errors of judgment by all parties but in the case of disagreement the following rules are to be observed:
 - i. If a question is asked appropriately the official **must not** ignore it.
 - ii. The coach or player **must** accept the answer in good faith.
 - iii. Any discussion to be 'short, sharp and to the point'.
- c. Coaches and players are to portray respect and constraint towards decisions of officials at all times. Whilst it is not the intention to restrain good communication between players, coaches and officials, **the public image of the game must be upheld**. Therefore officials are directed to call a technical foul in the following cases:
 - i. Publicly overt and/or demonstrative actions towards an official
 - ii. Where an official considers he/she cannot perform their duties due to unreasonable and avoidable interference

Under no circumstances are officials to engage in lengthy explanations with players and coaches.

2. Player and Coach Language

Any audible obscenity/foul language by players or coaches will not be tolerated. Officials shall be diligent and accept zero tolerance in this area.

38.3.1 A **technical foul** is a player non-contact foul of a behavioural nature including, but not limited to:

- i. Disregarding warnings by officials.
- ii. Disrespectfully touching the officials, the commissioner, the table officials or the team bench personnel.
- iii. Disrespectfully communicating with the officials, the commissioner, the table officials or the opponents.
- iv. Using language or gestures likely to offend or incite the spectators.

38.3.2 A **technical foul** by a coach, assistant coach, substitute or team follower is a foul for disrespectfully communicating with or touching the officials, the commissioner, the table officials or the opponents, or an infraction of a procedural or an administrative nature.

3. Hand and Body Contact on the Ball Carrier

Incidental body contact or incidental brushing of an opponent with a hand in the back court should be considered under advantage/disadvantage principles.

Any hand that is left on an opponent by a defensive player either in the front court or the back court that impedes his opponent's progress must be assessed as a foul.

- a. It is a foul if.
 - i. A defender leaves his hand on an offensive player
 - ii. A defender continually places hand/s on an offensive player
 - iii. A defender places two hands on an offensive player
 - iv. A defender continually jabs an offensive player
 - v. An illegal arm bar is used by the defender (ie. the arm is extended outside the defenders normal cylinder).





Nothing But News

The referees are instructed to use preventative officiating to help in this area with comments *'hands off' 'show your hands' 'move your feet'* if they believe the guard is being hand-checked and once a warning has been given, a foul will be called if the hand returns on.

The tactic of trying to tire out the guard so that they are less effective late in the game by hand-checking and bumping will be called as fouls early in the game to counteract these tactics.

a) **Most hand-checking will occur:**

- At the beginning of a game where defenders are aggressively playing defence.
- When players are getting tired and attempt to use their hands to maintain good defensive position.
- In a defensive mismatch with a defender trying to guard a quicker offensive player.
- In isolated one on one situation, where the offensive player beats his defender.
- On any drives to the basket.
- When the defender is having trouble guarding the offensive player.

Another method of checking the ball handler is for the defender to use their body to slow down the ball handler or make them change direction. If the defender is in a legal defensive position then any contact is the responsibility of the offence and in nearly all situations, a no call is best. Under no circumstances can a foul be called on the defender, remember who is creating the contact. When the defender is not legal then the principles of advantage/disadvantage come into play. Referees are to treat bumping of the ball handler the same as hand-checking, that is, give a warning and if the action continues, call a foul.

5. Advantage/Disadvantage

FIBA have adopted this concept, specifically Article 43, and we must strive for consistency in its application. Specific attention should be given to the following areas:

- a. **Contact on the shooter or on a drive to the basket, should always be considered a disadvantage.**
- b. Apply principles of advantage/disadvantage in areas of:
 - i. Post players who play body to body.
 - ii. Rebounding situations provided they generally remain within their cylinder.
 - iii. Incidental contact on the ball carrier in the backcourt.
 - iv. Incidental movement of the pivot foot on the start of a dribble away from the offensive threat.
 - v. Off the ball cutters, and off ball/on ball screens where there is no disadvantage.
 - vi. **Exceptions** to the above when it is considered essential for game management and game control.
- c. Illegal contact in the last minutes of the game must be assessed consistently with the first minutes of the game. Referees should consider players wishing to stop the clock for an opportunity to gain possession of the ball BUT the following should be assessed at all times.
 - i. The principles of unsportsmanlike foul.
 - ii. The principles of advantage/disadvantage.
 - iii. Consistency of application.
- d. Incidental contact in the back court should be considered under advantage/disadvantage principles HOWEVER the following circumstances warrant a foul when players are face to face.
 - i. Physically holding an opponent.
 - ii. Using an extended arm bar.
 - iii. Directing an opponent with hands or arms.

6. Traveling

There has been concern in the amount of traveling that has been creeping in over recent years. As such referees are directed to be specific in applying the travel rule in the following areas.

- i. The **'bunny hop'** once the offensive player has picked up the ball.
- ii. Dragging the pivot foot on receipt of ball from a lead for a pass.
- iii. Moving the pivot foot on a drop step or pivot move to the hoop.
- iv. Dragging or lifting the pivot foot which causes the defensive player to shift direction sending the offensive player in the other direction.





6. Unsportsmanlike Fouls

Illegal contact that goes beyond the bounds of acceptable contact **must** be deemed as unsportsmanlike under the rules of the game as determined by FIBA. In the determination of an unsportsmanlike foul there are two issues only to be considered:

- b. **Was the action a legitimate attempt to play the ball?**
- c. **Was the contact excessively heavy?**

If the answer is **no to (a) and/or yes to (b)** then an unsportsmanlike foul must be called. One only need apply.

An unsportsmanlike foul is a personal foul committed by a player which, in the judgment of the official, is not a legitimate attempt to directly play the ball within the spirit and intent of the rules.

Unsportsmanlike fouls must be interpreted consistently throughout the whole game.

The official must only judge the action.

If a player commits a foul whilst making a legitimate attempt to play the ball (normal basketball play), it is **NOT** an unsportsmanlike foul

Team coaches are encouraged to teach and instruct their players to foul within the above guidelines, when aiming to stop the clock in the dying minutes of the game.

7. Rough Play

Referees must penalise rough play and not allow an escalation of contact. Rough play will generally occur with illegal action off the ball, screening, post play, hand checking and illegal actions that impede a player's progress, both with and without the ball. Illegal contact situations must be called on the action that puts a player to a disadvantage, thus not promoting rough play.

Note: If the officials choose not to call a foul when actions would indicate a call may be warranted, as a minimum they must warn the offending player.

8. Consistency

Advantage/disadvantage principles are to be applied within the spirit and intent of the rules and the need to uphold the integrity of the game. Consistency in applying the concept of advantage/disadvantage where the officials should not seek to interrupt the flow of the game and which does not give the player responsible an advantage nor place him at a disadvantage.

Consistency of application in areas of **game management** will go a long way towards better acceptance by all involved in the on court game and the fans, BUT it must at all times be fairly and consistently applied.

Officials must at all times work hard as individuals and as a team to ensure an across the board consistency in applying these principles and on a game to game basis.

9. Professionalism Protocols

Coaches are to ensure all players under their control maintain high standards relating to uniforms with singles being tucked in accordance with the rules.

For all National Tournament games, referees will introduce themselves before the game to respective team coaches at a proximately the 6 min mark. The introduction will aim to establish a suitable rapport by each party. Then at the end of the game referees will wait at the half way line between the centre circle and the far sideline until the players and coaches have shaken hands before proceeding to the bench. This procedure will enable coaches to show appropriate respect and thank referees for the game. This will also ensure referees are still on court and safe from any harassment by spectators.

For Junior Tournaments referees will be encouraged to assist with the development of young players by directing serious player concerns that are affecting the game to team coaches and managers.



Referee Evaluation Game Report

Here is the new Referee Evaluation Game Report. It will be used for most evaluating at BBNZ tournaments and league games. You can download a copy of this sheet in the "Officials" section of the BBNZ website.

| NZBL REFEREE EVALUATION GAME REPORT | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Evaluator | <input type="text"/> | Round NO. | <input type="text"/> |
| | | DATE | <input type="text"/> |
| | Referee | Umpire 1 | Umpire 2 |
| | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| <i>This report is for the official whose name is in bold and RED.</i> | | | |
| HOME TEAM | <input type="text"/> | VISITOR | <input type="text"/> |
| | | VENUE | <input type="text"/> |
| GAME VALUE | Difficult <input type="text"/> | Average <input type="text"/> | Easy <input type="text"/> |
| FOULS | Score out of 5 | <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | |
| VIOLATIONS | Score out of 5 | <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | |
| GAME CONTROL | Score out of 5 | <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | |
| COMMUNICATIONS | Score out of 5 | <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | |
| ATTITUDE TO GAME | Score out of 5 | <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | |
| TEAMWORK/CO-OPERATION | Score out of 5 | <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | |
| PRESENTATION/FITNESS | Score out of 5 | <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | |
| OVERALL PERFORMANCE | Score out of 15 | <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | |
| TOTAL | | 0 | / 50 |
| AREAS TO WORK ON | | | |
| | | | |
| OVERALL PERFORMANCE | | | |
| | | | |

CRITERIA FOR PERFORMANCE (out of 5)

5 EXCELLENT Top performance, including pre-game duties. No glaring errors and a minimum error rate. Excellent judgement shown with contact, violations, adv/disadv and common sense. Consistency spot on and excellent game control, courage, rapport and teamwork shown. Mechanics(court coverage), communications and signals excellent

4 VERY GOOD Very good performance, including pre-game duties. Only a couple of errors and a low overall error rate. Very good judgement shown with contact, violations, adv/disadv and common sense. Consistency of calls and control of game maintained with courage, rapport and teamwork with partner(s). Mechanics (court coverage), communications and signals good.

3 GOOD Good performance, including pre-game duties. Only a couple of glaring errors and a low overall error rate. Good judgement shown with contact, violations, adv/disadv and common sense. Consistency of calls and control of game maintained with courage, rapport and teamwork with partner(s). Mechanics (court coverage), communications and signals good.

2 AVERAGE A fair performance, including pre-game duties. A few glaring errors and overall error rate a little high. Judgement shown in regards to contact, violations, adv/disadv and common sense inconsistent. This affected game control but code of conduct was followed as best is possible under circumstances. Mechanics(court coverage), communications need work. Note areas to work on. An improvement is expected in the next game.

1 NEEDS TO IMPROVE No consistent calling pattern. Too many errors and an unacceptable error rate. Poor judgement shown in regards to contact, violations, adv/disadv and common sense – this left players & coaches wondering. Mechanics(court coverage), communications and signals poor. Note areas to work on. Counselling needed so adjustments can be made immediately before next game at this level. Improvement must be shown in the next game.

Referee National Championships Nomination Form

Please get your nomination forms in as soon as possible to ensure you are counted for selection to referee at the Basketball New Zealand national championships.

Go to the "Officials" section of the BBNZ website for more information and the form.

www.basketball.org.nz

Representing Basketball New Zealand

Are you interesting in being a New Zealand representative? There are an ever-increasing number of opportunities to wear the New Zealand colours and experience the pride of being a New Zealand representative within basketball refereeing at all levels. Of course, the ultimate honour for any athlete is selection to represent your country and sport at the Olympic Games. Over the history of Olympic basketball, only six New Zealand referees have performed at this prestigious level. Have you got what it takes to aim for this level? Do you have a plan to achieve your goals?

New Zealand basketball has developed a strong reputation over the past 10 years and continues to help the country's best basketball players, coaches and referees uphold the standard required to ensure success on the international stage. So, what opportunities are there for referees to develop and achieve national selection? Like the players and coaches, it all starts with junior regional and national championships, leading to national leagues and finally to tours with the national Teams. Each year, the journey can begin for four young referees with the chance to travel with New Zealand age group teams to the Australian U16 and U18 national championships. This will provide ideal experience to learn and improve at tournaments that have been the starting point for many international players from Australia and New Zealand.

This year is a busy year for New Zealand national basketball teams, with Olympic qualifying for the men, a pre-Olympic tournament for the women, junior Oceania qualifying tournaments and local international games. The new Technical Committee will make referee appointments to these games and tours after the AGM.



Referees at the All-NZ Camp, Palmerston North

Already, **Tim Brown** has been appointed to travel as referee with the Junior Tall Blacks to the Albert Schweitzer Tournament in Germany next month.

Congratulations to the following referees who have achieved international badges over the recent months – **Peter Murray** for being accepted as an International Deaf FIBA Educator and to **Gavin Zimmerman** for achieving his IWBF badge.

Trivia Question

Can you name the six NZ Olympic referees and at which Games? *Answers in the next issue.*