

TyneMet Basketball League

CODE OF CONDUCT

2023-24 Season

INTRODUCTION

FIBA issue a set of rules by which the game of basketball is played. Games between two teams are played using these rules as a framework, and officials are appointed to ensure the framework is not exceeded.

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to provide a framework by which individuals must conduct themselves during a game. The Code is not a set of rules and regulations. It is a set of guidelines agreed by the League that set out how a game should be conducted within their authority.

If these guidelines are ignored, the League Disciplinary Committee has the authority to impose sanctions against individuals or teams.

TEAMS

The success of a team in sport is determined by how well a set of individuals work together. If three or more teams express concern about the conduct of another team, then the League Secretary will send that team a warning letter advising that improved conduct must occur. Failure to do so could lead to expulsion from the League.

- The coach is ultimately responsible for the conduct of the team.
- The home team should always endeavour to make their visitors welcome.
- Teams should not endeavour to intimidate visitors nor attempt to gain advantage by not providing basic facilities such as seating or a warm-up area.
- During the match, the game is played on court with support from non-playing team members. This support should not include negative or derogatory comments directed at the opposition.

COACHES

Coaches have the responsibility of motivating players to perform better than the opposition whilst at the same time conducting themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. They must:

- address Officials in the correct manner and accept the decisions they make;
- NOT encourage verbally abusive conduct or uncontrolled aggression from their players.

PLAYERS

Players (and coaches) must understand that the job of the floor officials is to interpret events within the context of a set of rules and implement penalties when they decide these rules have not been adhered to. *IT IS NOT THE ROLE* of the players (or coaches) to make these decisions, and *IT IS NOT THEIR ROLE* to become involved in the decision making process.

- Players should always conduct themselves in a manner that is not offensive to any participant.
- Verbally abusive language should not occur on the court or within the immediate area that the game is played. This includes the unacceptable shouting of offensive words not directed at another person.
- Whilst sitting on the bench, players should encourage their team without direct or indirect reference to the opposition. It must be remembered that those sitting on the bench are not spectators and should not adopt the attitude that they can say or do as they wish.
- Only the captain of a team has the right to speak to the Officials during a game, and then may only do so to seek clarification of a decision.
- If a player is disqualified, they must leave the playing area immediately. Any refusal or unsportsmanlike conduct whilst doing so may lead to an extended penalty if the Officials report it.

Appendix 1 'Guidance Regarding Dissent' should be read and understood by officials, players and coaches to be an integral part of this Code.

In September 2009, the League adopted a new programme entitled "Expectations of Standards of Behaviour and Actions" (known as "Expect" for short). This document is attached at Appendix 2. In June 2017, further guidance and clarity was adopted by the League in respect of participant behaviour. This is attached at Appendix 8.

In September 2012, the League adopted a policy statement around the use of social media by its members and associates. This document is attached at Appendix 3.

MATCH OFFICIALS

The conduct of the match Officials often has a major bearing on the outcome of the game. However, before and during the game they have unquestionable authority and are the representatives of the League for that game. They should:

- always attend a game that has been allocated to them unless contact has been made with the Refereeing Coordinator, and the home team secretary;
- officiate games within the framework of FIBA rules as agreed by the League;
- wear the correct uniform;
- write a report to the League of any incident that brings the game into disrepute. This is mandatory for Disqualifications as the report is the basis of the Disciplinary Committee meeting. Any game that is abandoned must be reported immediately;
- be subject to written reports to the League after a game, but not in person by anyone at the game.
-

TABLE OFFICIALS

Despite supporting or belonging to the home team, table officials should:

- be impartial and record the game accurately;

- be provided with appropriate equipment and facilities by the home team to complete the task competently; • not enter into discourse with players during the game, other than to confirm the score or time;
- accept that the opposing team has the right to nominate an observer on the table.

PENALTIES

- **Automatic Team Penalties** (issued after receipt of a referee's report or when discovered subsequently e.g. during checking of scoresheets):

Failure to turn up to a game without informing the appropriate people in a timely manner £25 fine * 10 pts

Playing a non-registered** player(s) £20 fine per player per game played *** 10 pts

Disqualification of a team member for violent conduct 6 pts

Disqualification of a team member for non-violent conduct 4 pts

Playing an ineligible registered player (e.g. outstanding fines; unauthorised transfer) £20 fine per player per game played *** 10 pts

Substantiated written complaint from an opposing team, match official or other BE registered individual 3 pts

* PLUS costs set out in paragraphs 35d) and 36 of the TML Constitution

** defined as someone who does not have **both** a current approved BE registration and approved TML affiliation status

*** PLUS league point deductions as set out in paragraph 25 of the TML Constitution

The penalties above will be confirmed to the transgressors and League Treasurer by the Disciplinary Secretary.

For the avoidance of doubt, the League has adopted a definition of 'violent conduct' is any action that is judged to be an act of aggression that causes, or attempts to cause, physical contact with another player or official or spectator. Such action being beyond normal in-game fouling and will have normally resulted in a disqualification by match officials.

There are different levels of violent conduct ranging from 'low' (pushing) through to 'high' (a punch), accompanied by consideration of other issues such as duration and premeditation. The sanctions imposed, after consideration of reports, will be scaled according to the severity of the act. The Disciplinary Committee will maintain a tariff table so that consistency of punishment is maintained for similar levels of offence.

Automatic penalties

- **Team Penalties:**

Player or bench technical fouls 3 pts

Coach technical fouls 4 pts

Disqualification for 2 unsportsmanlike or technical fouls, or a combination
Of 1 unsportsmanlike and 1 technical foul 3 pts

Playing a player before a fine has been paid or a match ban
has been fully served £5 5 pts

AND the loss of the
game 0-20 along
with all league
points associated
with the game

Disqualification for low level non violent conduct when the suggested sanction would be no
more than a 2 match ban and £20 fine

Sanctions for passing the various threshold positions for both individuals and teams and clubs
as follows:

Individual 1st threshold £10 fine, 2 match ban
2nd threshold £20 fine, 4 match ban

Team 1st threshold £10 fine, 1 league point deducted
2nd threshold £20 fine, 3 league points deducted

Team (H'cap cup) 1st threshold £10 fine, 10 handicap points deducted
2nd threshold £20 fine. 20 handicap points deducted

• **Individual Penalties:**

Coach technical foul (either a "C" or a "B" foul)	1 st £0 2 nd £20 3 rd £20 4 th £20 + 1 match ban 5 th onwards as 4 th	1 st 5 pts 2 nd 6 pts 3 rd 7 pts 4 th onwards as 3 rd
Player technical foul (except handling the ball after an offensive basket)	1 st £0 2 nd £20 3 rd £20 4 th £20 + 1 match ban 5 th onwards as 4 th	1 st 4 pts 2 nd 5 pts 3 rd 6 pts 4 th onwards as 3 rd
Game disqualification for 2 unsportsmanlike or technical fouls, or a combination of 1 unsportsmanlike and 1 technical foul	£10 fine, (unless the technical foul attracts a higher fine based upon the escalating scale) + 1 match ban, (unless the individual points total passes the threshold for an automatic ban of a greater number of games)	4 pts

Note: a bench technical foul (recorded on the scoresheet as a 'B') will be recorded against the individual in the League's disciplinary system if the individual can be clearly identified. If an individual cannot be clearly identified, then the bench technical foul will be charged to the coach.

Note in respect of **player/coaches**: where a player/coach acts as a coach for their own team or for another team, any *individual* penalties noted above will be applied to the individual under the team where they are registered as a player. The *team* penalties will apply to the team that was being coached by the individual at the time of the infraction. This ensures that all *individual* penalty points will be cumulative.

For the avoidance of doubt, an individual's tally of technical fouls returns to zero at the start of each season, but fines will be carried forward indefinitely until debts are settled.

All penalties above are automatic, and no reminder or notification will be made to the Team or Player. In the event of doubt or dispute, the decision of the Disciplinary Secretary is final.

No player, team or club will be permitted to take part in any games until all fines have been paid. Fines should be sent direct to the Treasurer immediately following the game to arrive within 7 calendar days of the game. Fines may be paid by cheque or an electronic transfer to the League's bank account. Details are freely available from the League's Treasurer. Fines resulting from automatic penalties (see section above) must be paid within 5 working days of the incident occurring. Other (non-automatic) fines will be confirmed by either the Treasurer and/or the Disciplinary Secretary; these fines must be paid within 5 working days of the final notification of the penalty being issued. Fines must be paid before a game starts. A fine may be paid by bank transfer no later than 12 noon on the day of the individual, team, or club's next game or by Friday of the weekend or bank holiday preceding the next game. It is the responsibility of the individual, team, or club to ensure it has been received in accordance with this requirement. No responsibility will be attached to the Treasurer to ensure that the fine has been received (e.g. if they are unavailable for whatever reason). Cheque payments will need to have been received the day before the next game

Additional discretionary penalties

The following events will result in a formal Disciplinary Committee meeting to consider the penalty to be applied:

Event		Suggested penalty	
Disqualification for violent conduct	6 match ban	£50 fine	12 pts (individual)
Disqualification for non-violent conduct	3 match ban	£20 fine	5 pts (individual)
Team or individual conduct resulting in a game being abandoned	See the section below on game abandonment		
Bringing the game into disrepute	3 match ban	£20 fine	5 pts (individual) + 4 team points

Any additional circumstances reported to the Disciplinary Committee relating to incidents or events within the hired facility

3 match ban

£20 fine

5 pts
(individual) +
4 team points

The penalties shown above are the normal maximum applicable by the Disciplinary Committee, although the Disciplinary Committee is reserved the right to suggest more punitive penalties for consideration by the Executive Committee in extreme cases of misconduct.

Game abandonment

The Committee will consider fully the reason for the abandonment. The Committee will have the power to impose reasonable penalties which reflect the seriousness of the offence with due consideration being given to precedent. Penalties may take any or a combination of the following forms:

- financial (the minimum penalty for an individual being £50, for a team being £100);
- award of individual disciplinary points;
- award of team disciplinary points;
- deduction of League points (the minimum being 6 League points);
- a playing ban (the minimum penalty for an individual being 10 games – the Club Secretary will inform the Disciplinary and Fixtures Secretaries of the dates of the games to be sat out by the player);
- a lifetime playing ban – the League will be required to ratify this decision at the next appropriate AGM. If this decision is ratified by the members of the League then the League Secretary will inform neighbouring Associations and Basketball England of the decision.

Disciplinary points accumulation – for INDIVIDUALS

When a player accumulates disciplinary penalty points in accordance with the following threshold triggers, the Disciplinary Committee will consider any additional penalty. These points will be taken over the full season to include the league, knock out cup, handicap cup, veteran's league, and any other competitions sanctioned by the League. Penalties that could be invoked after passing the third threshold are:

	Fine	Match bans
1st offence – at 15 points	£10	2 NOW AUTOMATIC
2nd offence – at 25 points	£20	4 NOW AUTOMATIC
3rd offence – at 32 points	£30	6 DISCRETIONARY

Disciplinary points accumulation – for TEAMS during the League and KO Cup only

When a team accumulates disciplinary points in accordance with the following triggers, the Disciplinary Committee will consider any additional penalty. These points will be taken over the league and knock out cup games only. Penalties that could be invoked after passing the third threshold are:

	Fine	Deductions
1st offence – at 20 points	£10	1 League point deducted NOW AUTOMATIC
2nd offence – at 28 points	£20	3 League points deducted NOW AUTOMATIC
3rd offence – at 37 points	£30	6 League points deducted DISCRETIONARY

Disciplinary points accumulation – for TEAMS during the Handicap competition only

As the Handicap competition is played after the completion of the regular season, the range of possible penalties and trigger points needs to take into account the different circumstances of the competition. When a team accumulates disciplinary points in accordance with the following triggers, the Disciplinary Committee will consider any additional penalty. Penalties that could be invoked after passing the third threshold are:

	Fine	Handicap deductions
1st offence – at 10 points NOW AUTOMATIC	£10	10
2nd offence – at 22 points NOW AUTOMATIC	£20	15
3rd offence – at 28 points DISCRETIONARY	£30	20

All financial penalties so awarded must be paid in full before a player or team may participate in any games organised under the auspices of the TyneMet League after the penalty has been notified.

Teams or Clubs that accumulate a high level of penalty points with continuing disciplinary issues will be required to attend a meeting with members of the Executive Committee. The purpose of the meeting will be to identify causes, and to clarify those team actions and procedures that can be put in place to address the issues involved. Failure to attend such a request will be classed as a disciplinary offence and may lead to suspension from the League of the team or Club and all registered members.

The Club bond must be maintained at the set amount at all times. The Executive Committee reserve the right to review individual Club bond amounts should this not be the case.

Serving of penalties

All match bans are to take **immediate** effect as soon as the Club Secretary is notified of the sanction, that is it will apply to the next game(s) in which the individual would have been eligible to play. The Disciplinary Secretary will advise match officials and the match officials will confirm that the individual has not attended the game in any capacity in the match report. All match bans must be served to the satisfaction of the Disciplinary Secretary. Bans will carry forward into future seasons – including if the individual has a “rest” season or seasons – until the ban is served in full.

Games that count towards match bans will be those for which a score is entered on the match report and the result entered in the league table. Bans will not be counted in respect of games that do not take place whether cancelled or postponed.

Individuals subject to possible bans by the Disciplinary Committee may continue to play until they and their team secretary have been notified of the ban. Any games they have missed before that formal notification will NOT count as games to be missed under the ban.

If an individual is subject to a match ban this means that the individual may not attend the stipulated games in any form, including as a spectator. This means no attendance at any game played by the team for which the individual is registered, but other games that are played by other teams of the same club are not included. Once a ban has been served but the fine not paid then the individual can attend as a spectator.

When a player receives a match ban, they will be shown on the league web site as 'banned'. If the ban is served but the fine not paid they will be shown as 'suspended'. The designation will only be changed to 'approved' once the Treasurer has confirmed receipt or such other proof of payment notified to either the Treasurer or Disciplinary Secretary.

Communication of disciplinary matters

In all cases above involving Disqualification or Abandonment the Match Officials will supply a written report to the Disciplinary Secretary within 48 hours. The reports will be sent by the Disciplinary Secretary to the appropriate team secretaries within 7 calendar days. The team secretaries will then have 7 calendar days (from receipt of the reports) in which to make representation to the Disciplinary Secretary. Following this, the Disciplinary Committee will consider all reports and representations, and then communicate their decision to all parties within 7 calendar days.

Any penalised party will have 7 calendar days to appeal against the Disciplinary Committee findings to the League Secretary. Further details of the Appeal process may be found in the APPEALS section of the League's Constitution and at Appendix 7 of this Code of Conduct. All penalties awarded by the Disciplinary Committee will be suspended pending the outcome of any appeal process.

Any other event reported in writing to the Disciplinary Secretary by a Match Official or other person not covered explicitly in this section (including but not restricted to events that occur after the signing of the scoresheet) will be referred to the secretary of the team(s) concerned within 7 calendar days of receipt of the report by the Disciplinary Secretary, and then handled in the same fashion as above.

SCORESHEETS

At the end of the game a photograph must be taken of the completed scoresheet and must be sent to the Fixtures Coordinator via email to the appropriate address as soon as possible and no later than seven calendar days of the date of the fixture. Failure to meet this 7-day deadline will incur the automatic penalty outlined in the Constitutional document (para 50). All white scoresheets can be emailed to scoresheets@tynemetbasketball.co.uk The original white copy of the scoresheet must be saved and presented to the Fixtures Coordinator at the next league meeting.

BRINGING DISREPUTE TO THE GAME (or groups or individuals within it)

An important part of playing any sport and in particular basketball is the respect of everyone to all other participants, be it players, coaches, officials or spectators. To that end it is important that no one brings the game into disrepute by taking any action that publicly abuses anyone else by word or deed to such an extent that the good reputation of the sport and/or its organisers and officials are unreasonably damaged.

During the game duration the floor officials have Rules and consequent penalties that can be applied instantly. Stemming from such game penalties may come additional secondary penalties handed down by controlling bodies such as local leagues, area committees and Basketball England. However outside of the specific control of a game, actions can occur which are not under the clear control of any controlling body. Pre-game, postgame, social media and electronic messaging in all its forms, written media, etc. are also opportunities for actions/comments to be made in public that may bring into disrepute the sport, individuals or organisations.

“Bringing into disrepute” is typically defined as *“to dishonour or discredit someone or something”* or *“to cause defamation, degradation, disgrace, disparagement, slander, smear, vilification of any group or individual”* to an extent that any average independent person would believe that harm had been done to the reputation of that group/individual.

When such a situation is reported and found proven then the following penalties may be applied by the league’s Disciplinary Committee: 3 Match Ban + £20 Fine + 5 Individual Disciplinary Points + 4 Team Disciplinary Points.

If it considers it appropriate, due to the serious nature of an offence, the Disciplinary Committee can refer the matter to the full League Executive for application of further proportionate penalties.

This document was accepted by a quorum meeting of the TyneMet League held during June 2023.

TyneMet Basketball League

CODE OF CONDUCT

Appendix 1 Guidance Regarding Dissent

June 2006

The TyneMet Disciplinary Code of Conduct was adopted by our League in June 2005 and provides the framework within which players, coaches, team-followers and officials should behave towards one another. The purpose of this document is not to restate this framework, but rather to be very clear about what is and is not acceptable with regard to how referees are treated.

The first guiding principle is that all officials (floor and table) deserve respect and should be treated accordingly.

It must be stated that referees have a duty to communicate effectively with players and coaches. However, this should not interfere with the flow of the game. It should also be remembered that the only people permitted to talk with referees to seek clarification over a particular call are the coach and the court captain. In practice many referees will be more than willing to talk with other individual players with regard to a call they have made, provided it does not interfere with the flow of the game. This is good practice and often avoids players' and coaches' frustration that "the referees won't talk to me". Opportunities during time-outs, between periods of play and during free-throws may often be used to communicate effectively. It is not acceptable to question every single call the referees make. Neither is it acceptable to persistently argue over a call that has been made; once an official has explained a call that should be an end to the matter irrespective of whether a player or coach agrees with the explanation or not.

The former Technical Director (Alan Richardson) of Basketball England – our Governing Body – has been very clear recently that he thinks that many referees have become too tolerant of dissent that is shown to them during games, including at the most senior level of English basketball, the BBL. He has provided a helpful mnemonic:

D	=	Disrespect
I	=	In your face
S	=	Shouting
S	=	Screaming
E	=	Exhibition
N	=	Not acceptable
T	=	Technical foul

It is the last letter above that is the most important. Referees have always had the ability to call a technical foul for abuse, but many referees fail to use this 'management tool'. In our local League I have often heard some referees say that they do not issue technical fouls because it costs people money. This argument is counterproductive and leads to inconsistency in officiating. Everyone who plays in TyneMet knows that there is a Disciplinary Code of Conduct, and is aware of its penalty sections. The financial penalty associated with technical fouls must not be used as a reason for withholding a deserved technical foul.

Of course, during a game emotions run high and players and coaches may well become frustrated with themselves and each other. A good referee will learn the difference between frustration and dissent; referees will not tolerate dissent and will penalise it accordingly.

Mark Patton
Chairman
June 2006

TyneMet Basketball League

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Appendix 2

Expectations of the Standards of Behaviour and Actions by all Participants

❖ All Players, Coaches, Officials and Table Officials must cooperate with each other to create a fair competition within the Rules and the Spirit of the game.

This means that everyone must play their OWN part, and not try to perform the role of another i.e.

- Coaches must only direct and encourage their own players;
- Referees must apply the Rules fairly;
- Players must compete within the Rules - or expect to be penalised; . Table Officials must administer the game impartially.

No-one should act disrespectfully to others, either verbally, by gesture or in any written media.

In particular, dissent towards the decisions of Officials will not be tolerated. You should treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself before, during and after fixtures.

Disagreements regarding decisions and interpretations made by Officials must not become arguments

Captains/Coaches can occasionally ask for clarification, but only when the ball is dead and in a respectful manner. This will not become a debate.

❖ All participants should

- acknowledge good performance and fair play by anyone; -
- learn to accept victory and defeat with humility and dignity;
- take part without undue emotional displays.

By adhering to the above principles it is expected that everyone will ENJOY the game more.

(revised) June 2010

Appendix 3

Guidelines and Policy on the Use of Social Media in Relation to Activities held under the Jurisdiction of the League

Scope

The League believes in free speech, however when posting on any (personal or group) social media account (for example Facebook, Twitter) there is a responsibility on all officials, clubs and individual members of the League to act within a certain set of guidelines when referring to activities held under the jurisdiction of that League.

Guidelines

As a general rule users can post content freely on any social media account except when that content could be considered illegal, obscene, defamatory, disparaging, threatening, infringing upon intellectual property rights, invasive of privacy or otherwise injurious or objectionable. Honestly held beliefs can be expressed but should always be done in a respectful way.

Examples

- a) "The referees were rubbish and cost us the game." is a personal belief but how it is expressed is NOT be acceptable.
- b) "The referees were not very consistent." is a personal belief expressed without abuse.

Penalties Where likely breaches of the above guidelines occur (and are brought to the League's attention) then the Disciplinary Committee will judge if such a breach has occurred. If found to be so then the owner of the offending posting will be contacted to request immediate removal of that posting (and as many subsequent re-postings as can be identified).

In addition the issue of "Bringing the game into disrepute" will be considered under the appropriate section of the Code of Conduct.

Enforcement

Failure to comply with any requested actions will result in the Disciplinary Committee taking further measures, again under the "Bringing the game into Disrepute" section .

Extract from Basketball England's Social Media Policy

16. Content – 'Think Before You Post'

Messages which are defamatory, libellous or obscene are prohibited at all times. Failure to do so may result in significant personal distress, risk to the reputation of the individual, the sport and/or the club, and may require the intervention and/or investigation by Basketball England, the service providers and possibly the police. Basketball England will not tolerate any posting of messages which bring the reputation of basketball in to disrepute and will handle all such instances in line with disciplinary and compliance policies. To report concerns you should contact the Basketball England Compliance Manager.

Clubs wishing to create a social media account should read the BE document for advice –

<http://img.basketballengland.co.uk/media/BasketballEnglandWeb/Docs/Safeguarding/Club%20social%20media.docx>

Revised at AGM June 2023

Appendix 4

Expectations of the Standards of Behaviour and Actions by all Non-Participants (Spectators and Visitors)

Entrance into playing venues is not a right and is by permission of the Hirer, and so the behaviour of visitors must respect the following standards or else that permission will be removed.

- ❖ No-one should act disrespectfully to others, either verbally, by gesture or in any written media.

In all sport there is intensity of emotion, but that must remain under self-control.

- ❖ Disagreements regarding decisions and interpretations made by Officials must not become abusive.

Officials are instructed not to enter dialogue with Spectators, so do not try to communicate with them.

- ❖ Spectators must never enter the playing surface without permission of an Official.

This is considered to be a totally unacceptable action, and will involve serious consequences, possibly game abandonment and fines for the teams.

- ❖ All spectators should
 - acknowledge good performance and fair play by anyone;
 - learn to accept victory and defeat with humility and dignity;
 - observe the game without undue emotional displays.

By adhering to the above principles it is expected that everyone will
ENJOY the game even more.

Adopted at AGM June 2023

Appendix 5

Guidelines for Referees regarding the behaviour of Spectators

BE qualified referees have jurisdiction under the FIBA rules over all participants and team followers (those on the team benches) from 20 minutes before the game until the referee signs the scoresheet. Referees do not have jurisdiction over non-participants (spectators).

If spectators become unacceptably abusive or aggressive then the following procedure should be adopted:-

- a) Call both coaches together and ask if the offender(s) are known to either of them and if so ask that coach to politely request the offender to modify their behavior or else they will be asked to leave. If the spectator is not known to either one then ask them BOTH to fulfill this task. A copy of the "Expect document for Non-Participants" should be shown to the offender so they clearly know what is expected of them.
- b) If further unacceptable behaviour occurs then ask the Hirer (normally the home coach) to request the offender to leave the court/building, warning that the game is likely to be abandoned if they do not.
- c) If the offender does not leave (or is assisted to leave by properly accredited Public Order Officials) then abandon the game and submit a report to the Disciplinary Secretary immediately. This action should be considered as a last resort.
- d) Evidence/witnesses details should have been recorded/collected so that the offender can be positively identified.

The guidelines below have been given to all clubs so that they are aware of the TyneMet League expectations of persons being admitted to their facilities and their responsibilities in doing so.

Expectations of the Standards of Behaviour and Actions by all Non-Participants (Spectators and Visitors)

Entrance into playing venues is not a right and is by permission of the Hirer, and so the behaviour of visitors must respect the following standards or else that permission will be removed .

- ❖ No-one should act disrespectfully to others, either verbally, by gesture or in any written media. In all sport there is intensity of emotion, but that must remain under self-control.
- ❖ Disagreements regarding decisions and interpretations made by Officials must not become abusive. Officials are instructed not to enter dialogue with Spectators ,so do not try to communicate with them.
- ❖ Spectators must never enter the playing surface without permission of an Official.
This is considered to be a totally unacceptable action, and will involve serious consequences.
- ❖ All spectators should
 - acknowledge good performance and fair play by anyone;
 - learn to accept victory and defeat with humility and dignity;
 - observe the game without undue emotional displays.

By adhering to the above principles it is expected that everyone will ENJOY the game even more.

Adopted at AGM June 2023

Appendix 6

Reminders for all game participants about 'tactical fouling' near game-end

The use of so-called 'tactical fouling' near the end of close games is an accepted strategy in the modern game. The initial and on-going training and development of coaches, players and officials recognises this, and the FIBA Rules and Interpretations also recognise this within the spirit and intent of the modern game.

For the purposes of this reminder, *tactical fouling* is defined as the deliberate use of personal foul(s) in order to stop the game clock and to arrive at a situation whereby the opposing team has to shoot free throws, thus giving the fouling team the opportunity to 'get the ball back'. **Referees** must understand this as a legitimate tactic that may be deployed and should act accordingly in order to avoid the escalation of physical contact between players.

All **participants** must recognise that an unsportsmanlike foul is clearly defined and these criteria apply during the whole game, with one additional criteria applying to the final two minutes of the game. For the purposes of clarity, the 2017 FIBA Rulebook states the following at 37.1.1:

An unsportsmanlike foul is a player contact foul which, in the judgement of an official is:

- Not a legitimate attempt to directly play the ball within the spirit and intent of the rules.
- Excessive, hard contact caused by a player in an effort to play the ball or an opponent.
- An unnecessary contact caused by the defensive player in order to stop the progress of the offensive team in transition. This applies until the offensive player begins his act of shooting.
- Contact by the defensive player from behind or laterally on an opponent in an attempt to stop the fast break and there is no defensive player between the offensive player and the opponent's basket. This applies until the offensive player begins his act of shooting.
- Contact by the defensive player on an opponent on the playing court during the last 2 minutes in the fourth period and in each extra period, when the ball is out-of-bounds for a throw-in and still in the hands of the official or at the disposal of the player taking the throw-in.

Thus, **players** must recognise that 'fouling' options such as grabbing an opponent's shirt or shorts, bear-hugging, hard fouls and fouling a player whilst the ball is out of bounds for a throw-in during the final two minutes of the game will ALWAYS result in the fouled player shooting free throws AND the opposition getting the ball back.

Coaches should instruct players accordingly, so that if tactical fouling is to be employed then players must not commit an unsportsmanlike foul in order to get the ball back.

Updated from 2015 and adopted at AGM June 2023

Appendix 7

Appeal Procedure Against Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee

- 1) An appeal against a decision of the Disciplinary Committee is allowed by the TML Code of Conduct and Constitution for all Discretionary Penalties. An appeal is NOT allowed for AUTOMATIC penalties, as defined in the Code of Conduct.
- 2) The Appeal must be sent to the League Secretary as described in the APPEALS section of the League's Constitution. Communications regarding both the original decision by the Disciplinary Committee and the appeal will normally be carried out by e-mail, the agreed chosen method of communication of the League.
- 3) The primary reason for any Appeal must be cited when making one. The appeal procedure is not designed to debate the decision of the match officials in the awarding of any in-game penalty. It is to examine the methodology of the Disciplinary Committee in applying its decision-making procedures fairly and consistently. Consequently the grounds for an appeal are broadly these:
 - a) Failure to observe the communication procedure outlined in the Code of Conduct.
 - b) Acting outside of their powers as defined in the Code of Conduct and Constitution.
 - c) The fundamental facts contained within the reports used by the Disciplinary Committee to arrive at their decision are seriously flawed. For example, the offender is incorrectly identified. However as all parties will have been given the chance to comment on the reports, any deficiencies should have already been reported before the time that the Committee considered its decision. Simple repetition/amplification of those facts/opinions will carry little or no weight in an appeal. Similarly non-impartial evidence brought later to an appeal will rarely be considered as admissible.
 - d) New impartial evidence, not available to the Committee when making their decision, has been obtained and contains previously unknown and relevant facts.
 - e) Inconsistency in the gravity of awarded penalties.
- 4) The fee for the appeal is defined in the League's Constitution document in the APPEALS section. This fee will be forfeited if the appeal is not upheld.
- 5) The procedure for organising the appeal meeting is as follows.

An appeal will be either written or in person. Written appeals will apply will by default to all discretionary sanctions unless the level of sanctions to be applied would be individual or combined sanctions including fines over £30, in excess of a 6 match ban, or loss of more than 6 league points, when the appellant party will have the right of a face to face appeal if they so desire. Once the written appeal is received, the League Secretary will, within 7 days, define the timetable for receipt of written submissions by all parties, or in the case of a face to face appeal define the time and place of the appeal hearing (after consultation with all parties). The written submissions will be circulated to the two members of the League Executive nominated by the Chair to act, and who will issue their decision within 7 days of receipt. The face to face appeal hearing will consist of two members of the League Executive nominated by the Chair, and will not include any member involved in the incident or in making the original Disciplinary Committee decision.

The appellant can supply two persons, one of whom would normally be the appellant themselves. The Disciplinary Committee Secretary must also attend (to provide the Committee's evidence).

- 6) Written submissions are to be sent to the League Secretary within 7 days of the notification of the timetable as set out in paragraph 5. These submissions should contain all information that the appellant relies upon in making the appeal. Submissions should be in electronic format, and where necessary include consent from all individuals concerned as to the circulation of the information provided. This document will be sent to the Appeal Committee and Disciplinary Secretary, and any comments from the Disciplinary Committee makes in response to the submission will be circulated back to the appellant and the Appeals Committee. The decision of the Appeals Committee will be circulated to all concerned within 7 days of the submissions being received by the League Secretary.
- 7) If a face to face Appeal Hearing is to be convened, the meeting will take the following form:

Who?	What?	Present?
Appeal Panel Chair	Introductions	All present
Appellant	Outlines grounds for appeal	Appeal Panel, appellant (max 2) and Disciplinary Secretary
Disciplinary Secretary	Procedures followed by the Committee and evidence considered	Appeal Panel, appellant (max 2) and Disciplinary Secretary
Appellant	Details of the appeal	Appeal Panel, appellant (max 2) and Disciplinary Secretary
Appeal Panel	Questions for both parties	Appeal Panel, appellant (max 2) and Disciplinary Secretary
Appeal Panel	Closed debate	Appeal Panel only
Appeal Panel Chair	Describes and explains the Panel's decision(s), and may provide further recommendations	Appeal Panel, appellant (max 2) and Disciplinary Secretary

- 8) An Appeal Panel secretary will record all the salient points of the appeal and these minutes will be retained.
- 9) The Appeal Panel decision will be given verbally at the end of the hearing and will be given in writing (by email) as soon as possible after the meeting (within 7 calendar days).
- 10)-A further appeal is possible to the Area Committee and must be notified to the Area Secretary within 7 calendar days of receiving the written outcome of either the written or face to face appeal hearing. The appeal to the Area will be subject to the same provisions of the League relating to costs and arrangements either in writing or face to face and be considered by 2 members of the Area Committee nominated by the Chair.

- 11) As the original specific penalties awarded by the Disciplinary Committee will have been suspended while the appeal procedure is in force, the Appeal Panel Chair must give clear guidance as to when any remaining penalties will apply from, any fees forfeited etc, so that a clear end to the process is made.

Adopted at AGM June 2023

TyneMet Basketball League

CODE OF CONDUCT

Appendix 8

Guidance regarding Safety, Abuse, Discrimination, Safeguarding and Similar Issues

Basketball England has an extensive library of downloadable documents relating to issues, like those listed above, that surround the played game. Some of the issues may occur within the game as well. The fundamental basis of most of these documents is the **protection of all the participants** in basketball. These downloads can be found at the following website

<https://www.basketballengland.co.uk/integrity/>

In order to maintain consistency of purpose, these National Governing Body documents will be used as the primary guidance in the TyneMet League for the topics named, especially in the absence of any specific guidance listed in the League's documentation.

Verbal Abuse

Personal verbal abuse within our sport is not to be accepted. Phrases like "trash talk" and "sledging" are often used to describe such action. This sort of behaviour is seen in many sports, but is particularly unacceptable in such a fast moving team game with a large age range.

In this regard, the basic ethics of Basketball England define that participants must ...

- *Treat everyone equally and sensitively regardless of age, disability, gender, race, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or political affiliation*
- *Treat your team-mates and opponents, coaches, club officials and match officials with respect and consideration at all times - treat them as you would like to be treated*
- *Not use foul, sexist or racist language or offensive gestures at any time.*

In order to penalise such personal abuse then match officials must always apply on-court sanctions immediately it is heard. Technical fouls and instant disqualification are sanctions.

All examples of such behaviour must be reported by the match officials to the Disciplinary Committee Secretary who can then investigate the matter and deal with it accordingly.

NOTE THAT THE BE REGULATIONS RELATING TO "INTEGRITY" ARE FAR REACHING AND CAN HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR ANYONE REPORTED UNDER THEIR GUIDELINES. THE TYNEMET LEAGUE IS UNABLE TO RESIST ACTION BY BE IF THEY SO DETERMINE. ALL INVOLVED IN THE SPORT ARE RECOMMENDED TO BE AWARE OF THE SITUATION.

Adopted at the AGM June 2023

TyneMet Basketball League

CODE OF CONDUCT

Appendix 9

Disciplinary Report Writing

These are suggested guidelines for referees completing any detailed match report (required in certain circumstances) together with proposed report form (based upon BE documentation). The purpose of this guidance is to avoid expressions of opinion rather than fact. A disciplinary report form is on the second page of this appendix.

Report writing - aims

- To develop a writing frame to allow consistent objective report writing
- To develop reports that are accurate, informative and robust
- To ensure that the integrity of officials is never questioned

Report writing

- Use the template provided below
- Ensure all the basic details are completed correctly
- Do not collude and produce reports that are clearly 'cut and paste'!
- Make sure your report is objective (don't include personal opinions and keep it factual)

Reporting the incident

- Give some context to the incident
- Where were you when it happened?
- Where was the ball?
- Where was the incident?
- What happened in the run up to the incident?
- What happened in the incident?
- Report only what you **saw** and **heard** - these must be linked!

Concluding the report

- What were the outcomes you came to?
- How did you reach these outcomes?
- How was the game restarted?
- Were there any repercussions from the incident - only comment if there were!
- The report must be sent to the League Disciplinary Secretary within 48 hours

In summary

- Provide a context
- Be factual
- Avoid conjecture - only report facts
- Meet the deadlines

Adopted at AGM June 2018

TyneMet League Disciplinary Report Form

This form should be used in the case of a disqualification or other disciplinary matter, or in the case of an official wishing to draw attention to any other matter associated with the match, which may result in disciplinary action. The contents of this form are confidential and should not be shown or otherwise divulged to any other person. The report must be sent to disciplinary@tynemetbasketball.co.uk **within 48 hours of the incident, or in the case of a Sunday fixture by 12.00pm on Tuesday** following the match.

Competition					Match No					Date					
Team A					Team B										
Referee 1					Referee 2										
Referee 3															
Report by					Duty										
Re: conduct of					Team					Licence No					
Conduct type (please tick all relevant)	Disqualification			Pre-Game conduct			In-game conduct			Post-game conduct			Other		
	Player			Coach			Spectator			Bench			Other		
Re: conduct of					Team					License No					
Conduct type (please tick all relevant)	Disqualification			Pre-Game conduct			In-game conduct			Post-game conduct			Other		
	Player			Coach			Spectator			Bench			Other		

NB Only report what you actually witness, not hearsay.

Signed					Date				
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Continue report on next page if necessary