

# **Rockingham Basketball and Recreation Association (RBRA)**



## **Zero Tolerance Policy**



## **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

The RBRA has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy to ensure the safety, respect, and wellbeing of all participants. This policy aims to change the culture of dissent towards referees and among each other at RBRA. No individual is bigger than the game or the rules, and all will be treated equally with respect

This policy exists to:

- Protect all participants from abuse.
- Uphold our values of respect, fairness, and safety.
- Support the development of players, referees and the greater community.

### **2.0 ZERO TOLERANCE APPLIES TO**

Any form of abusive, disrespectful, unsportsmanlike, or unsafe behaviour, whether verbal, physical, or written (including online/social media), directed towards:

- RBRA employees and Mike Barnett Sports Complex staff
- RBRA volunteers
- Referees/Officials
- Coaches and team managers
- Players
- Spectators
- The reputation of the Association

### 3.0 EXAMPLES OF PROHIBITED BEHAVIOUR

- Obscene, offensive, or vulgar language
- Racial vilification, gender vilification
- Arguing, disputing, or persistently questioning the referee's decisions
- Taunting, ridiculing, or threatening others
- Gestures or behaviour intended to intimidate or embarrass officials
- Physical violence or threats of violence
- Throwing objects onto the court/interfering with play
- Undermining the role of referees, coaches, or volunteers
- Aggressive acts of frustration (e.g slamming clipboards onto the floor, swinging arms in a punching motion – even if not directly targeting someone)

### 4.0 APPLICATION AND ENFORCEMENT

#### Parents/Spectators

Officials may stop the game if a spectator displays inappropriate and disruptive behaviour. If a spectator is abusive, court controllers or referee coaches will first speak quietly with them in an attempt to resolve the issue without interference of the game. If the behaviour continues, the game will stop, and they will be asked to leave the court and may be ejected from the venue entirely. If removed, they cannot return until at least the following day. Once the violating spectator has been removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced.

#### Coaches

**Under no circumstances** are Green Refs to be questioned about calls during or after a game, as they are learning. Grey Refs (junior refs) are only to be questioned about calls during time outs and half time if no striped referee is available. Striped Referees can only be spoken to about calls during breaks in play: Time Outs, Half Time and Dead balls - **Not during play.**

Questioning calls repeatedly or speaking to refs during play will result in a warning, followed by a technical foul if continued. Referee coaches may intervene and speak with the coach during a timeout or break in play. Coaches are to maintain composure at all times. Violent or intimidating behaviour is **strictly not tolerated**. This extends to the likes of slamming a clipboard, which will result in an instant ejection.

## **Players**

Prohibited Behaviour and Unsportsmanlike conduct (examples of which can be found in Part 3.0) may result in immediate technical fouls or suspension. This can include offensive language towards other players, coaches, officials and spectators. The expectation is that while being competitive is encouraged, it should not lead to a situation where common courtesy and respect for each other are no longer demonstrated. Extreme gestures of violence or aggression out of frustration are simply not acceptable – this includes throwing punches or swinging arms (even if not directed at anyone) or smacking the bench, grandstand, chairs etc. The violent display of frustration in this manner will result in an immediate ejection.

While the competitive nature of the game can lead to frustration, players must remember that they are a representation of the RBRA's values, and part of that includes showing respect to the sport, each other, and even the venue and equipment being used.

\*Ejected players/coaching staff under 18 will be escorted into the reception area if their parent/guardian is not present. Their duty manager will contact a parent/guardian at the earliest opportunity\*

## **Officials' Conduct**

- Officials must apply this policy realistically with a polite, fair and firm attitude. They must act professionally and be careful not to be overbearing in enforcing the policy. It is crucial that the officials conduct themselves in a non-provocative manner at all times.
- Officials are encouraged to maintain positive rapport with players and coaches (laughing and joking is fine, but only to the extent that professionalism can also be upheld).

## **5.0 CONSEQUENCES**

- First Breach: May result in a warning, technical foul, or ejection.
- Serious or Repeated Breach: May result in suspension or expulsion from competitions.
- Decisions may be made by referees, court controllers, referee coaches and/or Authorised RBRA Representatives.
  - While the consequences are handed at the discretion of the authorities listed above, they are guided to do so within reason and with rationale.

## 6.0 OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

- Greater respect between parents, players, coaches, and officials
- Fewer tribunal hearings
- A safer, more enjoyable environment for all participants
- More young people wanting to become referees, supporting competition growth
- Development of better referees and stronger community role models

## 7.0 FEEDBACK

If you would like to offer feedback, need clarification or have any further queries, please contact [admin@rockinghamflames.com.au](mailto:admin@rockinghamflames.com.au).

## 8.0 AGREEMENT

All participants of RBRA events, including but not limited to persons playing, coaching, managing, refereeing and spectating in the basketball competitions conducted by the Association agree to comply with this policy as a condition of entry.

Breaches of the Associations Policies and Codes of Conduct by players, coaches or spectators will result in suspension. Repeated breaches of the Associations Policies and Codes of Conduct will result in expulsion from the competitions the Association conducts and from the Association if the person breaching the association is a player, coach, or ordinary member.

The suspensions and/or expulsions will be imposed by the RBRA Committee/Board.

Policy Document	RBRA Zero Tolerance Policy
Stakeholders	Players, Coaches, Spectators, Officials, Administrators
Date Approved	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2025
Review Date	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2027

\*This policy is to be reviewed every 2 years\*