



FIBA has made a number of changes to the rules, which are to be effective from 1st October 2008. The new rule book can be downloaded from the FIBA website (www.fiba.com) by selecting the *Inside FIBA* section and then going to *Rules, Regulations and Other docs Downloads* and selecting Official Basketball Rules 2008.

These rule changes will be introduced in the 2008/09 NBL and WNBL seasons and will apply to Australian Junior Championships and the Australia Club Championships (formerly ABA) from 2009. They will **not** apply at the 2008 U14 Championships or the 2008 National Schools Tournament.

Associations may introduce the rules from 1 October or can wait until the start of their next season.

FIBA has also advised some significant rule changes that will take effect from 1st October 2010. This includes changes to the shape of the key and the distance of the 3 point line. Basketball Australia is currently working with the state/territory associations on recommendations regarding the introduction of these rules, particularly for associations who were looking at resurfacing courts before 2010. FIBA has not provided the actual wording of the new rules.

These rules apply at Basketball Australia events and competitions. Local associations may obviously implement changes to the rules for domestic competitions.

The rules are in five documents:

- Official Basketball Rules 2008;
- Official Basketball Rules 2008 – Official Interpretations;
- Official Basketball Rules 2008 – Basketball Equipment;
- Referees Manual - 2 Person Mechanics;
- Referees Manual - 3 Person Mechanics.

Attached is a summary of the rule changes, which is divided into two sections:

- Substantive rule changes (this sets out the effect of the new rule);
- Editorial changes (rules that have been consolidated or re-worded, without any substantive change).

This document is more comprehensive than the document dated 15 May 2008

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Regards

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*Substantive Rule Changes
Effective 1 October 2008*

Art. 4.3 Uniforms

The provision that T-shirts may be worn by players under their game uniforms is not valid anymore.

Old Rule

Previously a t-shirt could be worn with medical certificate. Basketball Australia's ruling concerning the wearing of "Skins" should also be noted.

Art. 5.3 Injured player

An injured player who receives treatment must be substituted unless the team would be reduced to less than five (5) players on the playing court.

Old Rule

The team would have to play with less than five players.

Art. 11.2 Location of a player and an official

If a player jumps from their frontcourt and establishes new control, the location of the player is not determined until the player has again returned to the floor (Refer Art. 30.1.2)

Art. 13 How the ball is played

Reference to reaching through the basket from below (old 13.2.2) has been moved to Art. 31.2.4 & 31.2.5.

Art. 17 Throw-in

While there is no change to Art. 17, the Interpretation document details additional situations to those listed in Art. 17.2.3 in which the subsequent throw-in shall be taken from the centre line extended, opposite the scorer's table:

- (a) A player making the throw-in from the centre line extended opposite the scorer's table commits a violation and the ball is awarded to the opponents for a throw-in at the place of the original throw-in.
- (b) If in a fighting situation members of both teams are disqualified, there are no other foul penalties remaining for administration, and at the time the game was stopped a team had control of the ball or was entitled to the ball.

In all the above situations the thrower-in can pass the ball to either the frontcourt or the backcourt.



Art. 18.2.3 Time-out

The words "For both teams" have been added to the 1st two bullet points to indicate time-out opportunities exist for both teams

Art. 19.2.2 Substitution

The words "For both teams" have been added to the 1st two bullet points to indicate substitution opportunities exist for both teams

The Interpretation document clarifies that a substitution opportunity exists for both teams whenever there is either a goal tending or basket interference violation because the violation causes the clock to be stopped and the ball to become dead (including the last 2 minutes of play).

Art. 24.1.1 Dribbling

To deliberately throw the ball against the backboard has been added to the methods that a player can commence a dribble. This change to the Rule Book is the Interpretation that has been applied since the October 2006 Rules and Interpretation document.

Art. 25.2.3 Player falling on the floor

It is legal when a player falls and slides on the floor while holding the ball.

It is not a violation if a player who is lying on the floor gains control of the ball and similarly it is not a violation if a player who is holding the ball falls unintentionally to the floor.

It is also possible that the momentum of a player who is moving at the time he/she falls will cause that player to slide briefly which is also legal. If, however, the player then rolls or attempts to stand while holding the ball, a violation occurs. Refer to page 10 of the Interpretation document for three examples.

Art. 28.1.3 Ball goes into team's frontcourt

During a dribble from backcourt to frontcourt, the ball goes into a team's frontcourt when both feet of the dribbler and the ball are in contact with the frontcourt. This applies to the player only as long as they are dribbling.

Note:

Two practical consequences of this rule change are:

- (a) The 8 second count continues until both of the dribbler's feet have touched the front court and the ball has touched the floor in the front court.
- (b) If a dribbler has both feet touching the front court but is dribbling the ball in the back court they could continue dribbling and step back into their back court. Although this is not a violation the 8 second count continues.

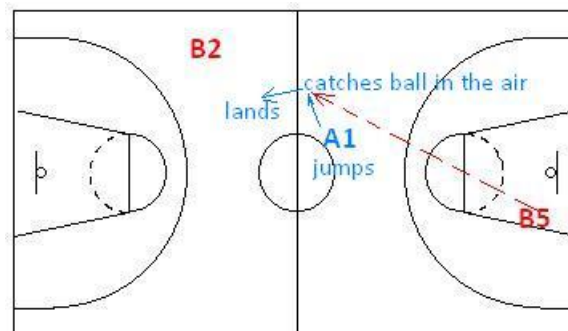
Refer to pages 11 & 12 of the Interpretation document for examples.

Art. 30.1.2 Ball returned to the backcourt

It will not be a violation anymore if a player, who jumps from their frontcourt, establishes a new team control while still airborne and then lands in his team's backcourt.

Example:

This applies when a player intercepts a pass. For example, Player B5 has the ball in their back court and passes to B2 who is on a fast break. Player A1 jumps from the front court and intercepts the pass, and then lands in their backcourt. This is not a violation.



Old Rule

While airborne, a player retains the same status relative to the floor as when they were last touching the floor before jumping into the air. The application of this principle has sometimes resulted in unfair situation.

When an airborne player

- (a) jumps from their frontcourt,
- (b) gains control of the ball while still airborne and in doing so is the first player on their team to establish team control, and
- (c) then returns to the floor in that team's backcourt, the player is helpless to avoid a violation for illegally returning the ball to the backcourt.

This exception to Art. 30 has been adopted to eliminate this.



Art. 31 Goaltending and interference

It is a basket interference whenever a player reaches through the basket from below and touches the ball. This applies whether the ball had been shot, passed or has already touched the ring.

Note:

The previous rule prevented a player reaching through the ring only on a shot. This change prevents a player reaching through the ring at any time to touch the ball. If the defence commit this violation points are awarded to the offensive team, even if the ball had been passed.

Previously, under article 13.2.2, it was a violation to reach through the basket and touch a pass or rebound (resulting in a throw in to the opposition team). This has been deleted from the rules.

The article has also been changed to include in the definition of interference when a player grasps the basket to play at the ball and applies after the ball has touched the ring. This is interference if in the judgement of the official the ball has been prevented from entering the basket.

Article 31.2.6 has been rewritten to clarify the restrictions which apply when an official blows their whistle when a player is in the act of shooting, the ball is in flight on a shot for a field goal or the game clock signals for the end of a playing period while the ball is in flight on a shot for a field goal.

Art. 36.1.4 Unsportsmanlike foul

If a defensive player causes contact with an opponent from behind or laterally in an attempt to stop a fast break and there is no opponent between the offensive player and the opponents' basket, then the contact shall be judged to be unsportsmanlike.

In addition to the above situation, the following situation is outlined in the Interpretation document. When the ball is out-of-bounds for a throw-in and is still in the hands of the official or is already at the disposal of the thrower-in and at that moment a defensive player on the court causes contact with a player of the team of the thrower-in also on the court and the foul is called, this shall be judged as unsportsmanlike.

This contact is judged as unsportsmanlike because the player is obviously not making any effort to play the ball and an unsportsmanlike advantage is gained by not allowing the game clock to restart. An unsportsmanlike foul must be called without a warning being given.



Art. 37 Disqualifying Foul

There is clarification in Art 37.2.2 concerning that whenever an offender is disqualified according to the rules, they are to go to the team's dressing room or they shall leave the building.

Art 37.2.3 reminds us that the coach is responsible for designating the free throw shooter for non-contact fouls.

Art. 38.3.1 Technical foul

A technical foul can be called on a player for excessive swinging of elbows (without contact). Serious injury can result whenever an excessive swinging of elbows is permitted, especially in rebounding activity and closely guarded situations. If such action results in contact, then a personal (unsportsmanlike) foul may be called. If the action does not result in contact, a technical foul may be called.

Art 44 Correctable errors

This article has been reorganized without any change to its meaning or application.

Art 46.10 Referee Duties and Powers

This article sets out matters that the referee must record on the back of the scoresheet before signing it. Any disqualifying fouls has been added to the matters that must be recorded.



*Editorial changes (re-wording or consolidation of rules without substantive change)
Effective 1 October 2008*

Applying to a number of rules

The term "excluded players" has been added to Articles 5.4, 7.3, 38.1.1, 38.2.2, 38.2.6, 38.3.7, 38.4.1, 39.1(twice), 39.2.1 and 39.3.1. It is also in the Scoresheet Paragraph B.8.3.10

Where Commissioner is included in the rules "if present" has been added. This applies to Articles 1.1, 2.3, 38.1.1, 44.2.1, 45.1, 46.11 and 47.5

Specific Rules

Article 2.1 the National Federation's authority to vary the court size to 26 metres by 14 metres has been deleted.

Article 2.2 All lines shall be drawn in white. Note that previously it state "preferably white".

Article 2.2.3 Free throw added to the beginning of the 3rd paragraph

Article 3 Arrow replaces indicator

Article 6.1 Captain to be designated by coach added. "CAP" added as abbreviation for Captain. "Becomes" has been added to "ball becomes dead"

Article 7.8 Word "however" removed from the last sentence,

Article 11.2 Inserted to accommodate change in 30.1.2 (change as per FIBA document)

Article 11.3 formerly 11.2.

Article 12.2.4. "at least" has been added

Article 12.4.5 The throw-in team has been changed to "The team taking the throw-in"

Article 12.4.6 The 2nd mention of the arrow has been prefaced by "alternating possession"

Article 12.4.7 The following have been removed from the end of the sentence. "as normally following a violation (i.e. not an alternating possession throw-in)"

Article 12.4.8 "Thrower"-in changed to "player taking the throw-in"



Article 13.2 . Wording change. "A player shall not" added and "is a violation" removed.

Article 13.2.1 Now in Article 13.2

Article 13.2.2 moved to Article 31.2.4 & 31.2.5

Article 17.1.1 "taking the throw-in" added after player

Article 17.2.1 Both bullet points "player taking the throw-in"

Article 17.2.2 "as designated by the official" removed

Article 17.2.3 "Only" removed from the beginning of the 1st sentence. "taking the throw-in" added to the beginning of the last sentence.

Article 17.3.1 Bullet point 6 word "not" deleted

Article 17.3.2 "During the throw-in" added

Article 18.2.3 Bullet points 1&2 "For both teams" added

Article 18.2.7 "a foul or a violation" changed to "an infraction"

Article 18.2.8 rewording of 18.3.7

Article 18.3.3 word "period" added

Article 18.3.6 "by either team" added. Bullet point 2 "opposite the scorer's table" added

Article 18.3.7 deleted and moved with minor amendment to 18.2.8

Article 19.2.2 Bullet points 1&2 "For both teams" added

Article 19.2.5 Rewording of 19.3.10

Article 19.3.4 "blows his whistle" added

Article 19.3.5 "replaced" changed to "substituted"

Article 19.3.9 Bullet point 2 "opposite the scorer's table" added

Article 29.1.2 Bullet point 3 One paragraph made into 2 sentences with inclusion of word "however".

Article 29.3 Penalty deleted



Article 31.2.6 Rewritten without change of meaning.

Article 32.1.1 deleted

Article 32.1.2. now 32.1.1

Article 32.1.3 now 32.1.2

Article 35.2.1 & 35.2.2 amalgamated into 35.2

Article 36.2.3 was Article 37.1.2

Article 36.3.4 was Article 37.1.4

Article 37.1.2 Old moved to 36.2.3 new was 37.1.5 Word (CAP) added

Article 37.2.2 "Whenever the offender is disqualified according to the respective articles of these rules" added

Article 37.2.3 as designated by his coach.

Article 38.1.5 "discovered" replaced by "recognized" word "becomes" added before live.

Article 38.3.3 Moved from 37.1.3

Article 38.3.4 Moved from 37.1.4

Article 43.2.2 "as designated by his coach" added

Article 44.2.4 Rewording of 44.2.6

Article 44.2.5 Rewording of 44.2.8

Article 44.2.6 Rewording of 44.2.9

Article 44.2.7 Rewording of 44.2.10

Article 44.3 Re-organisation of procedure for correcting each type of correctable error

Article 44.3.1 Was Article 44.2.4

Article 44.3.2 Was Article 44.2.5

Article 44.3.3 Was Article 44.2.7



Article 46.12 "If available" added referring to technical equipment

Article 48.4 "or the commissioner if present" added to bullet point 3

Article 49.2 redefinition of starting the clock after an unsuccessful free throw. The clock starts when the ball is "legally" touched

Article 49.3 The timer starts the time-out clock when the official blows his whistle and gives the time-out signal.

SECTION C PROTEST PROCEDURE

C1 (CAP) added

C2 Commissioner removed