



Important Notice – Team Benches

In late 2024 after a number of incidents, the WBA decided to place a renewed focus on strictly enforcing what is already an official rule of the game in relation to spectators sitting on team benches.

We would like to remind all patrons, as we move into 2025 that we will again be ensuring the team benches remain solely for players and coaches, and that no spectators can sit on what is classed as an “official part of the playing area”.

This is a FIBA, BA, BWA and WBA rule and one that should be enforced in any Basketball Australia sanctioned game at any level.

While we recognise that many of our facilities do not have a large amount of spectator seating, our number one concern is the safety and well-being of children both players and referees. While we try and offer some spectator seating at all venues there is no requirement for the WBA or Venue Management to provide spectator seating.

While we understand some of the spectator seating is very close to the team benches and equal distance from players and referees. Having clear separation of the team bench is important for referees, game managers and referee instructors in determining who is officially part of the team and who is a spectator.

Apart from it being an official rule of the game there are also child safeguarding concerns with allowing unknown people to sit on a team bench and potentially interact with children.

All Domestic Club Presidents have been informed and are in support of this rule.

Unfortunately, while enforcing a rule that is ultimately there to **protect your children** and ensure the best possible game environment for them, some of our WBA staff have been verbally abused, threatened and in one case allegedly physically assaulted.

The WBA will be taking a Zero Tolerance approach to anyone being rude or abusive to our staff in relation to the implementation of this rule.

Please see below some further information explaining just some of the rationale behind the renewed focus on this rule. Please also see some photos from other stadiums showing that this is a very common occurrence in our sport and one that is considered normal practice in basketball stadiums Australia wide.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

WBA Management

Wanneroo Basketball Association | Joondalup Wolves

FIBA Rules:

1. The team bench and score bench are part of the official playing area.
2. Everyone on the team bench is considered part of the game
 - a. They can be reported, suspended, sent to a tribunal etc.
3. Any spectator sitting on the team bench can present a risk to the officials
 - a. Disputing calls could lead to the team getting a bench technical foul or the coach being ejected.
 - b. In that instance it is difficult for the individual to be reported for bad behaviour as the WBA has no way of identifying them.
 - c. Spectators on team benches can be a distraction to referees, coaches, players and scorers.
4. In order to sit on the team bench you must be registered in the competition software
 - a. To be registered in the software you must agree to certain rules and codes of behaviour.

Child Safeguarding:

1. The team bench area is an area where people without the proper permissions could access children.
 - a. After a recent incident there was a statewide email sent to all clubs in WA stating that one club had an issue where an unknown adult male was able to sit on the bench during a game, interact with kids, high five kids and ask them inappropriate questions.
 - b. Everyone on the team and other parents just assumed this person was one of the players Dads or Uncles and they were able to sit there for a period of time.
 - c. When questioned the person claimed to be an assistant coach of the team.
 - d. It turns out this person was on a police watch list for inappropriate behaviour towards children
2. To be classed as team personnel and therefore be allowed on the team bench each adult must either hold or be exempt from holding a Working with Children Check (WWC). This provides another level of comfort that only the appropriate people are sitting on the bench and have access to children.
3. While the WBA can't eliminate the risk of this happening – we can certainly do all we can to minimise it.

WANNEROO BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Please see some pictures from the recent State Championships run by BWA at the State Basketball Centre. You will note there are many spectators standing or sitting on the ground due to lack of seating.

You will also note that despite the lack of seats, there are **ZERO** spectators sitting on the team benches.



WANNEROO BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION



WANNEROO BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Please see a picture from a recent trip to Melbourne for a junior basketball tournament. Please note the big sign in Kilsyth Basketball stadium above the team bench clearly stating "Players and Coaches Only"

