

MEMORANDUM

TO: All State / Territory Offices
CC: For immediate distribution to all associations.
FROM: Competitions Commission
SUBJECT: Court Markings
DATE: 2nd March, 2010

FIBA has advised that new court markings will take effect in international competition after the World Championships in 2010.

There are three changes to court markings:

- Introduction of a rectangular shaped keyway;
- Extending the distance of the 3 point line to 6.75m (it is currently 6.25m);
- Introduction of a “no charge” semi-circle under the basket.

The following are recommendations from Basketball Australia’s Competitions Commission for the transition to the new court markings as per the FIBA guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Venues for 2010 National Junior Championships need to have current FIBA court markings.
2. Competitions recognise either keyway in regular competitions during transition.
3. Court should be marked with both 3 point lines (6.25m and 6.75m) to enable competitions to apply the rules they wish to apply. 3 point lines should be marked in different colours – one white, the alternate colour to be red, green, blue, yellow or black.

BACKGROUND

The new FIBA court markings will come into effect for competitions in Australia after the World Championships in 2010, which take place in August/ September for the Men and September/ October for the Women.

The major areas of concern for basketball are the implementation of these new markings, especially because the number of courts that are involved means that the work needs to be done progressively rather than at one time. This means that certain venues and certain courts within a particular venue will progressively have different markings over the next few

years. The major issue is to provide clarity as to the effect of these potential differences upon the operations of our competitions, firstly in 2010 and beyond.

The differences will be Keyways, 3 point line (6.26m presently to 6.75m future) and Under 14, 3 point line (BA recommendation has been to keep it at 6.25m). Marking both 3 point lines on all courts will alleviate this issue as the relevant line can be instructed prior to the game. This would also make all courts usable for the recommended Under 14 line going forward of 6.25m. The rationale behind this distance is to enable the Under 14 athlete to concentrate upon correct technique in performing the 3 point shot. 6.75m has been viewed as a distance which would cause the under 14 player to alter the shooting technique in order to gain power and therefore be detrimental to their development.

The introduction of the 6.25m 3 point line into Australian Basketball in the early 80's was seen as a major challenge for many junior as well as senior players as that range shot was not generally part of the player practice routine. Nearly 30 years on, we are looking at Under 14 players as being highly competent at shooting from 6.25m but assume moving the line would affect them.

I attended the Under 14 Boys Club Championships last year and the shooting prowess of some of those players was outstanding, but would their technique development be impaired if the line was further out? I have called our national ITC coaches as well as the AIS Head Coaches to get their thoughts. All of the coaches felt that the application of the 3 point line at the new FIBA level would have a dramatic and damaging effect upon the shooting technique of players. A couple of the coaches felt it would be best to make 3 point shot worth only 2 in Under 14 and below, but if the 3 point shot is in effect then the line should be at 6.25m. All of the coaches agreed that that this is the distance to have the line.

As we have no data as to the effect this new line will have, an advantage of having both lines on the courts would be that competitions could choose to apply the closer line to other competitions i.e.: Under 16 – if it was felt that players development was enhanced by this.

Basketball Australia's expectation is that the venues which host the Australian National Junior Championships in 2010 must comply with the tender documents they submitted when they were awarded the championships and have the current court markings in place.

Wayne Carroll
GM, High Performance