



TRIBUNAL BY-LAWS

OFFENCES

- Assault** Any untoward contact with another person or any action or words which might lead a reasonable person to believe that there will be untoward contact.
- Conduct which brings basketball into disrepute** Any conduct which a reasonable person would believe reflects badly on basketball and may include any of the other offences. Accordingly, reporting officials should consider this charge whenever making a report. The Tribunal has the power to dismiss a charge but to find the person guilty of a lesser charge. The maximum penalty of 19 weeks was set to make it a “lesser charge” for all offences carrying a maximum penalty of 20 weeks or more.
- Deliberately endangering health or safety** This offence is designed to catch seriously offensive and dangerous behaviour where body fluids are deliberately spread to another person. It covers such behaviour as smearing blood on another person, spitting on another person or putting body fluids in such a place that it is likely to come into contact with another person such as on the ball. The behaviour must be deliberate.
- Disputing Decisions.** The offence itself is obvious. However, the disputing of a decision can be acceptable behaviour on the court. Teams should ensure that there is a nominated court captain for each game and that the referees are aware who this is. It should be noted on the scoresheet. Only court captains may approach an official to question a decision. This must be done at an appropriate time such as at a time-out, half time or full time. It must be done in an appropriate manner, without anger and with reason. Officials should then accept the questioning in the spirit in which it is made and take the time to explain the ruling which led to the question. If another player questions a decision, this may be an offence. Similarly, if the court captain does so in an inappropriate manner, the captain may commit an offence.
- Elbowing** This is self explanatory. For a report or a finding of guilty of this offence, the incident should be viewed as intentional or aggressive and possibly premeditated. Incidents do occur during a game which constitute elbowing but which may be quite accidental. On the other hand, if the elbowing resulted from over zealous offence or defence, a charge may be made out.
- Fighting** Fighting is any untoward physical contact. The previous requirement that it involved 3 or more players has now been removed. A report on this offence may be brought against individuals and/or teams. In the event of a fight, consideration should also be given to other charges which could be brought against the individuals involved, including striking, tripping, elbowing, kicking etc.
- Gross breach of a code of conduct** Basketball Victoria has adopted Codes of Conduct that cover administrators, officials, spectators, parents, players and coaches to guide those people in what is expected of their behaviour when they are involved in basketball. Any serious breach of a Code of Conduct which is not covered by any other offence may be considered by a Tribunal. It is thus very important for all involved in basketball to be familiar with the Codes of Conduct.
- Kicking** This is self explanatory. For a report or a finding of guilty of this offence, the incident should be viewed as intentional or aggressive and possibly premeditated. Incidents do occur during a game which constitute kicking but which may be quite accidental. On the other hand, if the kicking resulted from over zealous offence or defence, a charge may be made out. The reporting official should consider whether it appears that the prime objective was the opposition player rather than game play on the ball. Many “foot violations” occur but this action is normally spontaneous and usually not offensive or subject to penalty.
- Obscene gesture** Physical or body action of an obscene nature. This can include the raising of one or two fingers or a fist, in what are common gestures aimed at mimicking swearing in a physical way.

Offensive Language	Includes abusive, insulting or obscene language but not including personal, racist or sexist language which are dealt with by the Member Protection Tribunal. Language which is beyond normal socially accepted behaviour would be caught by this offence.
Playing etc. whilst suspended	<p>Any person suspended by a Tribunal is barred from playing, coaching, refereeing or carrying out scorebench duties whilst under the suspension. Even if the person is suspended as a spectator or a referee, their suspension applies to all roles in basketball. So a suspended coach not only may not coach, but also may not play.</p> <p>Officials who witness a breach of this offence should report it unless there are exceptional circumstances although 1 warning may be appropriate in some circumstances.</p>
Putting in Fear of impending violence	This offence implies something more than a mere threat, which is covered by a separate offence. There may be a threat accompanied by some overt gesture or aggressive behaviour leaving a person in genuine fear of an impending physical confrontation. If a threat is part of the behaviour leading to the fear, the reporting official should consider laying that as a separate charge.
Spitting	Spitting, either at a person or otherwise, is totally unacceptable. Spitting at a person may even constitute deliberately endangering health. Spitting on the court or anywhere in the stadium is inappropriate and may cause danger by making the walking surface slippery. It can also be a health hazard. Finally, it creates an unpleasant environment for all using the facility.
Striking	Striking is hitting another person either with a part of the body or an object, including the ball. It can include chesting, pushing or shoving. There must be some element of intent before this charge could be proved. Physical contact should be considered to be serious, intentional or aggressive before a charge is made or found proved. Accidental contact, such as occurs when scrambling for the ball or position are not reportable offences.
Threatening	This offence is designed to protect all persons involved in basketball from threatening behaviour. The threat may not necessarily be just verbal. It could be a threatening gesture.
Tripping	This is self explanatory. For a report or a finding of guilty of this offence, the incident should be viewed as intentional or aggressive and possibly premeditated. Incidents do occur during a game which constitute tripping but which may be quite accidental. On the other hand, if the tripping resulted from over zealous offence or defence, a charge may be made out.
Tunnelling	Tunnelling is knocking or pulling the legs of an airborne person, causing the person to fall to the floor. The reporting official should believe that the tunnelling was more than likely done deliberately. Usually this offence occurs in a rebounding situation, with the offending player positioning themselves under the natural downward flight of the offensive player (normally a lay-up play). This action is one of considerable physical danger likely to cause serious injury. Tunnelling is becoming more common and should be approached by game officials with the appropriate severity and penalty.
Unsportsmanlike behaviour	Any behaviour which a reasonable person would consider unsporting. This offence could include probably all of the other offences listed in the Tribunal By-laws. Accordingly, reporting officials should consider this charge whenever making a report. However other unacceptable behaviour not specifically listed as an offence, such as sledging or throwing a tantrum at the decision of an official or at the game result, may also constitute unsportsmanlike behaviour.