



FIBA

We Are Basketball

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3

3.5 TABLE OFFICIALS



WHY YOU SHOULD READ THIS CHAPTER?

“Table Officials Cannot Walk Away from their Call”

This is not only a common saying in the basketball world, but a truthful one as well. While Floor Officials can sometimes be excused for a wrong call, Table Officials can't.

This is why this chapter focuses on the importance of proper recruitment and training of Table Officials worldwide, a responsibility that falls under the jurisdiction of the National Federations.

It is essential that Table Officials have experience, a good degree of competence and sound knowledge of the rules of the game.

Inexperience can create many problems during the game and ultimately lead to the wrong team winning.

This chapter will outline what it takes to produce quality Table Officials, a key aspect in the sound development of our sport.



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1. Introduction

The role of the Table Official in any basketball game is an important one. Often the skills, knowledge and professionalism are overlooked, as is it all too often that the Table Officials are always the last to be appointed. Table Official with very little experience may have an adverse effect upon the game and some games have been lost by Table Officials mistakes. It is often said a Floor Official can walk away from their calls, a Table Official cannot.

Undervaluing this role may bring the game into difficulties if:

- A Shot Clock Operator is not knowledgeable of the rules of the game and where an Offence ends.
- A Time Keeper who do not concentrate on the game, or is not sure when he/she should start the clock after a free throw situation, or allow the clock to run on.
- A Scorekeeper who does not know what to circle in a three point shot when entering it on the score sheet, or puts the score on the wrong side and it is not discovered until after the sheet is signed.
- An Assistant Scorer does not indicate team fouls or signal quickly enough for a time-out with vital seconds to go.

The above do lead to serious consequences, coaches come screaming to the table, the floor official steps in and a team who were winning the game by one points have lost it by one because of the errors of the Table Officials.

2. Recruitment

Each Federation should look to establish a pool of people, who will have undertaken training to officiate games at any local, national or international level, and have the ability to tutor new officials.

So, how do we recruit them? Often the Table Officials are followers of the team, mums, wives, girlfriends, junior players and players who feel that although they no longer want to run up and down the court they still want to be a part of the game. Referees who want to still be active within the game when their "Whistle Blowing ends".

We need to use the training modules to train them into competent and confident Table Officials. By doing so a Federation gains experienced people, who will be able to represent the Federation in all games at any level.

It is very important that the candidates have a good knowledge of the game, the rules and above all a feel for the game of basketball. Their goals should be to be invited to officiate at the highest standard of game and to be proud of the job they have been elected to do.

It is essential that Table Officials have experience and a good degree of competence and sound knowledge of the game and rules. Inexperience can create many problems during the game and ultimately cost the team the game or tournament they are playing in.

In order to produce good and competent officials, the following guidelines should be followed:

Age: From 16 upwards

Qualifications: A clear knowledge of the rules and the game, all possible candidates should be encouraged to observe and learn the fundamentals before taking any of the set courses for qualification.



3. Training Courses for Table Officials

Four persons per game consisting of Scorekeeper, Assistant Scorekeeper, Timekeeper and 24 second Operator.

Objectives:

- Provide training courses to enable qualification for Table Officiating.
- Provide set qualifications.
- Educate Tutors to provide the courses.
- Officiating Manual.
- Create a pool of Table Officials for local, national and international nominations.

Courses:

Level One, Level Two and Level Three/Tutor courses.

All course materials should be distributed from the Federation. All examination and assessment should be monitored and records kept within the officiating department of the Federation.

4. Level One Award

Applicants will be required to have working basketball knowledge before attending this course.

Aim:

To provide local leagues with competent officials.

Objectives:

- Working knowledge of the rules and interpretation of basketball.
- The ability to correctly apply the mechanics of table officiating.
- Good knowledge of signals used by both floor and table officials.
- Basic knowledge of shot clock mechanics.

Syllabus

Course should have a three hour duration, which will include a 45 minute multi choice theory examination paper. Where possible a practical session should also be included.

Candidates will need to know the following:

- Organization of Table: Seating, Team benches, Substitute chairs.
- Teams: Players, Substitutes, Captains, Coaches and Assistant coaches.
- Duties and powers of Floor Officials: referee/umpire/s, floor violations, referee signals.
- Duties of Timekeeper: game clock operation, playing time, time-outs, extra periods.
- Duties of Scorekeeper: working partnership of clock to score sheet, recording of time-outs, team fouls, coach and bench technical fouls, tied scores, extra periods, team control, arrow possession, substitutions.
- Score sheet: preparation, completion of sheet, field goals, free throws and finishing sheet.
- Communication: table official's mechanics, signals to floor officials, end of game.
- Shot clock mechanics, team control and arrow possession.



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Officiating manual

All candidates must be in possession of the Table Official's Manual before the course.

Assessment

- Theory and Practical tests.
- Theory examination paper will include questions to test the candidate's knowledge of officiating.

Pass mark: 75%

Time allowed: 45 minutes

Practical:

All candidates must officiate six games at local level, three scorekeeping and three timekeeping. Candidates will be given a form to present to the Floor Officials prior to the match commencement and the Floor Officials will sign the form should the candidate give a satisfactory performance. The games must be timed within the FIBA rules.

5. Level Two Award

Applicants must have completed the Level One award and officiated for a minimum of two years.

Aim:

To develop existing Level One officials to a high level of competence to officiate at national level.

Objectives:

- Sound knowledge of the rules and their interpretation.
- Apply the mechanics of table officiating.
- Complete knowledge of signals used by floor and table officials.
- Complete knowledge of shot clock mechanics both theory and practical.
- Confident in man management to deal with game and personal situations.

Syllabus

As per Level Two with the addition of: the 24 second Operator duties and duties of Assistant Scorekeeper.

Course organization

Theory course to be of five hours duration. Candidates **MUST** pass the theory examination before undertaking the practical assessment. Failure of the theory examination will preclude the candidate from taking the practical assessment and the candidate must wait a minimum three months before retaking the theory examination.





Assessment/examination:

- Two part examination theory paper: Pass Mark 75%
- Practical Assessment: three games; one scorekeeping, one timekeeping, one 24 second operation.
- Officials must be notified prior to the commencement of the game that the table official is to be assessed. Only qualified floor officials may assess the candidate and the assessment game must be to FIBA rules.
- To obtain the Level Two award the candidate must pass both the theory exam and the practical assessments.

6. Level Three/Tutor Award

Candidates must have obtained the Level Two and officiated at national level for minimum of two years.

Aim:

To enable the official to officiate at all levels up to and including international level, and to Tutor/Assess new and established Level Two officials in assessment and course work.

Objectives:

- To be involved in officiating at local and national levels.
- To be able to run or have assisted in the running of table officials courses.
- To perform all duties of table officiating on a regular and consistent basis.
- To provide a consistent method of assessing Table Official candidates.

Requirements:

- To be recommended to the Federation to undertake this award.
- To have minimum of two years at Level Two and have been appointed an Assistant Scorekeeper for an international game at least three times in the season leading to the nomination.

Evaluation/assessment

The evaluation/assessment of the candidate to be spread out over a season.

Candidates to attend minimum three national competition games during that season. The games will include both a theory and practical assessment.

A separate theory examination paper to be completed during the season: 75% pass mark.

Candidates Assessed on:

- All duties of a Table Official.
- Man Management.
- Dealing with game incidents.
- Working with Commissioners and Statisticians.
- Communication skills for providing courses for new or established Table Officials.



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7. Tutors/Assessors

Equipment:

- Full set of table equipment, both technical and personal.
- Hand outs for candidates on all subjects covered.
- Table Officials Manual.
- Rule Book.
- Performance sheets (for assessment).
- Overhead projector or Power point presentation regarding the course fundamentals.

Qualifications for tutoring course:

Level of Course

Minimum qualifications

Level One

Tutor and Level 3 active in senior games

Level Two

Tutor and Level 3 active at international

Level Three

Tutor and Level 3 active at international

Recruitment:

Initially candidates will be from Local League Level, former players, coaches.

Referees. Candidates for Level Three and above to be nominated from the Local Area Technical Committees.

Qualifications: Must be obtained from Federation.

Courses

Must be run by qualified officials and sanctioned by the Federation.

Exam papers should be based on referee rule papers

e.g. Grade One lower referee exam paper

Grade Two middle referee exam paper

Grade Three/Tutor top referee exam paper

Practical Exams should be assessed by qualified referees/Tutors in "Live" game situations.