

To all teams, coaches and administrators

During its meeting in July 2017, the FIBA Central Board approved several rule changes.

FIBA released a summary of the rule changes valid as of 1 October 2017 that you will find in the attached link : <http://www.basketref.com/en/index.php/2-uncategorised/7-rule-changes-2017>

The WCBA Competitions and officials will be implementing these rules after the Festive Season break; for Senior Comp specifically in Jan 2018 and for Juniors in Feb 2018

Travelling rule (Art. 25.2)

Click the link below link explaining the new travel rule. This video also includes clear examples to help better understand the rule.

This video has also been posted on the VBRA, BV website and facebook pages and can be shared in any public forum.

<http://vbra.basketball.net.au/2017/11/14/new-fiba-travel-interpretation-video/>

- When players are executing a normal lay-up, and especially when it is done with a spin move, it often occurs that they pick up the ball when one of the feet is on the floor and then they make 2 steps before releasing the ball.

This is normal basketball movement and without using slow motion replay it is difficult to realise whether the foot touches the floor before taking the 2 steps or not. However, according to the current rules it is a travelling violation.

The rules in the USA allow this move and FIBA now adjusts its rules when modifying the travel rule as follows:

While moving and having one foot on the floor while catching the ball or ending a dribble the next foot or feet to touch the floor is “Step 1” and will become the pivot foot.

- The start of a dribble after receiving a pass or catching the ball will become less strict.

A player, who receives the ball and catches it while he is progressing, shall release the ball to start his dribble before his foot touches the floor at his second step.

Up to now the ball has had to leave the hand of the player before his foot, that touched the floor at the first step, leaves the floor.

On the video below the start of the dribble so far has been travelling violation, however after the rule change will be legal.

- However the case of so-called 'Hop step' has become violation as it is also a violation in the NBA. This means: **A player may not touch the floor consecutively with the same foot or both feet after ending his dribble or gaining control of the ball.**

In case of gathering the ball at the left foot to jump and land on the left foot, or in case of right foot to jump and land on the right foot is illegal.

However if the player jumps from his right foot and lands on left-right foot or on both feet simultaneously, that is legal.

Summarising it:

A combination of steps left-left-right is illegal, while left-right-left or right-left-right is legal.

Unsportsmanlike foul (Art. 37.1.1)

- During fast breaks teams have often used a tactic to commit a foul in order to stop a fast break or a quick counter attack. If this has been done by the last defensive player from behind or laterally, the current rule already penalises it with an unsportsmanlike foul. However, if the player who committed the tactical foul was not the last defender the judging of these plays were not unified and consistently called by the referees and furthermore different championships have applied different criterias.

Since such interruptions strongly decreased the dynamics and flow of the game, FIBA decided to make the rule stricter:

From now it shall be considered as unsportsmanlike foul to make contact by the defensive player with no legitimate attempt to directly play the ball within the spirit and intent of the rules, causing an unnecessary contact in order to stop the fast break or the progress of the offensive team in transition. This applies until the offensive player begins the act of shooting.

There are 5 Criteria now for an unsportsmanlike foul. As such an unsportsmanlike foul is a player contact foul which, in the judgement of an official is:

- Not a legitimate attempt to play the ball within the spirit and intent of the rules
- Excessive, hard contact caused by a player in an effort to play the ball or an opponent.
- An unnecessary contact caused by defensive player in order to stop the progress of the offensive team in transition
 - This applies until the offensive player begins his act of shooting.
- Contact by the defensive player from behind or laterally on an opponent in an attempt to stop the fast break and there is no defensive player between the offensive player and the opponent's basket.
 - This applies until the offensive player begins his act of shooting.
- Contact by the defensive player on an opponent on the court during the last 2 minutes in the fourth period and in each extra period, when the ball is out-of-bounds for a throw-in and still in the hands of the official or at the disposal of the player taking the throw-in.

Team uniforms (Art. 4.3)

- The shirts and shorts must be of the same dominant colour.
- If shirts have sleeves they must end above the elbow. Long sleeves shirts are not permitted.
- Socks need to be visible.
- Shoes may have any colour combination, but left and right shoes must match.

No flashing lights, reflective material or other adornments are permitted.

Game disqualification (Art. 36.3.3 and Art. 37.2.3)

- The game disqualification is now also valid for 1 technical foul and 1 unsportsmanlike foul. A player shall also be disqualified for the remainder of the game when he/she is charged with 1 technical and 1 unsportsmanlike foul.

Player in the Act of Shooting (AOS)

- When a player is in the act of shooting and after being fouled he passes the ball off, he is no longer considered to be in the act of shooting.

Fake is any action by a player to pretend being fouled or to make theatrical exaggerated movements in order to create an opinion of being fouled and therefore gaining an unfair advantage.

NORMAL FAKING

A player fakes being fouled but does not generate any illegal contact:

1. An official warning is given to the player and to the Head Coach during the next game interruption.
2. Any repetition of faking by same team lead to Technical Foul.
3. Each team is entitled for one warning.

EXCESSIVE FAKING

A player fakes excessively (without any contact with the opponent) and does not generate any illegal contact:

1. Direct Technical Foul (unsportsmanlike behaviour)