



Match Officials Code of Conduct

(extract from the Basketball England Code of Ethics & Conduct)

- Must treat everyone equally and sensitively, regardless of their disability, gender, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religion, age or political affiliation.

Be consistent, objective, impartial and courteous when applying the rules of the game.

Basketball England does not advise that match officials travel alone with young people (under the age of 18) and vulnerable adults to games. We advise you always have another adult with you at all times.

- Compliment both teams on good play when the opportunity arises.
- Use common sense to ensure that the spirit of the game is not lost.
- Encourage both teams to play within the rules and the spirit of the game
- Show patience and understanding towards players who may be learning the game
- Make every effort to prepare fully for a match, both physically and mentally. On a physical level, a referee must be able to keep up with the speed of the modern game, and be alert and close enough to take correct decisions from credible locations on the court.
- Not be afraid to take decisions. Referees and umpires should be fair and firm and must resist any possible influence from protests on the part of players, team officials or spectators.
- Show respect towards players and team officials.
- Be honest and completely impartial at all times, irrespective of the teams, players or team officials involved in the match.
- Decline to be appointed to a match if not completely physically or mentally fit to referee that match (because of illness, injury, or for family or other reasons).



- Inform the person or body directly responsible if unable to referee a team or teams for any reason.
- Refrain from requesting hospitality of any kind, or accept any hospitality offered and considered to be excessive.
- Always have regard to the best interests of the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion on the game or any particular aspect of it, including others involved in the game.
- Not tolerate foul, sexist or racist language from players and/or officials.
- The powers of a referee and umpire must be used with wise judgement and care. Authority and a firm approach must be combined with respect.
- Referees and umpires should have regard to protecting the players by enforcing the laws of the game.
- Referees and umpires should show due respect when speaking with the players, even in the event of infringements.
- In reports, a referee should set out the true facts and not attempt to justify any decisions.
- Referees and umpires should refrain from publicly expressing any criticism of fellow referees and umpires.
- Referees and umpires should assist with the development of less experienced referees and umpires.