

BASKETBALL ETHICS

FOR COACHES

1. Instruct your players according to the letter and spirit of the Rules.
2. Insist that your players do not question the judgement decisions of a referee. In disputes covering misinterpretation of rules have your captain call time out and discuss in a gentlemanly manner with the referee the situation in so far as the rules cover it.
3. Treat the visiting team coach with the same friendly attitude that you would hope for when your team played on an opponent's court.
4. Secure honest and capable officials, preferably members of the National Association of Approved Basketball Officials. Do not attempt to intimidate them or talk to them prior to the contest regarding the faults of your opponents. It is advisable to stay away from the officials before the game and between the halves. There is no one more vitally interested in having a well officiated game than the official himself. A basketball official is called upon to make many judgement decisions and occasionally he will make mistakes. Usually, however, the average official does not make the number of mistakes that the average coach or player is guilty of during the course of a game.
5. The Coaching Ethics Committee of the National Association of Basketball Coaches intends making a National Drive to improve spectator sportsmanship. From the reports of our predecessors on this committee we find that the attitude of the coach on the bench either encourages good spectator and player sportsmanship or throws fuel on the fire of poor sportsmanship which The National Basketball Coaches Association is attempting to eliminate. If the coach is in the habit of making uncomplimentary gestures everytime the official calls a foul on one of his players, then you can be assured that the partisans of his team will break loose in their loud disapproval of the decision. This condition sometimes leads to worse situations on the court as spectators exercise a tremendous influence in determining the sportsmanship attitude or the lack of it among the contestants.
6. The coach should make efforts prior to the opening of the season to encourage good spectator sportsmanship. This can be accomplished if the coach would request The College Dean or The High School Principal for permission to address one of the school assemblies prior to the opening of the basketball schedule. Notices in the school's weekly publication before the season opens is another means, especially in large universities where it is impossible to contact directly all the students. Similar publicity in the local newspapers may help educate local fans who are not connected with the institution. The coach should stress the fact that it is unethical, unsportsmanlike, and ungentlemanly for a student or spectator to express disapproval in a vociferous manner the decisions of an official. The coach also should encourage students and spectators to regard the opposing team players as friendly rivals, who happen to be the guests of the institution, and not as hated opponents. Making disconcerting noises when an opposing player is attempting a free throw and booing an opponent are the principal faults in unsportsmanlike conduct. It is advisable for coaches to seek the co-operation of other members of the faculty in helping promote good sportsmanship among the student body. A brief comment in a class or group by a teacher or professor, not directly connected with the Athletic Association, may help students continue good sportsmanship within their own school.