



## **Danish Basketball League**

### **Code of Conduct for coaches, players, club officials, referees and employees.**

The Ethics and Morals Committee was formed to give the Danish Basketball League (BL) an additional layer of competency that exists in all professional sports leagues. The policies in this document will be used to further the professionalism of the BL and to establish our league as self-governing. It is not meant to replace the existing Turneringsudvalg (TU) and can be used in addition to any penalties imposed by them. This policy can also be used where there is no involvement by the TU. The EMC is an extension of the BL and acts completely independent of the DBBF Turneringsudvalget (TU). The EMC will govern Respect for the Game (RFTG) principles in these areas:

Conduct of all players, coaches, club officials, referees and employees of the BL.

1. The EMC will guide and set standards for professional conduct of the above in these following areas:
  - a) Conduct of players & coaches during a game. This will include all conversations and actions during, before and after a game. These guidelines will also include club officials and referees. (See RFTG guidelines)
  - b) Interaction with the media. This includes print, TV and social media.
  - c) Any suspensions, outside TU's responsibility, or punishment of the involved parties will be handled by this committee. These actions will be completely independent of the TU committee. The EMC has the right to apply these actions without TU activity, with TU activity and can include any behavior both on and off the court.
  - d) The committee has also the right to suspend any of the above mentioned parties due to violation of the laws of Denmark (civil) besides those policies in place with the BL.
2. The EMC committee will consist of three persons appointed by the BL. The BL forretningsfører will be a part of the committee but will function as an Ad Hoc member and as such will be solely in an advisory role for the committee in order to hold himself politically neutral in cases that could have significant player/coach decisions.

Notification of any violations will be made thru the office of the BL forretningsfører and its spokespeople. Press responsibility will be handled in the same manner.

3. EMC method of operandi will be such that a possible violation may be received in any number of ways:
  - a. Thru a game report from officials
  - b. A complaint from a club official.
  - c. TV or Social Media clip (video).

Upon receiving a complaint, the EMC can and will use all possible means of achieving a true story of the incident(s): 1. Video from official or unofficial sources. 2. Statements from game officials, club officials, 3<sup>rd</sup> party witnesses. The EMC will conduct interviews and take statements from those involved in the incident as well as those who have witnessed the event. All means of communication are available to the Committee in its quest for the truth.

Sanctions can only be imposed based on evidence obtained no later 7 days after the game.

4. An appeal can be made within 3 days of a notified violation by writing to the BL forretningsfører. Upon notification of an appeal a decision will be made by EMC within 2 working days. Any involved party may participate in a BL game until said judgement is received.

## **Respect for the Game Guidelines (RFTG)**

### **Coaches & Players**

**(Note:)** all coaches and players should be aware of and understand their role as a role model for younger players seeking to play the game of basketball. This includes any and all education in schools or community events.

1. All coaches and players will show at all times in the BL a high level of “Respect for the Game” (RFTG). This simple principle applies to all public instances surrounding their duties within the sport of basketball. He/she will act in a dignified manner relating to emotions, language, attitude and actions.

2. Demonstrate respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgment of referees, officials and opposing coaches. A coach/player will show control and professionalism at all times and will demonstrate the rights, dignity and worth of every person, including opponents, other coaches, referees, athletes, and spectators.
3. Refrain from any verbal or physical abuse of coaches, players, referees or spectators. This will also apply to each Head Coaches bench during and after a game. The Head Coach will be directly responsible for the behavior and conduct of his bench.
4. Be aware and understand their role as a role model for younger players seeking to play the game of basketball. This includes any and all education in schools or community events.
5. Be at all times a professional in his approach to the game of basketball. This would include any statements to the press about the refereeing, opponents or the BL itself. This also includes Social Media of any kind.
6. Agree to abide by all FIBA, DBBF and DIF rules, which govern the sport at the highest level in Denmark. This includes match fixing and doping. Any violation of these principles can be reviewed by the Ethics and Morals Committee and may result in suspension or fines to both the individual and his club should the situation warrant.

***Any serious violation of the above policies by a coach/player or a member of his/her staff will first result in an official warning. On the second serious violation a one (1) game suspension will be given. On each following violation a game suspension will be given with the right to suspend a coach/player for up to 3 games.***

### **Club officials and Referees**

1. In addition to the above principals, club officials and referees will be also upheld to a standard which reflects the high standards of the BL.
2. All club officials will be responsible for a professional performance before, during and after a scheduled BL game. This includes providing any needed additional security for the safe treatment of referees. Club officials will be subject to the same standards as listed above and violations that are observed or reported to the Ethics & Morals Committee will be fully investigated.

3. Referees in the BL will be held responsible for a professional behavior at all times. This includes a short welcoming gesture upon entering the arena. Any pre-game questions directed towards the officials should be discussed with BOTH coaches. Additional chit chat before, at half time and after the game are regarded as unnecessary and can contribute to a poor environment. Jokes and sarcastic comments are definitely not welcome from any BL official towards any member of a competing club.

***\*Serious violations of the above policies will result in a possible suspension for club officials and referees. While the ECM can and will make recommendations, referees will ultimately be responsible to the BL Dommer Administrator. Club officials will fall under the jurisdiction of the EMC. Violations by club officials may be subject to fines of up to 5000dkr. per incident should the EMC decide a persistent attitude of bad behavior persists. Referees who are frequent and constant violators of this policy may be dismissed from the BL.***

### **Coaches & Players Code of Conduct towards Referees**

1. Guidelines for Respect for the Game (RFTG) principles will be upheld at all times before, during and after games in the DBL. RFTG guidelines are meant as tool to change and improve any patterns of abuse, non-respect and general bad behavior. The following examples follow international and FIBA guidelines for the proper behavior of players & coaches towards referees. These guidelines are meant to reduce the following:

- lengthy complaining
- air punches directed toward game officials
- aggressive wave offs
- hand claps or hand gestures
- verbal abuse of officials
- running towards or aggressively approaching a referee
- shouting a reaction to a call or yelling a profanity (irregardless of language)
- extended or prolonged complaining about a call and in particular after being told to stop

-frantically running away from a play after a call or no-call that is not agreed with

-violent head shaking, finger pointing or waving

3. As a reminder, players & coaches are permitted to:

- Express disagreement with a call, so long as their reaction is not aggressive, overly demonstrative and dissolves quickly, and

- Approach a referee to ask a question, so long as it's done in a civil manner, and ended when the official has provided an answer.

4. It is important to note that while players & coaches are allowed this leeway, if the act goes on too long, is overly demonstrative or appears to be done to mock a call or non-call referees have the right to assess a technical foul immediately and without warning.

5. Referees have been instructed to issue a warning to players & coaches, if possible, in situations like these:

- Continuing to discuss a call after the referee has responded

- Holding his arms in the air following a call for a prolonged period

- Attempting to demonstrate actions such as traveling, goaltending, etc., or

- Repeatedly asking questions, making comments, or gesturing throughout a period of time.

In cases like these, the referee will attempt to issue a warning to the player/coach although they are not required to do so. Situations are to be handled according to the rulebook.

Persisting in any similar actions after being issued a warning will result in a technical foul.

These examples will be handled exactly as described in the FIBA Rules & Regulations. Referees will be instructed to be more observant and forceful in their interpretation of this set of rules. Referees that do not live up to these guidelines can, after repeated reminders, be removed or suspended from further BL games.

### **Technical Fouls**

1. After a player or coaches 4<sup>th</sup> technical foul, a one game suspension will occur. This suspension relates to a repeated pattern of bad behavior. If a technical foul is assessed to a coach for lack of control on his bench, this rule will normally not be enforced as a bad behavior violation. The EMC has the right to handle each case with different

penalties and in particular will look at a pattern of poor behavior as a determining factor. A one-game suspension will be given for every other technical foul after the 4<sup>th</sup>: 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> etc. If a player or coach over a 5 consecutive game period maintains a technical free performance then his technical foul count returns to zero. A player/coach will be notified by the BL after his 3rd technical of his situation.

2. Every flagrant foul that is issued to a player will be reviewed by the EMC such that additional punishment may be issued. Additionally a poor review/decision by the TU may be discussed first with the TU in rare instances.
3. Fight situations will be first handled by the TU and any additional suspensions may be given by the EMC. In general it should be noted that any player or coach who instigates a fight, crosses the team box or participates in a fight may be subject to a suspension.
4. Generally all technical fouls, game suspensions and incidents occurring on the court during the jurisdiction of the game officials will first be subject to the rules and interpretations of the DBBF Turneringsudvalg (TU). Additional penalties may be implemented by the EMC and all participants of the BL will be subject to these measures.

### **Summary of Penalties, fines and suspensions by the Ethics & Morals Committee**

1. After a player/ coaches 4<sup>th</sup> technical foul a one game suspension will be issued to the violator by the EMC. Additionally after each 2nd technical foul (6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>) (after the 4<sup>th</sup>) a player/coach will be assessed a one game suspension. If a player or coach over a 5 game period maintains a technical free performance then all technical fouls will be erased from his preceding record.
2. Any club official or referee who violates the BL Code of Conduct and Respect for the Game guidelines will be subject to possible suspensions. Additionally in cases deemed extreme by the EMC, a fine of up to 5000dkr (club officials) or dismissal of referees will be administered.
3. Instigator of a fight or first punch offender: First handled by TU. Offender risks up to 2 game suspension.  
Participant in any fight: possible suspension. All flagrant/disqualification fouls will be reviewed by the EMC.
4. Pattern of poor behavior by coaches, players and official club officials may be reviewed at any time. Any serious violation of the RFTG guidelines by a coach/player or a member of his/her staff will first result in an official warning. On the second serious violation a one (1) game suspension will be given. On each following violation a game suspension will be given with the right to suspend a coach/player for up to 3 games. It should be

understood that any immediate severe or extreme violations may result in no warning to be issued and suspensions are immediately given

The EMC will keep a register of all cases in a central document with a short description of the case and the penalty. The EMC is obliged to check this document before issuing a sanction to ensure equal treatment. Suggestions to change the standard sanction/suspension policy for a violation must be proposed to the league and announced to the entire league before the start of the season.

**Public communication of penalty (s) issued by EMC.**

The director of the BL is responsible for the communication of any decisions made by the EMC to all implicated club personnel and the press. This includes any and all decisions made by the EMC outside of the jurisdiction of the TU whereby the EMC has given an additional suspension/fine.