

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

If their whistle is green, they're Under 18.

This initiative has been successful in Australia to support officials who are under the age of 18 throughout their journey of learning how to referee.

Basketball Otago have replicated this initiative and will be implementing this to all Basketball Otago competitions. This ensures that all participants within the Basketball Otago community can enjoy a safe, positive, and rewarding environment, that is free from all forms of harassment, bullying, degrading, or intimidating behaviour all whilst learning how to referee, so games can go ahead.

This means, any referee who has a green whistle and/or lanyard are referees who are learning how to referee and/or under the age of 18 years old and shall not be approached/questioned.

If you have a question, concern or query, the following process will be followed, failure to do so, may mean, you will be escorted out of the stadium and will not be able to return. Continuous behaviour may mean further disciplinary actions:

- If you have a question or query, come find one of our friendly Basketball Otago staff members who can come over to the court, answer your questions and help and support the official or be able to provide some context.
- Please do not approach the referee with questions or concerns. They are still learning.

While this initiative supports our younger and less experienced referees, this does not mean those that do not have a green whistle can be harassed, bullied, degraded, or intimidated. We encourage all of our community to display positive and respectful behaviour towards all of our referees.

Basketball Otagos commitment:

To ensure that our referees are being provided the opportunity to learn, grow, and gain experience to better the game. We will uphold a safe environment for all of our officials to learn but that must come with support from coaches, players, and spectators.

Communication Protocol:

We understand that communication between referees and teams is an important aspect of the game and important in all age groups to facilitate learning. However, there are situations where communication skills are still developing in order to respond and engage.

With the introduction of the green whistle/lanyard, we will incorporate our referee shirts, so everyone has a visual presentation of the referees ability.

Green whistle/lanyards: Referees who are under the age of 18 years old. This highlights that this referee is a child. This initiative aims to promote positive behaviours and interactions. Introducing this initiative will support our Zero Tolerance Policy and Code of Conduct and serves as a reminder for spectators, players, and coaching staff, that we have a zero tolerance for child abuse.

Green whistle/lanyards + blue and grey referee shirt: These referees are under the age of 18 years old, however, they do have some experience. Conversations are open but must be done in a

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respectful manner. You can ask a question, but once you have received an answer to your question, you must leave it as is.

While we do not want referees to cut off conversations with players, and coaches, we want to put boundaries in place in order to protect our referees, no matter the level they are at. Basketball Otago referees are to be treated with respect, and these policies are in place to protect them.

