

To the attention of:

Basketball Champions League Play-Offs 2020-21 Head Coaches

By Email only

Mies, 02 March 2021

Dear Head Coach,

As we complete our final preparations for the upcoming Play-Offs phase of the BCL season 2020-21, we would like to share with you our considered discussions and thoughts.

We have an exciting six weeks of basketball ahead and we would like to express our gratitude for your efforts and performances in the first part of the season. During the BCL Regular Season, we believe you have noticed the efforts made by our officials, to ensure they were also on the top of their 'game' every time they stepped onto the floor. This collaboration and investment in optimal performances means we can provide our audience with exciting, high quality games.

In the season, probably the most challenging ever, the BCL game officials were experiencing the same problems as every club. The impact of Covid-19 pandemic was huge in terms of affecting the normal preparation of the games, with plenty of travel and logistics challenges, complying with medical requirements, the BCL Return to Play protocol and other specific protocols in different countries.

Because of various reasons, more than 50 nominations and more than 100 travel plans were changed, with practically every game in the BCL Regular Season affected by medical or travel problems caused by the pandemic.

Despite all the problems, we tried to keep the focus and attention of the referees on what is the most important – the game and its participants.

In the period between the two phases of the BCL competition we held our mid-season meeting, where our BCL referees have continued their growth and development through interactive workshops. We focused our attention on details collected through our robust but supportive observation process, so they can continue to improve.

With this letter, we will list the areas of focus and will share with you some of the learning material we used with our BCL referees. It is vitally important that before you look at these materials you consider that these videos are created exclusively for the purpose, and sole intention, of education.

*“Any reference to or image of any person appearing in these clips should be understood as a reference to one **REFEREE** and/or one **COACH/PLAYER**, without any given name, and only for educational purposes.”*

Focus Areas:

SCREENING SITUATIONS

Download clips: <https://we.tl/t-ScOkMRy6CR>

01.01. Illegal screen [short definition] – An illegal screen is when the basketball player who sets the screen:

- is on the move at the moment of contact
- doesn't have both feet on the floor at the point of contact
- didn't set a screen at the right distance beyond the field of vision of the defensive player
- didn't respect the elements of time and distance against the defender on the move at the point of contact (“blind screen”)

01.02 Illegal actions by the DEFENSIVE player in screening situations. New actions which have appeared in this area:

- crashing, “bumping” into the screener who set the legal screen (not trying to avoid the screen)
- “fake being fouled”
- illegal use of arms

ILLEGAL USE OF ARMS BY THE OFFENSIVE PLAYER

Download clips: <https://we.tl/t-bjE3tyVMc>

New, illegal actions from the offensive player (with the ball):

- arm up / elbow up
- arm lock
- head up



BEHAVIOR – PLAYERS & COACHES

Download clips: <https://we.tl/t-DVWDEPbmD5>

During the first part of the BCL season, we cannot say that there were any major problems in Referee-Player or Referee-Coach communication. Over the last few seasons, we have emphasized to our Referees:

- be available for communication
- be proactive in communication
- be approachable
- use the tools that are possible - listening, talking, warning.

Most situations that crossed the allowable limits were the result of the “one-time reaction” of a player or coach. In most cases, it was an emotional impulse or outburst, but we have had a few cases of repeated inappropriate behaviour during the game.

The instructions of the BCL Referee Department to our officials is very clear:

- try to resolve all possible misunderstandings with communication;
- set boundaries for behaviour and clean the game;
- protect the image of the competition;
- protect the dignity of the referees.

The BCL Referee Department, Referees and Referee Instructors wish you all a successful second phase of the 2020/2021 BCL Competition.

Davorin Nakic
Head of FIBA Referee Department Europe
BCL Referee Manager

davorin.nakic@fiba.basketball