

## POLICY

### PROTESTS BY CLUB/ASSOCIATION TEAMS

The following policy relates to the issue of protests by Eltham Wildcats teams playing in competitions organised by other bodies.

#### AVOIDANCE OF IMMEDIATE UNILATERAL ACTION

Coaches and team managers are required to avoid actions which commit the association to a course of action without consultation and investigation, except if an issue of safety is involved.

That means on no account except safety should a team refuse to take the court of walk off the court before due completion of a game.

Coaches and officials are warned that refusing to take the court/withdrawing a team before a game is completed can and has led to reports on coaches and officials and suspensions.

Also coaches and officials are warned that if an association considers the grounds of taking the action are inadequate, the team will be deemed to have given a walkover.

“Playing Under Protest” enables the coach and team to state its position in writing before a game starts or as soon as the problem arises. The game can then be played without prejudice.

All issues of injustice are covered by this.

#### RESERVE RIGHT TO TAKE ACTION

Coaches and team managers should take the following actions when they believe a serious injustice has occurred:

1. Indicate to the Venue Manager and referees of the venue where the team is “playing under protest” where that action is appropriate.
2. Indicate intention to lodge an appeal on Scoresheet or in a document left with Venue Manager at the venue of the game.
3. Report all relevant matters promptly to the Convenor of the section.
4. Keep as much documentation as possible, including names, addresses/contact numbers of witnesses, officials and other relevant parties.
5. Present case to Convenor/Committee for preferred course of action.

## LEVELS OF AUTHORITY

For an appeal within a competition the Convenor and/or his/her Committee must approve.

For an appeal outside the competition in which the matter took place, the authority of the Club Executive is required.

For an appeal beyond the authority of basketball (e.g. Civil Courts) then the authority of General Committee is required.

## SAFETY ISSUES

The coach in consultation with the Team Manager has the right to protect the interests of the team in the case of a venue which has dangers to safety such as equipment placed dangerously at the side/ends of a court, slippery court due to condensation, faulty equipment etc.

A referee's failure to control the level of contact in a game should come into this category only on extraordinary occasions and after many steps have been taken including:

1. Attempt to consult with the referees, explaining to them "duty of care" and making clear it is lack of overall control not justice to one team that is at issue,
2. a strict instruction to own team to avoid excessive level of contact and waiting to see what happens,
3. a consultation with the parents and other officials, and obtaining overwhelming agreement that the action is necessary.

Please note that the team will need to convince authorities that failure to complete the game has nothing to do with issues of justice or with losing a game. Otherwise the result is likely to be a walkover, with zero points, for the team conceding the game by failing to complete it.