

MEMORANDUM

TO: State and Territory General Managers, State and Territory Referee Associations, Referees Commission Executive, National League's General Managers.

FROM: Bill Mildenhall, National Referees Director

RE: Rule Interpretations

DATE: 1st.August 2002

MEMO No. RI.20.03.02

Over recent times I have had a number of enquiries regarding the correct rulings for basketball players and the wearing of jewellery, particular body pierced jewellery. There have been some concerns over liability issues if referees allow players to play while wearing jewellery, particularly when players have offered to sign release or indemnity forms.

Following legal advice from Sports Law, Lander and Rogers Lawyers, Basketball Australia have adopted the attached Policy on the wearing of jewellery in a basketball game.

In addition to implementing the FIBA Rule, Article 13.2.5, Basketball Australia recommends that Associations take steps to educate their referees as to their rights and responsibilities to enforce all rules – including the wearing of jewellery. Associations are also recommended to promote the position on jewellery to all players by issuing notices and placing signs in appropriate areas.

Yours Sincerely

Bill Mildenhall
MANAGER – REFEREES

JEWELLERY POLICY

FIBA Rule, Article 13.2.5, states ;

“The referee shall not permit any player to wear objects that may cause injury to themselves or to other players”. “The following are not permitted, - Headgear, hair accessories and jewellery”.

In addition to this rule it is Basketball Australia policy that the following directions be implemented by all Associations.

Referees should monitor all players appearance prior to the start of each match. In particular, referees should look out for rings, bracelets, necklaces, earrings and other body piercing objects.

- Any player wearing an object which might cause injury (such as those objects listed above) must be politely told of the existence of the rule (referees should not presume that a player is aware of the rule) and asked to remove the object prior to taking the court.
- If a player claims that a particular item cannot be removed then the referee should instruct the player that (s)he must cover the object with a suitably protective device such as tape. The player may not participate until such time that the referee is satisfied that the object is appropriately covered.
- Where the protective device (eg tape) falls off during a game the referee must immediately stop play and direct the player to remedy the cover. If this occurs more than a couple of times then the referee should instruct the player that (s)he can no longer participate in the game whilst wearing the object - protective cover or not.
- In circumstances where:
 1. a referee is not convinced that such a protective measure will adequately overcome the risk of injury;
 2. suitable protective measures are not available;
 3. the player refuses to remove or cover the offending objectThe referee should prohibit the player from participating in the game.
- Any player who seeks to participate in defiance of any of the above directions by a referee should be disciplined as per the association's rules.