



HINGHAM GIRLS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

FOR

COACHES, PLAYERS, PARENTS & REFEREES

In an effort to make to make girls youth basketball in Hingham the most positive experience it can be for players, coaches, parents and referees, the Board of the Hingham Girls Basketball Association has adopted the following Zero Tolerance Policy which governs the interactions between Players, Coaches, Parents/Spectators and Referees. This policy is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, administrators and parents/spectators to maintain a positive atmosphere of sportsmanship before, during and after all Hingham Girls Basketball Association League games. This includes all GALS, South Shore Girls Basketball League and Girls Old Colony League games and or sponsored events. This is also written in the spirit that referees in our GALS related games and events are often teenagers, not adults, and should always be treated respectfully and in the spirit of sportsmanship in which it is intended.

The following points will be implemented by the referees and HGBA officials:

PLAYERS

Before, during and after all Hingham Girls Basketball Association games, a player shall not:

- Openly dispute any call or decision by a referee.
- Visually display any sign of dissatisfaction with a referee's decision, including throwing any equipment.
- Use obscene or vulgar language to a referee or coach, another player, or anyone else for that matter, at anytime.
- Taunt players, coaches, referees or spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, negative comments or threat of physical violence.

Should a player act in such a way, the referee shall issue one warning to the player and to both coaches. If after a warning has been issued any player on the same team subsequently performs such an act, the referee shall enforce a subsequent disqualification of the game to the offending team and the game will automatically end. For each act committed by any player on that team thereafter, the offending player will be disqualified from that game, plus the team's next scheduled game and their future participation in the league will be reviewed by the HGBA Board of Directors.

HEAD COACHES & ASSISTANT COACHES

Before, during and after all Hingham Girls Basketball Association games, a coach or assistant coach shall not:

- Openly dispute any call or decision by a referee.
- Visually display any sign of dissatisfaction with a referee's call or decision, even if the coach thought the call or decision was clearly wrong. A coach may ask the referee for clarification of any call or decision, but may not use such a question to simply express dissatisfaction with the call.
- Use obscene or vulgar language to a referee, coach, another player, or anyone at anytime.
- Agree with another coach to change any rule.
- Taunt players, referees, coaches, or spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, negative comments, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
- It is the responsibility of the coach's at all home HGBA Travel games to ensure that spectators, scorers, clock keepers and bench personnel exhibit respectable behavior. It is also the responsibility of all coaches and coordinators to make every effort that all fans exhibit sportsmanlike conduct with no negative attitude or behavior directed towards the other teams players, coaches or any referee.

In order to avoid a situation where a referee would be openly arguing with an adult coach, the referee will be instructed not to confront the coach when such an act occurs. Instead, the referee will continue with the game and will report the occurrence to an HGBA Board Member attending the game (if any), or to the Division Director and/or to any member of the Hingham Girls Basketball Association after the game is over. Upon reporting of one act by a coach or assistant coach, he will be warned by the Division Director or representative of the HGBA Board of Directors. Upon reporting of a second act, the coach or assistant coach will be suspended by the Hingham Girls Basketball Association indefinitely and his or her participation in the league will be reviewed by the Hingham Girls Basketball Association.

This provision is not meant to discourage coaches from assisting our referees to become better at their jobs and coaches are encouraged to discuss the game and rules with referees during a timeout or at the end of a quarter or halftime break provided it is consistent with principles outlined in this policy.

REFEREES

All referees for Hingham GALs games will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike, impartial and conservative manner at all times. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited. In addition, referees will recognize that they must address adult coaches and parents/spectators with the respect due an adult, and should avoid - under all circumstances - any argument with an adult coach or parent/spectator. Referees will answer any question of a coach, but will not respond to any argument. Instead, referees will report any argument or other inappropriate behavior to a Board Member attending the game (if any), or to the Division Director or any member of the Hingham Girls Basketball Association after the conclusion of the game.

Referees shall make every effort to know the rules of the game – particularly those "local" rules that apply to the Hingham GALS League. Each referee will also be issued a copy of the HGBA Rule Book and be apprised of the local rules for that level at each game he or she referees.

PARENTS/SPECTATORS

Any Hingham Girls Basketball Association sponsored game or event will be stopped by the referee(s) when parents/spectators display inappropriate or disruptive behavior which interferes with other spectators, players or the game. In GALS related games the referees will identify violators to the coaches and ask the adult coaches to remove the offending parents/spectators from the gymnasium or court. Under no circumstances will the referee ask the offending parents/spectators to leave. If the coach or assistant coach refuses to ask the offending parents/spectators to leave, or if the parents/spectators refuse to leave, the referee has the option of continuing or concluding the game with disqualification. The referee will then report the incident to a Hingham Girls Basketball Board Member attending the game (if any), or to the Division Director or member of the Hingham Girls Basketball Association after the conclusion of the game.

During any HGBA sponsored game or event (including Travel Games for South Shore Girls Basketball & Old Colony League), the following conduct by Parents or Spectators is prohibited:

- Use of obscene or vulgar language to anyone at any time.
- Openly disputing any call or decision by a referee.
- Taunting of players, managers, coaches or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, negative comments, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
- Throwing any object on the court – whether at a player or not.
- Consumption of alcohol at the game.

Depending on the severity of the action, upon the initial occurrence of the action, the Hingham Girls Basketball Association Board reserves the right to impose punishment and may either issue a warning or prohibit the parent/spectator from attending subsequent Hingham Girls Basketball Association games in order to preserve the positive atmosphere which is intended. Should such an action occur another time, the parent/spectator will be prohibited from attending any future Hingham Girls Basketball Association event.