

## SASKATOON MINOR BASKETBALL

*(Effective October 11, 2006)*



We have many well conceived and elegantly written league rules and policies, all readily available on the SMBA website. These instruct all parties to show mutual respect and cheer on players from both teams. However, some people seem to forget these standards once the game begins and an unfavorable (to some) call is made.

As a league in 2005-06, we had cause for concern. First, serious incidents occurred in our Fall / Winter involving abuse and near physical action by players, coaches and fans against senior referees. Secondly, we had a desperate need for more officials, yet we were losing young referees because they were bullied by players, coaches and parents during games. Senior officials expressed concern that SMBA parents made refereeing community games more onerous than refereeing varsity high school games level games.

As a result of this, the league will implemented a Zero Tolerance policy in 2006-2007, regulating the conduct of coaches, parents and players towards game officials.

### ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

The most important aspect of the SMBA is fair play, not competition. Our league wants to first promote sportsmanship, and then courtesy between fans, parents, players, coaches and referees. Wins and losses and league titles are secondary outcomes. It is important that league participants not lose sight of this in the heat of the games.

Players, coaches or spectators are now not allowed to challenge an official's decision, nor are they allowed to make abusive comments. This includes comments and complaints from the stands. - Prior to each game officials will meet with both coaches and remind them of the league's zero tolerance policy on challenging the decisions of game officials, or making abusive comments. Coaches are reminded that they may ask for clarification on rules at stoppages in play, but under no circumstances are they to yell, call out, or question officials during the game. Comments such as call something; get in the game!; or sarcasm such as; it's about time or thank you!; are unacceptable.

Coaches are to be courteous when making requests for clarification. Sarcasm or angry tones are not acceptable. Coaches are responsible to remind spectators supporting their team of their responsibility not to challenge or criticize officials. Coaches are to advise their players of the zero tolerance policy. - When a player or coach challenges an official's decision, a technical foul will be called. The referee, with the support of the Gym Supervisor, has discretion to immediately eject the player or coach. If another technical foul for abuse is called, their team will forfeit the game. - If a spectator challenges or harangues an official, a technical foul will be called on the team that they support. The referee, with the support of the Gym Supervisor, has discretion to immediately eject the spectator. If the spectator refuses to leave or delays to go, the referee will advise the coach that his team will forfeit if they cannot get the spectator to leave. Coaches are asked to remind parents and spectators that any further outbursts will result in their team forfeiting the game. - Should a second challenge or harangue be experienced by officials from the same team, then the game will be called and that team will forfeit the game. Under no circumstances are coaches, players or spectators to come up and further question the official. The decision to cancel and forfeit is final. - Officials shall write up an incident report of any forfeit incident, including any recommendations for further action. The league Disciplinary committee will review this report and decide on any additional action that might be required.