

**1st October 2007**

Dear Friends,

We have received some questions regarding the recent Rule Interpretations from FIBA.

All of these questions have been forwarded to FIBA and below you will find the official reply:

**Unsportsmanlike Foul:**

**Q1.** For the criteria that's given in the interpretation, should this be applied at the beginning as well as at the end of the game?

**A. For the entire game.**

**Q2.** If in the last minutes the defensive player tries to play the ball, but a foul occurs, do we call Unsportsmanlike fouls - Do we want the referees interpretation each time?

**A. The defensive player cannot try to play the ball on the court as the ball is still out-of-bounds.**

**Q3.** Does this only apply to the defensive player?

**A. Yes, unless the offensive player creates an unsportsmanlike action on the court that would be called unsportsmanlike at any other time in the game. In other words for the offensive player, a no-call, personal foul or unsportsmanlike foul is possible.**

**Q4.** If the ball is released by the thrower-in, and then there is a foul (whilst the ball is in the air) - is this also considered unsportsmanlike?

**A. Not automatically but it is still possible. (According to the present instructions/criteria of how to call an Unsportsmanlike Foul). It depends upon the action of the defensive player.**

**Q4a.** Sometimes the offensive player will push the defender in order to receive the ball.....

**A. Should the offensive player push the opponent, a normal foul OR an unsportsmanlike foul may be called according to the action.**

**The fact that the ball is in the hands of the thrower-in DOES NOT make this foul automatically an Unsportsmanlike Foul in the same way that it IS automatically an Unsportsmanlike foul on the defender. – See Q 3.**

The criteria for Unsportsmanlike fouls (the actions that determine whether a foul is unsportsmanlike), has not changed.

However, when the ball is in the hands of the referee or the player out-of-bounds and a foul is committed – this must be called as Unsportsmanlike.

**Technical Foul – Flopping**

Art 38.1.3 states that “it is a technical foul if a player is falling down to fake a foul”.

We are witnessing more and more often (and it is becoming a major problem even in the NBA), that players are falling down to fake a foul in order to:

- a. Get an unfair advantage of a foul being called unjustly on an opponent.
- b. Create an unsportsmanlike atmosphere amongst spectators against the referees.

Such behaviour is obviously an unsportsmanlike one. It is poisoning the smooth running of the game and therefore the wording of Art. 38.3.1 must be applied (after a warning for the similar behaviour is already given to all the players of the same team through its coach), and **a technical foul must be called** for subsequent actions of a similar nature.

**In order to clarify, this is one warning per team during the game.**