

Basketball ACT(“BACT”) Blood and Communicable Diseases Policy

This policy outlines the required processes around bleeding players (or players with open wounds) during BACT games. It also deals with drink bottles sharing. The overriding intention of the policy is to prevent the transmission of blood-borne or otherwise communicable infectious diseases. The policy is prepared in accordance with Sports Medicine Australia’s Infectious Diseases Policy, the FIBA Rules of the Game and the BACT Competition By-laws.

This policy applies to All BACT stakeholders, including players, coaches, referees, team physicians (where applicable), parents, volunteers, spectators and BACT staff.

General Principles - Blood

- It is the responsibility of ALL PERSONS (including the injured player), upon becoming aware of any bleeding player, to report this immediately to the REFEREE. Any open wound or bleeding cut should be reported immediately.
- The PLAYER must obey any direction by the REFEREE, including leaving the court (if requested).
- The PLAYER may only resume playing after the bleeding has stopped and the affected area or open wound has been completely and securely covered.
- Under no circumstances may play continue if a PLAYRER (or REFEREE) is bleeding on court.
- Any PLAYER with prior evidence of an infectious diseases, including viral hepatitis and HIV (AIDS) infections are strongly advised to obtain confidential advice and clearance from a doctor prior to participation.
- It is strongly recommended that PLAYERS are vaccinated against Hepatitis B.

Referees/BACT Staff Member

- The REFEREE must stop the game immediately upon becoming aware of a bleeding player.
- The bleeding player is to be substituted off the court. If the bleeding player recovers during a time out taken by either team, before the scorer’s signal for the substitution, that player may continue to play.
- The REFEREE and/or a BACT Staff Member shall then inspect the playing surface and ball for any blood.
- If there is blood on the playing surface or the ball, it is the job of the BACT Staff Member to clean it. (see Cleaning Blood below). If a BACT Staff Member is not available, another person

should undertake this task pursuant to the Cleaning Blood guidelines. The REFEREE should supervise this process to ensure the correct procedures are followed.

- The REFEREE may not recommence play until any blood is cleaned up from the playing surface and/ or ball.
- Play is to be recommenced as instructed by the Referee in accordance with the Rules of the Game.
- The bleeding PLAYER may only be substituted back onto the court once bleeding has stopped, wounds are closed and or covered, residual blood has been cleaned away and any contaminated clothing replaced. The PLAYER may not resume playing if the bleeding cannot be controlled and the wound securely covered.
- A PLAYER with blood on their uniform may replace the uniform with another uniform (from their kit with a different number but must advise the score bench) or if not available a makeshift top or shorts preferably in the same color as the playing singlet or shorts without penalty. No player with BLOOD on their uniform may be on the court.
- If a BACT Staff Member is present, the BACT Staff Member should check the PLAYER for residual blood and acceptable wound coverage prior to the player returning to the game. If a BACT Staff Member is not present it is the PLAYER's responsibility to meet these guidelines. If a PLAYER returns to the court with residual blood (including contaminated clothing) or open wounds, the REFEREE is directed to remove the PLAYER from the court. The PLAYER may then not be re-substituted until cleared to do so by either a BACT Staff Member or the REFEREE. The REFEREE may wait until an appropriate opportunity to examine the PLAYER (e.g. at a time out or break in play).

Cleaning Blood

- All clothing, equipment, and surfaces contaminated by blood should be treated as potentially infectious.
- **Fresh, disposable gloves MUST be worn prior to any contact with blood.** These should be contained in the BLOOD KIT, found either on the score-bench or in the MSO Office.
- **Gloves used to attend to bleeding players or playing surfaces must never be reused.** Any glove that is torn or punctured should be immediately discarded.
- Gloves must be changed and discarded after contact with each player.
- Hands should be washed after removal of disposable gloves.
- If the blood spill is large, confine and contain the spill (i.e. try not to let it run everywhere).
- Remove the bulk of the blood with an absorbent material (e.g. paper towels).
- Dispose of any soiled paper towels in a sealed plastic bag. This is appropriate for normal garbage.
- Clean with disinfectant wipes once used dispose in a sealed plastic bag and place in the garbage.
- Dry the surface with paper towel and dispose the same as the wipes. Once the surface is dry, play may be recommenced.
- Any blood soiled clothes should be washed in hot water and detergent using normal laundry procedures.
- If blood soiled clothes or linen require transport prior to laundry, these should be transported in a plastic bag.

First Aid

- A Bleeding player should be treated by a first aider, if available, or use the first aid kit (located in the MSO office) according to protocols:
- The wound should be rinsed with plenty of water, and if dirty, washed with soap and covered with a waterproof dressing. If water is not available, a 70% alcohol hand rub should be used.
- If eyes are contaminated, rinse the area gently but thoroughly, with the eyes open, with water or normal saline.
- If the player is wearing contact lenses, leave the contact lenses in while the eye is irrigated with water or normal saline, as the contact lenses are acting as a barrier to the eye.
- When the eye has been adequately irrigated for several minutes, remove the contact lenses and clean in the normal manner. The lenses can be reused.
- If blood gets in the mouth, spit it out and rinse the mouth with water several times.
- **Where there is an additional concern about infection, medical advice should be sought from a physician or clinic where there is experience in the management of HIV infection.**

Drink Bottle Sharing

- Players should never share drink bottles. Diseases, including legionnaires, are serious and all precautions should be taken to prevent the transmission of water or saliva borne disease.