



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

### Background

1. In recent years there has been a growing risk of certain infectious diseases within our community. In particular we have the growth in the number of cases of HIV (AIDS) and Hepatitis B.
2. These viral infections directly impact upon the sporting community because of the risk of bleeding during sporting competition. There is the risk, albeit small, of contact with infected blood, or other products, during a basketball game.

### Introduction

3. This policy is to be used as a guide for all players, officials and administrators. These matters should be discussed with a club or private doctor, the Australian Sports Medicine Federation or Basketball Australia's Chief Medical Officer if there are questions as to the correct course of action.
  - a. **HIV infection or AIDS.** AIDS, acquired immuno deficiency syndrome, is the end stage of a disease caused by the infection with the HIV virus and usually takes years to develop. It is currently 'uncommon' in our community but of epidemic and disaster levels in other parts of the world. The HIV virus is not spread by sporting contact. The most common method of spread of this infection is by contact with infected blood, infected needle or sex with an infected individual. During a game a player could be infected with this virus when infected blood contaminates an open wound, bite or perhaps mucous membrane (mouth, nose or eyes).
  - b. **Hepatitis B.** Hepatitis B is a serious viral infection that is epidemic within our community and growing in incidence. It has high morbidity and mortality rates. Within our community, basketballers are more at risk of coming into contact someone who is infected with the Hep B virus. This virus is not spread by sporting contact. It is spread in much the same manner as the HIV virus.
  - c. **Other Viruses.** This policy relates to the risk of infection to the more common viruses such as influenza, glandular fever, etc.

## Recommendations.

### 4. The following recommendations relate to the risk of infection:

- a. Bleeding should always be controlled and all blood cleaned away. All open wounds are to be treated and covered. A player is to be substituted from the game, where bleeding occurs and have the wound treated and covered. The player showing blood may return the game only if free blood source has been treated.

**NOTE:** The player is not entitled to be treated and return to the game immediately EXCEPT at expense of taking a charge Time-out.

- b. Players should have their own towel and water bottles.
- c. Players are not to spit on the floor, surrounding playing area or into towels.
- d. Managers should carry their own blood towels.

**NOTE:** Towels should be light in colour that will easily show if it has been used previously.

- e. Any potentially contaminated material, whether this be a towel, uniform or ball, is to be discarded or cleaned promptly.
- f. All players, referees and team officials should be vaccinated for Hepatitis B. It is also advisable, but of lesser importance, that team players and officials be vaccinated for influenza on an annual basis.
- g. Any athlete found to be infected of the HIV or Hepatitis B viruses should take special precautions, as directed by a doctor, in relation to their basketball competition. They are not excluded from competition.
- h. Any player with another type of infection, viral or bacterial, no matter how innocent, should have his or her basketball competition cleared by a doctor.
- i. All Associations should educate their players and officials concerning the risk of viral infection around sporting competition. This should also include general advice about these infections, such as the practice of safe sex and general hygiene.
- j. All officials at a basketball game who potentially come into contact with body products (blood, sweat or spit), whether directly or indirectly, should wash their hands after a game and always follow general hygiene measures. This includes the players, referees, team officials, bench officials, floor wipers and cleaners. Adequate hygiene facilities should be provided for all the above at game venues.
- k. Children used as floor wipers should be directed to avoid contact with blood or saliva on the court. Any such substance should be cleaned by an official, using the principles of basic hygiene and treating such substances as potentially infectious.