

Unisex Guidelines:

As you would all be aware, insurance premiums are calculated on the degree of risk associated with any given activity. Our insurer, Horsell's, in assessing our risk takes into account the total risk in playing the game of basketball. One area of contention for some time has been Unisex competitions, particularly when played by juniors without specific rules governing their running. The following is a set of rules issued as a guide for Associations.

For any Association playing any form of Unisex competition, the following could be used as a template for inclusion into an Association's By Laws.

- 1: There must be at least three females on the court at all times;
- 2: There must be a designated basket at which only the females are allowed to enter the key area (males may shoot from outside the key area but must not enter it).
- 3: Males may not attempt to or block a shot by a female – good upright defence with the arms remaining within the cylinder should be the extent of the defence allowed. If contact is made then a foul is to be called, if no contact then violation called and ball awarded to female's team at the appropriate point on sideline.
- 4: In any situation where there is a jump ball between a male and female one of the following must be in place: a) the use of a direction arrow which alternates possession or b) the female's team to get the ball from appropriate point on sideline.

In Junior competitions, particularly in the older junior age groups, there should be rules in place that minimise contact by male players, particularly where that contact is out of the vision of the female player.

A rule similar to 3: above could also be enacted but discussion with participants may decide that this is going a little to far.

Rule 4: no longer applies if direction arrow incorporated into competition rules.