



To our valuable and esteemed coaching staff - **THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!**

Bear with me; this is my first attempt at compiling a consolidated summary of what's already been a tremendous and somewhat fluid start to the Bow River basketball season. Although it's still early, I hope you are starting to feel more comfortable as a coach and that you are seeing your players and teams come together. When I reflect on previous Bow River coaching experiences, it was right around this time I started to see set plays emerge, team camaraderie develop, and a general practice / pre-game routine take shape. In this issue, I'd like to discuss and convey aspects of game reporting, coaching and officiating, assistant coach utilization, and gear.

Game Reporting: Although CMBA holds the winning team accountable for submitting the game score, we strongly advise coaching staff to submit the game score regardless of who the winning team is. To maintain ranking and subsequent game/ref scheduling, scores need to be submitted by 8 pm on the day the game was played. I've included a link to the outlined CMBA [score reporting process](#). **Coach Tip:** Take a picture of the game sheet; include it as part of the score entry, refer to it for ongoing team/player development, or even send it to parents afterward for those families that like to keep stats.

Coaching & Officiating Check-ins: Interaction between coaches and officials (primary & minor) is part of the game. Games can be stressful, and competition and drive can sometimes cause us to react in the moment. While early in the season, we have already seen several technical fouls handed out to Coaches. **Coach Tip:** attempts to prompt calls or address perceived issues with officials should and will continue to garner technical fouls. Do not try to educate officials; the CMBA will always support an official's decision to T-up or eject a coach. **Coach Tip:** periodically check in with the Minor Official table throughout the game. Ask about team fouls, personal fouls, possession, etc. In one game this year, we had an opposing team with two players playing with 6 and 7 personal fouls. Neither coaches, referees, nor minor officials caught the issue until after the game. The players in question scored the majority of that team's final points.

Assistant Coach Utilization: I've had a few coaches ask how best to utilize an assistant coach. More information on this critical role will be provided later, but I'll address in-game utilization for now. **Coach Tip:** use your assistant coach to immediately address the shift that came off the floor. They should discuss what went well, what didn't, and what the next shift improvements should be. Use this time to have them go through any offensive, defensive, or inbound set plays so they can immediately put those into action on the court next time. Alternatively, the Head Coach can perform this duty while the Assistant Coach manages the active floor. This process should be routine and executed after every shift. Waiting to provide feedback in the next practice is simply too long.

Coach Gear: While we still have medium and large hoodie inventory, we are out of larger sizes. We are looking at sourcing additional quantities. I've received requests for XL's and XXL's and I keep track of who needs what. More information will be provided.

Thanks for taking the time to read this inaugural (and monthly) Coaching Development Blog. Please contact me at CoachDevelopment@bowriverbasketball.com - Greg