



MERCY RULE FOR U/8, U/10, U/12 AND U/14

PURPOSE

Waverley Basketball Association is committed to providing junior clubs with the best possible domestic basketball competition and allowing all players to have a go and enjoy their chosen sport. The mercy rule is in place to promote sportsmanship and stop teams from dominating a particular game to demoralise their opposition.

WHO IS THE MERCY RULE FOR

The rule is for junior club head coaches, coaches, and those club members involved in managing teams.

APPLICATION OF THE MERCY RULE

The mercy rule applies to the following junior domestic competitions:

- U8, U10, U12, U14

Players on defence must retreat to, and remain, within their defensive 3-point line whenever their team is leading by a certain margin. In U/8's, the Mercy Rule is applied when a team is leading by 10 points or more, and in U/10's, U/12's, and U/14's the Mercy Rule is applied when a team is leading by 20 points or more. This occurs once the opposition gains possession from an inbound or made basket. The defensive team must play man-to-man defence per the "No Zone" rule ([see Junior Documents](#)).

HOW IT WORKS

For under eight (U/8's) competitions, if a team has a lead of at least 10 points, the Mercy Rule is to be invoked, and the leading team is to fall back into a team defence within the 3-point line each time the opposition has clear possession. Also, the team must play man-to-man defence.

WBA recommends that players can score no more than 10 points in any game to encourage fair play and team participation in U/8's. The only exception is if a player is on nine points and scores or has two free throws; then these points will be counted if made. Once all players have reached the milestone, they can recommence scoring points.

***Note the referees will not enforce this. This recommendation is for the coaches to implement.**

In Under 10, 12, and 14 competitions, the Mercy Rule is to be invoked when a team reaches a lead of 20 points, and the leading team is to fall back into a team defence within the 3-point line each time the opposition has clear possession.

Furthermore, the team must play man-to-man defence. However, the coach of a trailing team may elect not to have this rule applied. (Note if the Mercy Rule is invoked, the decision is final and cannot be reversed)

PENALTIES TO APPLIED

Where the mercy rule is enforceable but not being followed by the appropriate team, the game officials may use the following penalties: (at the discretion of the game officials)

First Offence	Coach to receive a formal warning from the referees.	Application: Immediately referee to audibly encourage players back inside the 3-point line during live play
Second Offence	The team will incur a penalty of two (2) shots and possession to the opposing administered at the throw-in line opposite the bench in the team's frontcourt	Application: Immediately, the referee stops the game and applies the penalty, and the referee advises the coach on the reason behind the stoppage
Further breaches	The team will incur a penalty of two (2) shots and possession to the opposing administered at the throw-in line opposite the bench in the team's frontcourt	Application: Immediately, the referee stops the game and applies the penalty

DISPUTES:

Club delegate(s) is the primary interface to WBA for these rules. Any questions on its application or any other kind of feedback must be in writing via the approved club delegate(s). WBA reserves the right to dismiss any issues or questions not raised via the club delegate channel.

All correspondence to WBA on these rules from a club delegate(s) and its application must be in writing, clearly outlining the problem, question or clarification required.

Trevor de Jong / Competition Administrator / juniors@waverleybasketball.com

In respect of any dispute, the decision of WBA. shall be final.

MERCY RULE UPDATES

The Mercy Rule may change from time to time and is available on WBA's website

PRIVACY POLICY COMPLAINTS AND ENQUIRIES

If you have any queries or complaints about our Privacy Policy, please contact:

juniors@waverleybasketball.com

03 9807-9814