



FIBA

We Are Basketball

Masters Competition Handbook

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1. General Principles

1.1. Definitions

Capitalized terms in these FIBA Masters Competition Handbook (hereinafter referred to as: “the Masters Handbook”) shall have the meanings given to them in the FIBA General Statutes (“FIBA GS”) and/or the FIBA Internal Regulations (“FIBA IR”), unless defined otherwise in this Masters Handbook.

Category / Categories

Groupings of ages from 40+ to 85+ for men and women in five-year intervals, as follows: 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+ and 85+. Age categories may be combined, at FIBA’s discretion, depending on the amount of teams registered in a specific category or to facilitate the competition structure.

Competition

The FIBA Masters Open, an international age-group based competition, organised by FIBA for Participants over the age of 40.

Competition Director

The person appointed by FIBA who shall be responsible for all basketball-related operations of the Competition, including, but not limited to: venue readiness, IT system readiness, liaison with the Head Referee, Table Officials allocation, draw and schedule management, results publication, applying decisions of the Technical Committee and communication with team delegates.

Competition System

The way the draws are constructed to provide a fair competition for the number of teams registered in each Category, fulfilling the requirements for minimum and maximum number of games and minimum rest periods in Article 1.5.

Competition Venue

A location comprising one or more basketball courts compliant with the Hosting Documentation.

Discipline(s)

The FIBA Masters Open shall include (a) Basketball Masters; and (b) 3x3 Masters;

FIBA Games Hub

The social hub of the Competition taking into account the guidance set out in the Hosting Documentation.

FIBA Registration System

FIBA platform through which official Team Members and their accompanying guests can register for the Competition.

Head Referee

The lead official for the Competition. Has overall responsibility for:

- a) determining interpretations and points of emphasis (in consultation with the Competition Director); and
- b) recruitment, mentoring, evaluation and nomination of Referees.

Host

The hosting entity of the Competition and the signatory to an event-specific Host Nation Agreement.

NMF

A FIBA National Member Federation.

Official Team Member

Players, coaches, assistant coaches, medical personnel and Team Delegate forming part of a particular team in a particular category, collectively a "Team Delegation".

Participant(s)

Any person playing a direct or indirect role in basketball, as defined in Article 1-88 of the FIBA IR.

Referee

An accredited basketball Referee selected by the Competition Director and Head Referee to referee allocated games in the Competition.

Show Courts

The main courts for each Competition which feature the best facilities available for players, officials and spectators.

Team Delegate

A nominated Official Team Member (who may also be a player or a coach) responsible for:

- a) Nominating the team and ensuring that all members of the Team Delegation are accredited;
- b) At each game, confirming the coach, captain and active roster (with a maximum twelve (12) players for Basketball, and a maximum six (6) for 3x3) to the Table Officials prior to each game;
- c) Notifying Official Team Members of any key information received from the LOC; and
- d) Liaising with the coach and/or captain in any protests, charges or other Technical Committee issues.

Table Officials

At least two (2) people, composed of one (1) Score keeper and one (1) shot clock operator. If a separate scoreboard is in the venue, an additional person to operate the scoreboard is recommended.

Technical Committee

A committee nominated by FIBA with the responsibilities set out in Article 3.3 below.

Venue Managers

Operational staff responsible for overseeing all activities, infrastructure, compliance, and service delivery within an event venue.

1.2. Competence

- 1.2.1. FIBA has the authority to organise, sanction and control Competitions worldwide.
- 1.2.2. FIBA is competent to make any decision with respect to the Competitions, including without limitation, imposing sanctions, restricting the participation in or removing Teams from a Game or the Competitions, cancelling, relocating, or postponing a Competition or Games, or withdrawing FIBA recognition, whenever a conflict or any other issue arises that, at FIBA's discretion, could reasonably jeopardise the reputation of FIBA, the sport of Basketball, the integrity or the successful staging of the Competitions, or the health, safety, and/or security of the Participants.

- 1.2.3. FIBA may, at its discretion, delegate any of its responsibilities related to the organisation of the Competition, excluding disciplinary authority, to any third party.

1.3. Regulatory Framework

- 1.3.1. The Masters Handbook define, govern, and regulate the Competitions in detail, pursuant to Article 2-7 of the FIBA IR.
- 1.3.2. FIBA may update or amend this Masters Handbook from time to time, even after the close of the FIBA Registration System, in which case the changes will be promptly notified to the Team Delegates.
- 1.3.3. The FIBA GS and the FIBA IR shall apply mutatis mutandis to the Competitions for any matters not reflected herein.

1.4. Registration of Teams

- 1.4.1. The process shall commence with a pre-registration phase. Pre-registration will serve to indicate the maximum number of teams allowed per category and assist in planning the Competition structure.
- 1.4.2. FIBA and the Host will actively promote the Competition to NMFs, clubs, sponsors and city teams within the Masters basketball community, inviting pre-registrations from twelve (12) months to six (6) months prior to the Competition.
- 1.4.3. Based on the level of registrations received, FIBA and the Host will make a final decision, in principle, two (2) months prior to the Competition about which disciplines and which Categories will form part of the Competition.
- 1.4.4. The formal registration process, which requires payment of the applicable registration fee, shall in principle open four (4) months prior to the Competition and shall in principle close sixty (60) days before the start of the Competition.
- 1.4.5. A withdrawal submitted before the close of registration shall result in the forfeiture of fifty percent (50%) of the registration fee. A withdrawal submitted later than the close of registration, or any failure of a registered Team to appear, or for any reason whatsoever fail to participate fully in the Competition, shall result in the forfeiture of one hundred percent (100%) of the registration fee.
- 1.4.6. If the maximum number of registered Teams is reached, in principle, sixty-four (64) for a 3x3 category, and thirty-two (32) for a Basketball category, or another number notified in the registration process, as established by FIBA) then registration shall be closed early for that Category, and a wait list will be maintained.

1.5. Competition System

- 1.5.1. The Competition System for each Category within each discipline will be determined after registration closes in accordance with the following requirements:
 - a) Basketball Teams will be scheduled to play a minimum of five (5) games and may play as many as seven (7) games over eight (8) days;

- b) 3x3 Teams will be scheduled to play a minimum of eight (8) games and may play as many as fourteen (14) games over eight (8) days;
 - c) Basketball Teams will have no less than sixteen (16) hours between games and will have at least one (1) rest day during the tournament;
 - d) 3x3 Teams will play no more than three (3) games in one (1) day with at least a ninety (90)-minute break between games;
 - e) Teams may be ranked based on their tournament record (for example, losers in the Round of 16 will be ranked nine(9)-twelve(12) and thirteen(13)-sixteen(16) and will then play two (2) more games to determine a final placing); and
 - f) Dependent on court availability and Host country specificities (such as weather conditions), Basketball should be a daytime competition and 3x3 an afternoon and evening competition.
- 1.5.2. In principle, Teams' group and pool allocations shall be based on a draw. However, FIBA reserves the right to seed teams where competitive balance or other competition-related circumstances require it. The number of seeded teams in each category will correspond to the number of planned pools. When seeding is applied, the Competition Director shall consider any relevant factors. Decisions regarding Team seeding and group/pool allocations shall be final and not subject to appeal.
- 1.5.3. The Competition draw, which FIBA may choose to live-stream, will be conducted at least forty-five (45) days before the start of the Competition. The rules governing the draw will be announced during the draw itself. The method and format of the draw shall be determined by FIBA and communicated in advance.
- 1.5.4. FIBA, through the Competition Director and the Head Referee, will allocate venues, Table Officials, and Referees for all games, taking into account the age category, the level of competition, and the stage of the tournament.
- 1.5.5. The detailed game schedule will be developed from the Competition draw and will be released at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of Competition. Thereafter, changes will be notified through the in-Competition communications.

1.6. Game Rules

- 1.6.1. The FIBA Official Basketball Rules ("OBR") and the FIBA Official 3x3 Basketball Rules ("3x3 OBR") shall apply to the Competition. However, the following modifications shall take precedence over the OBR where inconsistencies arise.
- 1.6.2. Uniform regulations for the Competition shall be modified as follows. Teams are free to design their own uniforms, provided they comply with the following requirements:
- a. Each team must have two complete sets of uniforms: one light-coloured and one dark-coloured.
 - b. Player numbers must be clearly displayed on both the front and back of the uniform.
 - c. Sponsorship or branding that is offensive or promotes hard alcohol, drugs, or similar prohibited content is strictly forbidden.

- d. Uniforms may incorporate national colours; however, they must not use official NMF design, trademark or branding unless expressly authorised by the respective NMF. Teams may not use NMF branding unless expressly authorised by the respective NMF, providing a signed endorsement by the NMF according to which the team is authorised to use of the NMF's uniform design, trademark and branding.
- 1.6.3. The following modifications to the OBR shall take precedence for the Basketball discipline:
- a) Court Dimension (Article 2 of the OBR)
 - a. Courts must be fifteen (15) metres in width and may be as short as twenty-two (22) metres.
 - b. Smaller courts may be allowed for certain Categories (i.e. women's 55+ and men's +65, and older);
 - b) Game Duration and Intervals (Article 8 of the OBR)
 - a. Each game shall consist of four (4) ten(10)-minute quarters. For the Women's 55+ and Men's 65+ categories, and older, the game clock shall, in principle, run continuously, except during the last two (2) minutes of the fourth quarter, timeouts or other situations at the discretion of the referees, when the stopwatch shall be used.
 - b. Warm-up shall be limited to ten (10) minutes
 - c. Half-time shall be limited to five (5) minutes
 - c) Advancing the Ball and Shot Clock (Article 28 and 29 of the OBR)
 - a. For women's 55+ and older categories as well as men's 65+ and older categories, teams shall have ten (10) seconds to advance the ball to the front court.
 - b. For these categories only, the twenty-four(24)-second shot clock shall commence only after the ball reaches the front court;
 - d) Protest Fees (Appendix C.2.c of the OBR)
 - a. Fees for Protests in the Competitions are defined in Article 3 below.
- 1.6.4. The following modifications to the Official 3x3 Basketball Rules shall take precedence for the 3x3 discipline:
- a) Team Composition (Article 4.2.1 of the Official 3x3 Basketball Rules).Each team may register and play with up to six players in a game;
 - b) Shot Clock Duration (Article 29 of the Official 3x3 Basketball Rules)
 - a. The shot clock shall be 18 seconds.
 - b. For women's 55+ and older categories as well as men's 65+ and older categories the shot clock shall not be used, the Referee shall verbally count down (10 seconds) should a team stall the ball; and
 - c) Protest Fees (Appendix C.2.c of the Official 3x3 Basketball Rules) – Fees for Protests in the Competitions are defined in Article 3 below.

1.7. Official Meetings Prior to Competition

- 1.7.1. On the day prior to the start of Competition, the Host will convene two operational meetings. One of these will be for Team Delegates and the other will be an official's workshop for Referees, Table Officials and Venue Managers.
- 1.7.2. The technical meeting for Team Delegates and National Delegates will be chaired by the Competition Director, assisted by the Head Referee and will include revision of key Regulations, logistics, transportation, communications

protocols, protest and disciplinary processes and Referees' interpretations. This will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

2. Players and Officials

2.1. Team Composition

- 2.1.1. For Basketball, a team shall consist of minimum eight (8) and maximum twelve (12) players. A coach, assistant coach or medical personnel may accompany a team. The maximum number of persons per team delegation shall be fourteen (14) people.
- 2.1.2. For 3x3, a team shall consist of minimum four (4) and up to six (6) players maximum. A coach, or medical personnel may accompany a team bringing the team delegation up to eight (8) people maximum.
- 2.1.3. For the Categories Men's 75+ and older and for Women's 65+ and older, teams may enter up to two players one year younger or up to one player two years younger than the Category age.
- 2.1.4. Players may not participate in one Competition in more than one Team, even if in different categories or Discipline. Coaches or support personnel may accompany more than one team. Where coaches, support personnel, or medical personnel is shared between two or more teams, such personnel shall be counted individually within the fourteen (14)-person limit for each team concerned.
- 2.1.5. There are no age, gender, nationality or residence requirements for coaches and support staff, however valid form of identification (ID or passport) is required for accreditation. There are also no licencing or membership requirements for coaches or support staff.
- 2.1.6. Participation of any individual who is currently serving a disciplinary suspension, or whose suspension period has not been fully completed, shall not be permitted.
- 2.1.7. Teams that wish to represent a NMF will have to provide a signed endorsement by the NMF according to which the team is authorised to represent the NMF as well as for the use of the NMF's uniform design, trademark and branding. Furthermore, to register a team as a National Team, all team players must hold the passport of the country or territory of the corresponding NMF. Only one (1) team per category may be authorised to represent a NMF.

2.2. Player Requirements

- 2.2.1. To be eligible to participate in a Competition, a player must observe the FIBA GS and FIBA IR and any decisions issued on the basis thereof.
- 2.2.2. All players who participate in Competitions shall:
 - a) Respect the Code of Conduct (see FIBA Book 1, Chapter 5), including the Code of Fair Play (see FIBA Book 1 articles 104 to 107), at all times on and off the court;
 - b) Collaborate with FIBA in any investigation regarding a possible violation of the FIBA GS or FIBA IR;

- 2.2.3. Participation of any individual currently serving a disciplinary suspension imposed by FIBA, or whose suspension period has not been fully completed, is strictly prohibited.
- 2.2.4. FIBA is authorised to deny participation to players who do not respect the FIBA GS, FIBA IR or the FIBA Masters Handbook. FIBA may remove, at its discretion, any Participant from the Competition or withdraw his/her accreditation if his/her conduct or physical condition is deemed to endanger, or potentially endanger, the safety or well-being of him/herself or others.
- 2.2.5. Each member of a Team Delegation will be requested to sign an entry form. Permission to participate may be refused to players or other members of a Team Delegation who do not provide a signed copy of the entry form, as required in this Masters Handbook, in which they agree to accept, inter alia:
 - a) The FIBA IR;
 - b) The jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Lausanne, to the exclusion of any recourse to ordinary courts;
 - c) A waiver releasing FIBA from responsibility for the health or physical impacts of competing, as per Article 2.4;
 - d) Any other terms, conditions, consents, waivers, releases, and authorisations required in connection with participation in the Competition, including, without limitation, the use of their name, image, likeness, voice, and performance for sporting, commercial, promotional, and/or broadcasting purposes.

2.3. Players' Eligibility

- 2.3.1. Eligibility shall be assessed per gender category and as per the year of birth of the Player, regardless of the month of birth. Proof of age by way of a passport or government-issued ID with photo, showing the date of birth and sex of the Player shall be requested during the accreditation process.
- 2.3.2. Players that wish to participate in a Team that represents an NMF must hold the passport of the country or territory of such NMF. See Article 2.1.7.

2.4. Medical Fitness to Compete

- 2.4.1. Players are solely responsible for their health and for their decision to compete.
- 2.4.2. FIBA strongly recommends that all players consult with their medical advisers prior to deciding to compete, but FIBA requires no physical fitness certificates or similar.
- 2.4.3. As a condition of participation, and as part of the accreditation or registration process, all players shall sign a waiver by which they acknowledge sole responsibility for their own health and physical condition and expressly release FIBA from any liability arising from the health or physical impacts of competing.
- 2.4.4. Players are responsible for their own insurance. FIBA or the Host may develop and offer an insurance product and make it available to players for use at their discretion. In such case, the registered players and teams shall be notified.
- 2.4.5. Players participating in Masters Competitions shall be considered Recreational Athletes for the purposes of the FIBA Anti-Doping Regulations, Internal Regulations Book 4 ("FIBA ADR"). Accordingly, they shall not be subject to

doping controls, except where a player qualifies as an International-Level Athlete or National-Level Athlete under the FIBA ADR

2.5. Accreditation of Participants

- 2.5.1. All Team and Individual Registrations will be managed via the FIBA Registration System. Team Delegates will be responsible for registering their team prior to the Competition.
- 2.5.2. Registration entries for each participant will require mandatory data, and a headshot photo to be used for identification during the Competition.
- 2.5.3. Changes will be permitted to the members of Team Delegations up until seven (7) days prior to the start of the Competition.
- 2.5.4. Each Team must nominate a Team Delegate who will be the primary team contact point for FIBA and the Host.
- 2.5.5. Upon arrival to the Host country and prior to participation in the Competition, all Participants must personally present themselves at the accreditation centre and present appropriate identification (government-issued ID, or passport) containing photo, reflecting the Player's sex, and the date of birth).
- 2.5.6. Upon completion of the verification process indicated in article 2.5.5. above, Competition credentials in the form of a personal accreditation (which also includes a headshot photo) will be issued to each Participant.

2.6. Referees

- 2.6.1. Officiating of games for Basketball will require in principle two Referees per game for all games other than medal games. Three Referees will be, in principle, allocated to medal games. At FIBA's discretion, three Referees shall be allocated to non-medal games.
- 2.6.2. Officiating for 3x3 games will require one Referee per game for all games. At FIBA's discretion, two Referees shall be allocated to certain games, including medal games.
- 2.6.3. The Head Referee shall assign, as approved by FIBA, the Referees to the games they will officiate.

2.7. Table Officials

- 2.7.1. Basketball games will require at least two Table Officials per game for all games. Three Table Officials may be allocated to games, including medal games, at FIBA's discretion.
- 2.7.2. 3x3 games will require two Table Officials per game for all games. At FIBA's discretion, two Referees may be allocated to certain games, including medal games.
- 2.7.3. The Competition Director shall assign, as approved by FIBA, the Table Officials to the games they will work on.

2.8. Statistics and Video Streaming

- 2.8.1. Where technically possible and video is available, game statistics will be provided by analysis via an artificial intelligence platform reviewing the video of each game. No human-generated statistics will be provided, other than those from the scoresheet.
- 2.8.2. Where available, FIBA and the Host will be responsible for ensuring that the games are video-recorded and streamed online.

3. Disciplinary Matters

3.1. General Principles

- 3.1.1. Protests and disciplinary matters, as defined in the OBR, the 3x3 OBR, and the FIBA IR, shall be handled in accordance with the procedures set out in this Masters Handbook and the FIBA IR. There shall be no automatic suspension for ejection from a game. Submission of a post-game report related to the in-game conduct of any player shall rest at the discretion of the Referees.

3.2. Application of FIBA IR

- 3.2.1. The FIBA IR, where applicable, and this Masters Handbook shall complementarily apply to all disciplinary matters during the Competition.

3.3. Technical Committee – Authority and Composition

- 3.3.1. The Technical Committee shall have exclusive competence over disciplinary matters, protests, and any other technical issues arising during the Competition.
- 3.3.2. Decisions by the Technical Committee are final and not subject to appeal beyond the process defined herein.
- 3.3.3. The Technical Committee shall consist of three (3) persons designated by FIBA, who shall be announced at the technical meeting.

3.4. Protest and Disciplinary Procedure

- 3.4.1. Any protest by a Team Delegate or disciplinary report by the Head Referee shall be sent to the Technical Committee email, which will be provided in the technical meeting.
- 3.4.2. A protest shall be accompanied by a fee of EUR/USD 200. Protests submitted without proof of payment shall be deemed inadmissible.
- 3.4.3. If the protest is upheld, the fee shall be reimbursed.
- 3.4.4. No appeal against the decision on the protest shall be admitted.
- 3.4.5. Any protest shall follow the procedure established in the OBR and the 3x3 OBR unless otherwise provided in this Masters Handbook.
- 3.4.6. The Technical Committee shall use its best efforts to issue a decision within four (4) hours of receipt of a protest or a disciplinary report.
- 3.4.7. Decisions shall be communicated without reasons to the Team Delegate email address. Reasoned decisions may then be requested by any affected party to the proceedings, within twenty-four (24) hours from the notification of the decision.

- 3.4.8. If reasons are requested, the Technical Committee shall provide them within forty-eight (48) hours of the request.