



## Memo

**Date:** October 30, 2019

**To:** ASAA Zones, Basketball coaches  
ABOA Officials

**From:** John Paton, Executive Director  
Perry Stothart, President, Alberta Basketball Officials Association (ABOA)  
Marla Van Gelder, Director of Officiating, ABOA

**Re:** FIBA rule regarding shoes of the same colour and the September 3, 2019 memo from CABO addressing same

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At the October 24, 2019 meeting of the ASAA Executive Committee, Perry Stothart, President of the ABOA represented the ABOA for a discussion with the Executive regarding FIBA Article 4.4.3 which states:

*During the game a player may wear shoes of any colour combination, but the left and right shoe must match. No flashing lights, reflective material or other adornments are permitted.*

The September 3, 2019 memo from CABO effectively says that if a player has two shoes that do not match, they are not eligible to take the court.

During the meeting between Mr. Stothart and the ASAA Executive Committee, it was mutually decided that the implementation of the above noted policy regarding shoe colour only (i.e. no flashing lights or reflective material will be allowed) will be delayed until the 2020/2021 high school basketball season.

Included in the rationale for a moratorium on this FIBA rule is that many high school students may have already purchased shoes that do not match for the 2019/20 season, based on the popularity of this occurring in the professional basketball setting or because of the fad it has become, and the promotion of such shoes by shoe manufacturers. The ASAA Executive felt that it was not reasonable at short notice to require some student athletes to incur the expense of purchasing another pair of shoes.

The ASAA is not promoting the purchase or use of unmatched shoes, but is appreciative of the flexibility of the ABOA in this matter for the coming season. Schools are encouraged to print this memo and have it available if there is any dispute with Basketball Officials prior to or during games this season.

Effective November 1, 2020, the above noted FIBA rule will be in full force.

