



Throughout the Official Basketball Rules, all references made to a player, coach, official, etc. in the male gender also apply to the female gender. It must be understood that this is done for practical reasons only.

RULE ONE – THE GAME

Art. 1 Definitions

1.1 Basketball game

Basketball is played by 2 teams of 5 players each. The aim of each team is to score in the opponents' basket and to prevent the other team from scoring.

The game is controlled by the officials, table officials and a commissioner, if present.

1.2 Basket: opponents'/own

The basket that is attacked by a team is the opponents' basket and the basket which is defended by a team is their own basket.

1.3 Winner of a game

The team that has scored the greater number of points at the end of playing time shall be the winner.

RULE TWO – COURT AND EQUIPMENT

Art. 2 Court

2.1 Playing court

The playing court shall have a flat, hard surface free from obstructions (Diagram 1) with dimensions of 28 m in length by 15 m in width measured from the inner edge of the boundary line.

2.2 Backcourt

A team's **backcourt** consists of its team's own basket, the inbounds part of the backboard and that part of the playing court limited by the endline behind their own basket, the sidelines and the centre line.

2.3 Frontcourt

A team's **frontcourt** consists of the opponents' basket, the inbounds part of the backboard and that part of the playing court limited by the endline behind the opponents' basket, the sidelines and the inner edge of the centre line nearest to the opponents' basket.

2.4 Lines

All lines shall be drawn in white colour, 5 cm in width and clearly visible.

2.4.1 **Boundary line**

The playing court shall be limited by the boundary line, consisting of the endlines and the sidelines. These lines are not part of the playing court.

Any obstruction including seated team bench personnel shall be at least 2 m from the playing court.

2.4.2 **Centre line, centre circle and free-throw semi-circles**

The centre line shall be marked parallel to the endlines from the mid-point of the sidelines. It shall extend 0.15 m beyond each sideline. The centre line is part of the backcourt.

The centre circle shall be marked in the centre of the playing court and have a radius of 1.80 m measured to the outer edge of the circumference. If the inside of the centre circle is painted, it must be the same colour as the restricted areas.

The free-throw semi-circles shall be marked on the playing court with a radius of 1.80 m measured to the outer edge of the circumference and with their centres at the mid-point of the free-throw lines (Diagram 2).

2.4.3 **Free-throw lines, restricted areas and free-throw rebound places**

The free-throw line shall be drawn parallel to each endline. It shall have its furthest edge 5.80 m from the inner edge of the endline and shall be 3.60 m long. Its mid-point shall lie on the imaginary line joining the mid-point of the 2 endlines.

The restricted areas shall be the rectangular areas marked on the playing court limited by the endlines, the extended free-throw lines and the lines which originate at the endlines, their outer edges being 2.45 m from the mid-point of the endlines and terminating at the outer edge of the extended free-throw lines. These lines, excluding the endlines, are part of the restricted area. The inside of the restricted areas must be painted in one colour.

Free-throw rebound places along the restricted areas, reserved for players during free throws, shall be marked as in Diagram 2.

2.4.4 **3-point field goal area**

The team's 3-point field goal area (Diagram 1 and Diagram 3) shall be the entire floor area of the playing court, except for the area near the opponents' basket, limited by and including:

- The 2 parallel lines extending from and perpendicular to the endline, with the outer edge 0.90 m from the inner edge of the sidelines.
- An arc of radius 6.75 m measured from the point on the floor beneath the exact centre of the opponents' basket to the outer edge of the arc. The distance of the point on the floor from the inner edge of the mid-point of the endline is 1.575 m. The arc is joined to the parallel lines.

The 3-point line is not part of the 3-point field goal area.

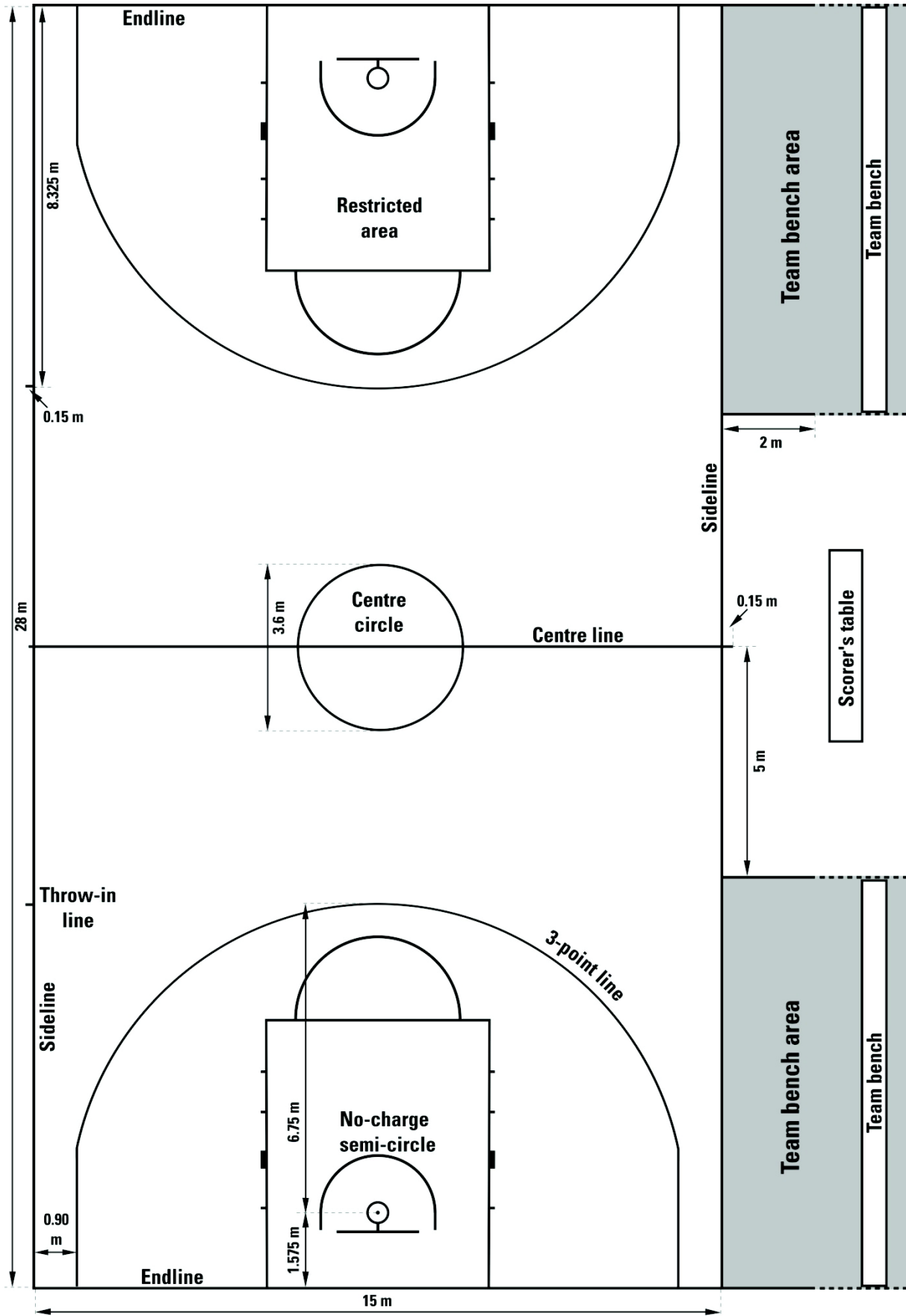


Diagram 1 Full size playing court

2.4.5 Team bench areas

The team bench areas shall be marked outside the playing court limited by 2 lines as shown in Diagram 1.

There must be 14 seats available in the team bench area for the team bench personnel which consists of the coaches, the assistant coaches, the substitutes, the excluded players and the team followers. Any other persons shall be at least 2 m behind the team bench.

2.4.6 Throw-in lines

The 2 lines of 0.15 m in length shall be marked outside the playing court at the sideline opposite the scorer's table, with the outer edge of the lines 8.325 m from the inner edge of the nearest endline.

2.4.7 No-charge semi-circle areas

The no-charge semi-circle lines shall be marked on the playing court, limited by:

- A semi-circle with the radius of 1.25 m measured from the point on the floor beneath the exact centre of the basket to the inner edge of the semi-circle. The semi-circle is joined to:
- The 2 parallel lines perpendicular to the endline, the inner edge 1.25 m from the point on the floor beneath the exact centre of the basket, 0.375 m in length and ending 1.20 m from the inner edge of the endline.

The no-charge semi-circle areas are completed by imaginary lines joining the ends of the parallel lines directly below the front edges of the backboards.

The no-charge semi-circle lines are part of the no-charge semi-circle areas.

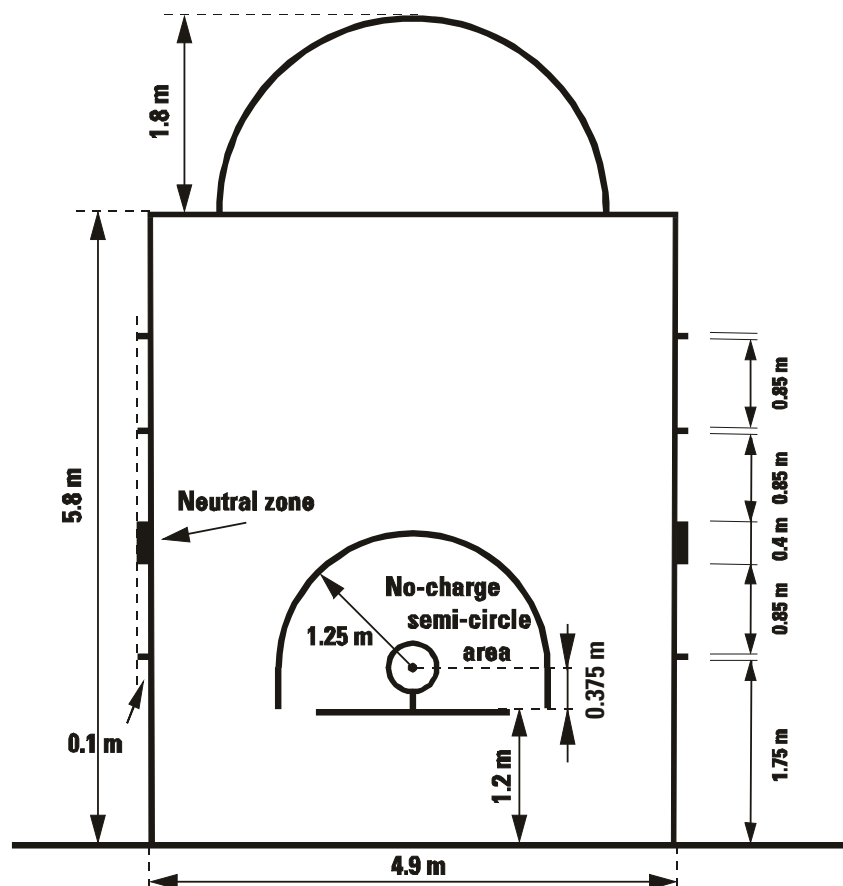


Diagram 2 Restricted area

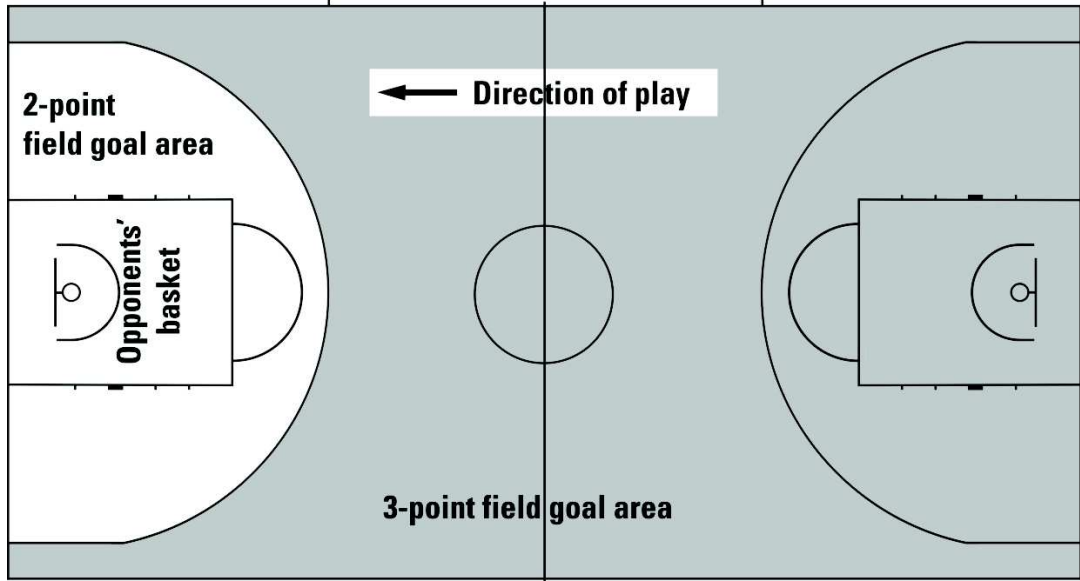


Diagram 3 2-point/3-point field goal area

2.5 Position of the scorer's table and substitution chairs (Diagram 4)

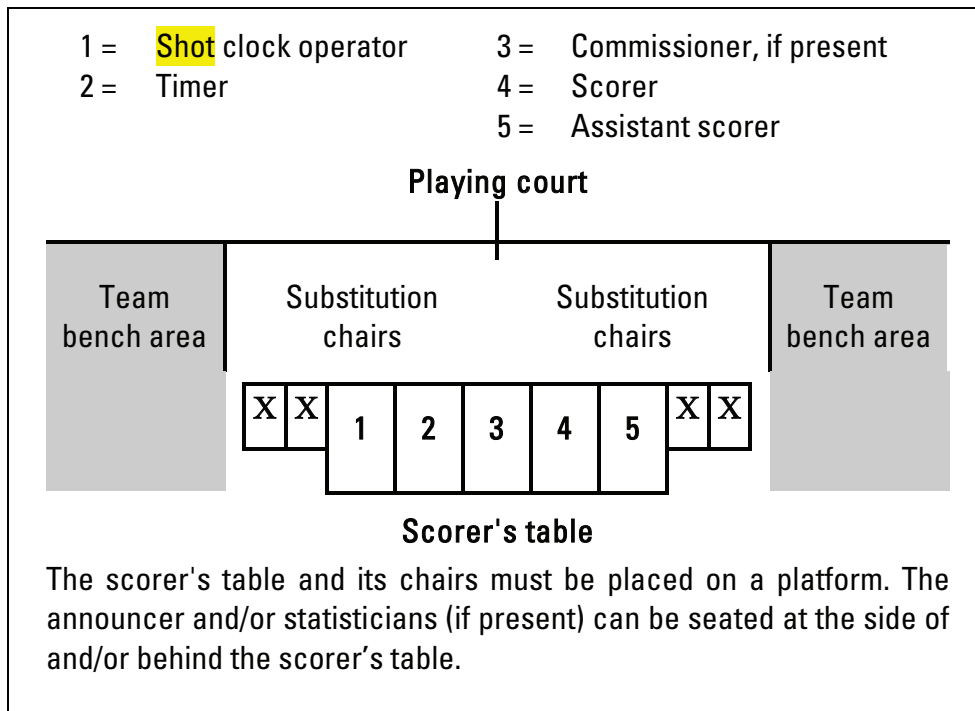


Diagram 4 Scorer's table and substitution chairs