

### **Unaccompanied Spectators No Longer Allowed at Friday Night Basketball for the Rest of the Season**

While we have worked very hard with our community, especially the Secondary School Principals and the CET Arena Management, and we feel there has been a slight improvement in the behaviours of our youngsters on a Friday night, following an incident involving knives being brought to the venue ; the Basketball Manawatu board and management in association with the CET Arena Management have made the tough call that the only spectators we shall allow to watch the three remaining weeks of Friday night Secondary School basketball games will be adults, and siblings & students who are accompanied by their parents.

And again, all unaccompanied players intending to play MUST produce their schools Basketball ID's to gain entry to the Arena; everyone else (and those who cannot produce their ID) will be turned away at the entrance.

While there may not have been any violent intent, nor malice by the individuals who brought the "play knives" to the venue; the fact still remains that they are dangerous weapons and those people around the ones playing with them had no idea that they were just "playing".

It was a huge call for us to make, to not allow our young people in to watch their friends and school mates, BUT we felt it was in everyone's best interest to ensure we provide a safe and welcoming environment for everyone who attends basketball games at the CET Arena complex.

We apologise to those unfortunate innocent parties who may be affected by our decision, and we trust you understand the seriousness of the actions of a few and the consequences of their behaviour, and now know that this is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

It is hoped that the steps we are taking for the remainder of the season will deter anyone else from bringing other dangerous weapons to the venue.

We are continuing to work with CET Arena Management team & NZ Police to create a safer environment for everyone.

Thank you all in advance for your ongoing support, and we hope the action we are taking will allow us to continue to play basketball in a friendly, safer, and welcoming environment.



Mike Ryan  
On behalf of the Basketball Manawatu Board

*Please contact Mike Ryan, General Manager, Basketball Manawatu  
([gm@manawatu.basketball](mailto:gm@manawatu.basketball)) if you have any questions or concerns regarding the above.*