

Basketball England invites all clubs with teams participating in the NBL, WNBL, Jnr. NBL this weekend (8/9 February 2025) to hold a minute's silence to pay respects five cherished individuals from the basketball community who have passed away.

Four young people from the University of Essex tragically lost their lives recently. Makyle Bayley, 22, Eva Darold-Tchikaya, 21, TJ Hibbert, 24 and Daljang 'DJ' Wol, 22, passed away following a road traffic accident.

TJ and DJ were 'outstanding members' of the Essex Rebels men's NBL team and Makyle was described as a 'talented basketball player' and a member of the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) team.

Eva had multiple roles in the Essex Blades Dance Club and was active in other clubs and societies.

Brixton Topcats and former Itchen College player Idryck Wilkinson passed away over last weekend.

He was described as 'an irreplaceable part' of the Topcats' heart.

BE encourages clubs to show support for and solidarity with the Essex, Brixton and Itchen basketball families - and the range of other clubs each individual has associations with - at this desperately sad time.

To do so clubs should use the following process. This should be handled on game day by the game officials with (where present) game announcers.

THE PROCESS IS AS FOLLOWS:

Prior to the game, the timer will run a visual countdown to the tip-off as normal. At four minutes prior to the tip-off, the timer will stop the clock and the crew chief will beckon teams to line up on the free throw lines facing the opposition.

All officials shall stand if they are able. The crew chief will at this point blow their whistle to begin one minute's silence, and the timer shall start the clock. When the clock reaches three minutes, the timer shall sound the buzzer which will end the one minute's silence and teams will begin their final warm-up.

If a game has pre-game introductions, the one-minute silence should be completed after the introductions are complete. There is no need to wait until the 4-minute mark. If the introductions are not finished by the 4-minute mark, the timer should stop the clock so that the minute can be timed effectively.

