



To:

Horacio Muratore - President
Vlade Divac - FIBA Players' Commission/GM Sacramento Kings
BY EMAIL

Subject: Problems with Molten “consistent touch” basketball

Dear Mr. Muratore,
Dear Mr. Divac,

August 29, 2017

We, the undersigned captains of teams participating in the Eurobasket competition and representatives of national players associations, would like to inform you that we have received many complaints from our teammates and members related to the change in texture of the Molten basketballs being used in the Eurobasket competition. The “consistent touch” feature, that was instituted last summer, is causing problems, especially at the end of games when the basketballs get wet.

We recommend that the “consistent touch” feature be phased out immediately after this competition and that active players be included in the process for selecting a new ball. This is a serious issue for us since it directly affects our performances on the court.

We would like to work in a positive manner to resolve these problems because Molten is an important partner for FIBA, many national federations, and the players. In 2007, a similar situation arose in the NBA when Spalding made changes to the NBA game ball. In that case, the players, NBA, and Spalding were able to work together to resolve the issue quickly and professionally without jeopardizing an important sponsorship relationship.

Whereas we have requested representatives from the Union des Basketteurs Européens (UBE) to coordinate this statement, we respectfully request that you address your response to the President of UBE, Alessandro Marzoli (GIBA) at president@ubeplayers.com, who will keep us informed and coordinate any further communications.

Thank you for your attention.

Boris Diaw, France
Gigi Datome, Italy
Omri Casspi, Israel
Jonathan Tabu, Belgium
Robin Benzing, Germany
Adam Hanga, Hungary
Jiri Welsch, Czech Republic
Shawn Huff, Finland

Brian Savoy, Switzerland
Adam Waczynski, Poland
Nir Alon, IBPA (Israel)
Alfonso Reyes, President - ABP (Spain)
Alessandro Marzoli, President GIBA (Italy)
Johan Passave-Ducteil, President SNB (France)