

# **Greater Howard County**

## **Basketball League By Laws & Rules**

- 1.0 Sponsorship & Administration
  - 1.01 The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks sponsors the Greater Howard County Basketball League (hereinafter referred to as the League). The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks will operate the League with assistance from the local Basketball Organizations for the benefit of the players registered through their organizations.
  - 1.02 If necessary, Howard County Recreation & Parks reserves the rights to modify these rules at any time to assure the best possible experience for the youth.
  - 1.03 Each off-season, the league commissioner as assigned by the department will conduct a pre-league organizational meeting(s) among participating organizations (not teams) to make recommendations regarding playing rules, groupings and other organizational matters to the department for consideration during the following season of play.
  - 1.04 Each member organization is responsible for arranging and securing coaching staffs, registering players, permitting and scheduling practice sessions.
  - 1.05 Member organizations and their teams are responsible for spectator behavior.
  - 1.06 Prior to each season, the department will conduct an organization meeting to share approved rules with membership organization.
  - 1.07 Once League play begins, the league coordinator is empowered to operate the league within the rules of the program and in accordance with the Department's operating practices.
- 2.0 Team & Player Eligibility
  - 2.01 Membership is open to any Basketball Organization conducting youth leagues in Howard County that has approved non-profit status and is in good standing with the Department.
  - 2.02 Howard County members have until November 25<sup>th</sup> to indicate their interest in participating in the subsequent season by submitting all league fees made payable to the Director of Finance. League fees shall include a refundable "forfeit bond".
  - 2.03 The League has the option to accept team entries outside of county boundaries if space is available upon application providing that the sponsoring organization is similar in scope and organization as the County members.

- 2.04 The age determination date will be calendar year based. The age determination date for boys will be September 1, 2009 with 3 exceptions per team. The age determination date for girls will be December 31, 2009 with 3 exceptions per team.
- 2.05 The League offers boys divisions by age starting with age 10 and ending at age 14, along with girls division by age starting with age 13 and ending at age 14.
- 2.06 Players selected for each team must be age specific.
- 2.07 Any coach or player removed from the game as the result of technical or flagrant fouls are subject to a minimum one game suspension. League Coordinator will review reports to determine if further sanctions are necessary.
- 2.08 Players cannot change organizations or teams once rosters are submitted.
- 3.0 Rosters
  - 3.01 Each team must have a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 12 players.
  - 3.02 Coaching staff is limited to one head coach, two assistant coaches. In addition each team must have one adult with CPR / First Aid certification.
  - 3.03 Teams must complete and submit a Howard County Recreation & Parks youth team roster to the league director two weeks before first game along with evidence pertaining to 3.02, 4.01 and 4.02.
  - 3.04 The league director must approve all changes to rosters. A medical note must be given in the event of an injury. No roster changes after February 1<sup>st</sup> unless approved by Manager of the Sports & Adventure Services Division.
  - 3.05 Any team that uses an ineligible player will forfeit any game that player has participated in and the removal of the Head Coach for the remainder of the program.
- 4.0 Coaches
  - 4.01 All coaching staff members must be ASEP (American Sports Education Program) certified through Howard County Recreation & Parks.
  - 4.02 All membership organizations must declare in writing that their coaching staffs have passed a criminal background check and that all checks are in compliance with Howard County Government's Policy and Procedure 100.9 - Criminal Background Investigations for Prospective Employees and Volunteers.
  - 4.03 All coaching staff members are subject to the Leagues *Code of Ethics and Behavior* and are subject to League disciplinary decisions if necessary.
- 5.0 Season Play
  - 5.01 All age Divisions will play a 7 or 8 game schedule, determined by the coordinator (weather permitting).

- 5.02 The Department with input from member organizations during the off-season will determine days of play for each age division.
    - 5.02.1 The League Coordinator will develop a round robin game schedule in accordance with gym availability on or before December 4<sup>th</sup>. This allows sufficient time to schedule game officials.
    - 5.02.2 The inclement weather number that should be called is 410-313-4451. In snow emergencies games may be stopped.
    - 5.02.3 The League Coordinator will reschedule all games based on gym availability.
  - 5.03 The home team is responsible for providing a suitable league ball for all games. For all girls' ages and boy's 10u-12u a (28.5") ball will be used. For all other age groups an official size (29.5") ball will be used.
  - 5.04 The home team is the first team listed on the schedule.
  - 5.05 Teams and officials will have a maximum of ten minutes between games for warm up and pre-game conferences.
  - 5.06 At the completion of each game, both game officials must review and sign the official game scorebook. The home team is responsible for submitting the scorebook immediately to the League representative on site.
  - 5.07 Post Season Tournament
    - 5.07.1 All divisions will play a single elimination playoff, with teams seeded according to their record during the regular season.
    - 5.07.2 Ties will be resolved as follows in descending order:
      - 5.07.2.1 Won/Loss percentage
      - 5.07.2.2 Head to Head Record or Won/Loss Record among the tied teams/opponents - this is the won/loss record among the teams that are tied (this is used to break 3-way ties for example)
      - 5.07.2.3 Number of points allowed in head-to-head games - e.g., if the teams that are tied played 2 games against each other, and each won 1 game, the team that allowed the fewest points in those 2 games would win this step.
      - 5.07.2.4 Coin Flip
    - 5.07.3 During the post-season tournament the higher seeded team is the home team (and will wear a light color jersey).
  - 5.08 Awards will be given to the divisional championship teams. And the post-season tournament champion and runner-up.
- 6.0 Playing Rules

- 6.01 Unless modified by these rules, the League will follow the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). A special note that rules regarding team jersey numbers applies to this league.
  - 6.02 All players who are participating must meet the minimum-playing requirement.
  - 6.03 All divisions will play (2) halves with a 20-minute running clock that stops only on time-outs and whistles in the last 2 minutes of each half.
  - 6.04 Each team will receive (2) time-outs per half. These time-outs do not carry over into an overtime period.
  - 6.05 There will be (1) overtime period lasting (3) minutes long. If the game is still tied at the end of this overtime period the game will end in a tie. There will be multiple overtime periods during playoffs to determine a winner.
  - 6.06 Backcourt Defense: backcourt defense will not be permitted at the 8-year-old level. At all other age groups backcourt defense will be allowed unless a team is ahead by (20) or more points. The second infraction will result in a technical foul charged against the team.
  - 6.07 Each player suited up for a game must play (6) minutes per game, not including any overtimes. Coaches are free to play whomever they wish during overtime periods.
    - 6.07.1 Each team must provide a volunteer to keep track of player's minutes. Volunteers shall record the minutes of their opponent.
    - 6.07.2 Prior to the last quarter, it is the responsibility of the Head Coach to inquire as to any playing time issues.
    - 6.07.3 Any coach failing to meet this requirement will result a minimum of a one game suspension or forfeit if it's the last game of the season.
  - 6.08 Once playoffs begin every participant has to play, but there is no mandatory minimum playing time. From this point on it is up to the coach to decide how much playing time each player receives.
  - 6.09 The home team must wear a light color jersey, and the visiting team must wear a dark color jersey. The offending team will be change their jersey or wear a "pinnie".
  - 6.10 A player who is bleeding or who has blood on his/her uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. An athlete shall not continue competition unless the bleeding is controlled and the wound covered.
- 7.0 Game Officials
- 7.01 The League Commissioner will secure a contract for competent game officials utilizing local Board of Officials with preference for IABBO Certified Officials.

- 7.02 Game Official judgment calls are final.
- 7.03 League fees will cover the cost of game officials, scorekeepers, awards and administration.
- 8.0 **Disciplinary Actions**
  - 8.01 Any player, coach, spectator, administrator who is ejected from a game by an official shall be suspended from any participation for at least 1 game (not including the game from which he/she was ejected). Any further ejection during the current season shall be dealt with more severely by the League Coordinator.
  - 8.02 Anyone who strikes, shoves, pushes, bumps or otherwise physically or verbally threatens an official, a member of his/her team or any other team or spectator shall automatically be suspended from all Department sponsored activities for at least 1 year from the date of the incident.
  - 8.03 The use of vulgar or profane language may result in the ejection of that player from the game.
  - 8.04 The Head Coach is responsible for the conduct of their team and spectators. Failure to take action to control fan behavior could result in the League taking action.
  - 8.05 A team member and or spectator may be removed from the immediate field area when deemed necessary by the game official or HCRP staff. Failure to leave the area when requested may result in immediate termination and possible forfeiture of the game.
  - 8.06 The Howard County Employee Manual requires the Department to take action against anyone who harasses any Department of Recreation and Parks staff including volunteers.
  - 8.07 Any player, coach or manager suspended from play from another program or jurisdiction shall also be suspended from participation in any program operated by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks.
  - 8.08 Any request for disciplinary action review must be made in writing within 48 hours of decision.
- 9.0 Forfeits
  - 9.01 Teams who forfeit a game will be required to pay the officials fee for that game. The fee will be based on the per game fee the game officials are paid.
  - 9.02 Repay the forfeit bond before their next scheduled game.