

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL LEAGUE RULES

I. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A player may not appear to be on more than (1) one roster in a particular league (grade level).
- There shall be a minimum of eight (8) players on each team roster and a maximum of twelve (12).
- Changes, additions, or deletions can be made prior to the third scheduled game in writing to the League Office. It is the Manager's/Coach responsibility to make sure that all rosters and changes have been received in the Sports Office.
- Each player on the official roster must have an Individual Player Registration Form and Standards for Spectator Behavior completed, signed by his/her parent, and submitted to the League Office before participating in a league game.
- Any team using an ineligible player shall automatically forfeit all games in which the ineligible player participated. If a team uses a player under an assumed name that team shall be dropped automatically from the League. All games played and all scheduled games not played shall be forfeited to the opponents. Any player who participates under a assumed name or a coach who uses an ineligible player will automatically be suspended from all Montgomery County Recreation Department activities for a period of one (1) year from the date of the incident
- Any coach or spectator who attempts to recruit a player currently participating on another HS League roster at a league game will automatically be suspended immediately for the remainder of the season. In addition, that suspended coach or spectator will be required to schedule and attend a meeting with the League Director before their reinstatement into any Montgomery County Recreation Department activities.
- Only protests regarding player eligibility will be accepted and no protest fee is necessary. The only protest must be submitted in writing to the League Office within 48 hours after the completion of the game. Proof of participation is the responsibility of the protesting team.
- Any team that drops from the League, after the schedule has been completed, or due to league violations, shall forfeit their entire franchise fee.

II. PLAYING RULES

- Unless modified by these rules, all games of the League shall be played in accordance with the current National High School Federation Basketball rules.
- Substitutions shall be unlimited.
- **DUNKING** or **GRASPING THE RING** is not allowed before, during, or after the game. Any player guilty of dunking/grasping ring will automatically be ejected from the game. Each team will be held responsible for replacing any backboard or rim broken or damaged by their players.
- If a team forfeits 3 games during the season due to insufficient number of players, that team may be dropped from the League. All scheduled games not played shall be forfeited to the opponents.
- **NO JEWELRY** allowed at anytime!

III. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- A player, manager, or coach who is ejected from a game by an official or for **dunking/grasping** the rim, shall be suspended for at least one (1) additional game (next league game played by that team). A second ejection during the season shall be an automatic suspension for a period of at least one (1) year from the date of the second incident.
- Any player, manager, or coach who approaches an official in a negative manner after the conclusion of a league game shall be suspended for at least one (1) game.
- *A spectator who is ejected from a game by an official or who approaches an official in a negative manner after the conclusion of a league game shall be suspended for at least two (2) additional games (the next league games played by that team). The suspended spectator is also required to schedule and attend a meeting with the league director before their reinstatement into any Montgomery County Recreation Department activities. In addition, the head coach who is present at the league game where the incident with the spectator occurred shall be suspended for at least one (1) game (the next league game played by that team).*
- Anyone who makes physical contact with or threatens an official shall be suspended for at least one (1) year from the date of the incident,
- Any unsportsmanlike conduct may result in barring the player(s) or the team from further participation in the League.
- Any suspension handed out can be appealed to the League Office. The appeal must be submitted in writing within 48 hours after the affected individual has received the suspension letter. A hearing will be called within five working days upon receipt of the appeal in the League Office.
- A coach/manager that pulls a team off the floor for any reason: that team and coach will be suspended for the remainder of that season, plus the following year.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

- AWARDS shall be as follows:
League Champion – 12 individual awards
- INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: In case of inclement weather on the day of the game, call the recorded message at 240-777-6889.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL LEAGUE

RULES AND REGULATIONS - FULL

Please Note: ARTICLE IV - Playing Time Rule has been amended. Each player must participate each game.

ARTICLE I - Goals

The Montgomery County Department of Recreation sponsors separate Basketball Leagues for boys and girls. The purpose of the Leagues shall be to provide an opportunity for Montgomery County youth, within the prescribed grade limits, to learn the fundamentals of basketball, and, under competent leadership, to enjoy participation and competition in these organized leagues. Objectives shall include the development of positive social values and character traits; good citizenship; physical and mental health; and a knowledge, appreciation, and interest in basketball.

It is our goal to instill the will to win and the courage to accept defeat or disappointment, with emphasis on fair play and sportsmanlike conduct. The rules, as specified by the League, will govern practices and games at all times.

ARTICLE II - Teams

Section A

The Basketball League requires that players must play within their grade. Teams are registered in the division of the oldest player on the roster, players may only play up one grade level. (see Article 3, Section A.3) Exceptions will occur only when authorized by the League Director. Age groupings are as follows, provided adequate numbers exist, otherwise grades may be combined:

Ninth Grade
Tenth Grade

Eleventh Grade
Twelfth Grade

Section B

The League Director reserves the right to permit a team to participate in the league with fewer or more players than the maximum, depending on registration. The League Director can also require a team to register above the maximum or to place players on teams registered below the maximum. Teams in grades 9-12 will have a maximum roster of 12 players. Players cannot be CUT from a team. When possible, teams will be distributed between three divisions: Intermediate Level (new team or below .500 record last year), Advanced Level (returning team with above .500 record last year).

Section C

Players must be on the team roster to be eligible to play (see Article III, Section B). Each team will maintain a roster of active players and submit a copy of same to the Department of Recreation before the League begins. Additions or deletions to the roster must be reported to the League Director immediately. No additions to the roster may be made after the third game except for a player transfer or medical emergencies, either of which must be approved by the League Director.

1. Changes to a roster due to medical reasons must be documented in writing, by authorized medical personnel, stating that the individual to be dropped may not return to play during the current season. An addition is only approved if the team's roster remains below the maximum for that age group.
2. Transfers may be approved in the following circumstances:
 - a. If a player moves and changes schools;
 - b. If a player transfers schools;
 - c. If a team has a maximum roster;
 - d. If during a season a player is placed by the League on a team outside his or her school district or recreation area, and during a subsequent season a team is formed from his or her school district or recreation area.

ARTICLE III - Players

Section A

Any youth who either resides or attends school in Montgomery County is eligible for registration and will be assigned to a team in accordance with his/her grade level and high school district. Non-County residents will be accepted for an additional fee.

Teams that violate the player eligibility rules will be suspended from the league for the remainder of the season. Any team using an ineligible player shall automatically forfeit all games in which the ineligible player participated. All games played, and all scheduled games to be played shall be forfeited to the opponents. Any team dropped from the league shall forfeit all registration fees. Any coach who utilizes an ineligible player shall be banned from all Montgomery County Recreation Department activities for a period of one (1) year.

1. The high school / 9-12 grade intermediate league and have no select players and the advanced league can have no more than three (3) select, varsity, junior varsity, or freshmen team players on a MCRD team.
 - a. A select player is one who plays on a team in a league that permits try-outs.
2. If a youth is 2 or more years older than the grade he/she is enrolled in, he/she must move up to the next grade level in the league. No one over the age of 19 years old will be eligible to participate in the program.
3. Players are assigned to an age group by the grade in which they are currently

enrolled, not their date of birth. Players may not play up more than one grade level from their current school grade.

4. Individuals who have graduated from high school (regardless of their age) are not eligible to play in the Montgomery County Recreation Department league.
5. Any player who participates under an assumed name will automatically be suspended from all Montgomery County Recreation Department activities for a period of one (1) year from the date of the incident. If a team uses a player under an assumed name, that team shall automatically be suspended from the League for the remainder of the season and shall forfeit all games in which the player participated.

Section B

The team fee, the registration and parental release form, and the Spectator Guidelines, properly filled out and signed by the parent or guardian, must be submitted to the Recreation Department before the youth is eligible to practice or play.

Section C

Any player who at any league activity

- participates in a fight or physical confrontation or
- is involved in precipitating a fight or physical confrontation or
- is removed from a team for disciplinary reasons or
- is ejected from a game

must sit out at least the next played game. The duration of the suspension will be determined by the League Director. A second ejection during the season may result in suspension for the remainder of that season. Any player suspended for the season forfeits his/her registration fee.

When a player either quits, or is dismissed from a team for disciplinary reasons, this must be immediately reported in writing to the League Director. If a participant's playing time requirement is going to be altered by decision of the coach for either repeatedly missing practice or disciplinary problems, notification must be given to parent, child and League Director 24 hours prior to the scheduled game. The coach must then notify the scorekeeper and the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.

ARTICLE IV - Playing Time Rule

Each player must participate in each game at which they are present. Coaches must have all players check in at the scorers' table before entering the game.

1. Five (5) players and an adult coach must be present to start a game. If a team has less than five players at the start of the game, the game is forfeited. Note: IAABO referees are not authorized to officiate once a game has been forfeited. (See Article XIII).

2. If any violation of the above rules occurs, the gym supervisor must be notified so that the violation may be rectified on the spot with no penalty involved.

ARTICLE V - League Formation

The Recreation Department will attempt to provide opportunities for two levels of play, Beginning, Intermediate. . (See Article II, Section B). The rules stated within these articles will govern these divisions. The only difference will be the method by which the teams are entered. Previous season standings may determine level of play.

Section A

Intermediate – new pre-formed teams, or pre-formed teams with a record below .500 from the previous season and team with no select players.

Section B

Advanced Level - returning teams with a record above .500 in the previous season. These teams will be accepted from Sports Associations, Youth Clubs, or private/parochial schools. Teams must be school or community based and must be approved by League Director. This is not a select league. Try-outs are not permitted. (Limit: three (3) select or high school team players, see Article III, Section A.1.)

ARTICLE VI - Uniforms and Equipment

Section A

All players shall wear the uniforms provided to each team by the County.

The addition of player names must be approved by the director.

All players must wear gym shoes with non-marking soles.

Violations of the uniform policy may result in forfeiture of the game or games until the team is in full compliance. This decision will be made at the discretion of the League Director.

Section B

The Department of Recreation will provide all game balls.

ARTICLE VII - Awards

At the end of regular league play the team with the best won/loss record will receive individual

awards. In the case where teams end the season with a tied record, the team with the best record in head-to-head competition will be declared the winner. No team awards or other individual awards are provided. There are no post season play-offs.

ARTICLE VIII - League Director And Gym Supervisor

Section A

The League Director shall have the power to reprimand, suspend, or dismiss players, coaches or spectators for violation of Basketball League Rules and Regulations.

Section B – Scheduling Considerations

The League Director shall schedule all regular and make up games.

1. Requests for scheduling considerations must be submitted to the League Director **in writing** by the announced date (eg. in the Coaches' letter). *There is no guarantee that these requests will be honored.* Scheduling considerations are limited to conflicts that may cause the team to forfeit due to lack of players, such as religious holidays or events, or duly scheduled school field trips, graduation or test dates. Changes would only be made within the confines of the League and during the hours the Department has permitted facilities.
 - a. The League Director will make every effort to prevent conflicts when a coach manages more than one Montgomery County Recreation Department team, however it is strongly advised that each such team have an assist coach who can act in the absence of the head coach should a conflict occur.
 - b. Teams participating in more than one league must submit their non-Recreation game dates in writing to the League Director by the deadline if consideration is desired.

Section C

Other duties of the League Director include:

1. Providing a central file of up-to-date team rosters, parental permission slips, Spectator Guidelines and other necessary data.
2. Identifying player eligibility boundaries; combining teams or redistributing team members as the need arises.
3. Authorizing player transfers and/or player assignments.
4. Recruiting, selecting, supervising and evaluating Coaches and Gym Supervisors.
5. Maintaining and requiring strict adherence to League Rules and Regulations.
6. Determining player eligibility, validating team rosters, investigating protests, and

initiating official acts of reprimand, suspension or dismissal. Advising individuals of their right to appeal disciplinary action via the Department's Appeal Policy.

7. Obtaining and scheduling officials, scorers and timers.
8. Preparing and distributing all team schedules, including make up games to coaches, players, staff and officials.
9. Maintaining league records and team standings and communicating same to players and coaches on a regular basis.

Section D

The Gym Supervisor is employed by the Department of Recreation. Each Gym Supervisor will see that the spectators, coaches and players conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike fashion. Specific duties include but are not limited to:

1. Inspecting the gym.
2. Handling disputes on site.
3. Receiving and checking game line-up.
4. Reporting rule violations or other pertinent matters to the League Director.
5. Recording and reporting scores; verifying division standings with the League Director and communicating to coaches as requested.
6. Submitting to the League Director written incident or accident reports and suspensions or ejections by the end of the next working day.
7. Contacting the League Director or Referee Commissioner immediately in the absence of assigned staff.
8. Maintaining a safe environment for participation.
9. Ensuring that the games proceed on schedule.

ARTICLE IX - Protests and Forfeiture of Games

Only protests regarding player eligibility will be accepted by the League and no protest fee is required. A protest must be provided in writing to the League Director within two working days from the date the game was played. Proof of participation is the responsibility of the protesting team. The League Director must render a decision to the protesting party within three (3) working days from the date the protest was received. Any game(s) in which an ineligible player participates will be declared a forfeiture (see Article III, Section A).

ARTICLE X - Coaches

Section A

Coaches shall be responsible for investigating and confirming the eligibility of their players. Coaches are responsible for seeing that all players are properly registered, including submission of the Spectator Guidelines, prior to their participation in any league activities (see Article II, Section C and Article III, Sections A, and B).

Section B

A violation of playing time rules constitutes grounds for forfeiture. If the Coach directs or encourages any player(s) on the team roster not to be present at a League game or practice, it is grounds for immediate suspension (see Article V).

Section C

Coaches shall neither forbid nor penalize their players from participating on other teams sponsored by other public or private agencies.

Section D

The Coach is responsible for contacting the parent of any player who suffers an injury. Accident forms must be filled out and forwarded to the League Director within one (1) working day of the accident or injury.

Section E

A coach is responsible for the behavior of his/her players and spectators during any league activity. The Spectator Guidelines outline the expectations of all parents and/or spectators in attendance at any league activity. Any questions or rule interpretations should be handled by the head coach during time-outs or between quarters in a proper manner. Anyone who goes onto the court while the game is in progress to dispute a call will be ejected immediately and subject to suspension or further disciplinary action. Failure by anyone to leave the gym immediately following his/her ejection will result in termination of the game by the league officials. Anyone ejected from a game, must sit out at least the following played game and may not be present at the site during the game. In addition, whenever a parent and/or spectator is ejected, the head coach from the same team must also sit out a minimum of at least the following played game.

It shall be the duty of each Coach to:

1. Read, sign, and return the Coaches' Code of Ethics to the League Director.
2. Comply with the philosophy, policies and procedures of Montgomery County

Department of Recreation. Respect all employees and volunteers involved in the program. Remember that each coach is a representative of the Recreation Department.

3. Remember to encourage and compliment players when they show improvement, play with extra effort, or simply need kind words. Do not unduly criticize players in front of spectators or other players. Criticism should be constructive in nature.
4. Not allow a player to enter or re-enter a game or practice if there is any doubt as to the seriousness of an injury.
5. Abide by a doctor's decision in all matters of a player's health, injuries, and ability to play.
6. Exhibit good sportsmanship by demonstrating at every practice and game respect and positive support for all players, officials, coaches, staff and spectators by refraining from rude or abusive language, actions or gestures.
6. Never use any physical means against spectators, players, officials, or other coaches. Refrain from criticizing any of the above verbally or by gesture. Never allow an emotional reaction to result in a derogatory, violent or inappropriate response.
7. **Respect the decisions of officials and other coaches, recognizing that both are often required to make difficult judgment calls. Accept decisions of officials as being fair and performed to the best of their ability.**
9. Assist in maintaining a drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free environment by refraining from their use when in the presence of the players.
10. Be responsible for ensuring that players and team spectators are aware of and abide by numbers 7, 8, 9, and 10 above and the Spectator Guidelines.
11. Remember these are young athletes who are still learning. Encourage and compliment any player who demonstrates effort, good sportsmanship or improved play.
12. Demonstrate dignity in winning or losing, recognizing that both offer opportunities for the personal growth of our youth participants.

ARTICLE XI - Officials

Section A

The Department of Recreation will schedule all officials. If the official does not appear within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled starting time, the two coaches may agree to a substitute. A late-arriving IAABO referee should take over the game at the first opportunity. The Gym Supervisor

must notify the League Director of any late arriving official.

Section B

The official has the authority to terminate a game if he/she is subjected to excessive unsportsmanlike conduct from parents, spectators, coaches or players. When any individual is ejected from the game, the official must submit a written report to the League Director within 1 working day. When a game in progress is declared a forfeit or canceled, the official must notify the League Director within 24 hours.

ARTICLE XII - Postponements

Section A

Only the League Director is empowered to postpone a game. The Gym Supervisor must contact the League Director prior to canceling any game, except where the safety of the participants is at risk.

Section B

All postponed games will be replayed on the first available open date designated by the League Director. If a gym is unavailable and games must be postponed, each League Director will notify the coaches and officials. Coaches will, in turn, notify their team members.

Section C

In case of inclement weather on the day of a game or practice, call the recorded message at 240-777-6889, after 7 a.m. on weekends, or after 3:30 p.m. weekdays; and/or listen to WMAL, WRC, and WTOP for announcements of schools closings for all activities. You may also subscribe to an email notification system via the County's website, montgomerycountymd.gov. Be careful not to mistake individual closings, and delayed openings. We will only cancel when the Community Use of Public Facilities cancels all school programs, in some instances games scheduled in Recreation Department community centers may be held regardless of MCPS status.

ARTICLE XIII - Playing Rules

Play of the game is governed by the official National High School Federation Basketball Rules, unless otherwise described herein or modified below:

1. **Game Forfeiture:** All games will start as scheduled. For the first game of the day only, a forfeiture is declared ten (10) minutes after the scheduled game starting time if the five (5) eligible players and an adult responsible for managing the team are not present. For all subsequent games, scheduled game time is forfeit time.
2. **Game Time:** all games will consist of four (4) eight (8)-minute quarters. There will be a five (5) minute rest period between halves. The clock shall only stop for foul shots and time outs. During the last minute of each game the clock will stop at all whistles.
3. **Time-outs:** Each team will be allowed four (4) one (1)-minute time outs which can be used at any time during the game. A team is allowed one (1) additional time out per overtime and sudden death.
4. **Ties At the End of Regulation Play:** In the event of a tie game, there will be one (1) three (3)-minute overtime. Running time is in effect except clock stops for foul shots and time-outs. If the game is still tied, a three (3)-minute sudden death period will be played where the first team to score shall win. If the score remains tied at the end of the sudden death period, the game shall be recorded as a tie.
5. **Disciplinary Action:**
 - a. **Dunking or grabbing the rim is not allowed before, during or after the game.** Penalty - immediate ejection from that game and suspension from next played game. A flagrant technical foul will also be called. *The responsible team will be financially responsible for replacing any backboard or rim damaged or broken by their players.*
 - b. Anyone who is ejected from the game must leave the site immediately or the officials may terminate the game. He/she must sit out at least the next game played. The individual(s) ejected will not be allowed on site during the suspension.
 - c. Anyone who approaches an official, player, spectator, coach or staff member in a negative manner, or makes physical contact with or threatens, an official, player, spectator, coach or staff member before, during or after a game shall be suspended for at least one (1) year from the date of the incident
6. **Offense:**
 - a. All girls' teams will use an official intermediate ball. All boys' teams use a regulation size ball.
 - b. Teams are permitted to full-court press. *Exception*, see rule #10d below.
 - c. Will use the 3 point shot when playing on a court marked with the 3 point line.
 - d. A team may not implement a full court press of any type when a fifteen (15) point

lead or greater is held. The defense may not pick up until the player(s) cross over the top of the key extended. The official will issue one warning, each subsequent violation will result in a team foul. If in the bonus, the foul shot(s) will be taken by any player on the opposing team legally in the game at the time of the infraction.

ARTICLE XIV - In Case of Injury

1. Before, during or after games: notify the Gym Supervisor immediately.
2. Call the Rescue Squad if necessary (911).
3. Once the individual is cared for - fill out and turn in an accident report to the Department of Recreation within one (1) business day.
4. Call the League Director and report the incident.

BILL OF RIGHTS
FOR YOUNG ATHLETES

1. Right to participate in Sports.
2. Right to play as a child and not as an adult.
3. Right to participate at a level commensurate with each child's maturity and ability.
4. Right to have qualified adult leadership.
5. Right of children to share in the leadership and decision-making of their sport participation.
6. Right to participate in safe and healthy environments.
7. Right to proper preparation for participation in the sport.
8. Right to an equal opportunity to strive for success.
7. Right to be treated with dignity.
8. Right to have fun in sports.

Montgomery County Department of Recreation-Sports Team
4010 Randolph Road
Silver Spring, MD 20902
240/777-6961

Coaches' Code of Ethics

It shall be the duty of each Coach to:

1. Read, sign, and return Coaches' Code of Ethics to the League Director.
2. Comply with the philosophy, policies and procedures of Montgomery County Department of Recreation. Respect all employees and volunteers involved in the program. Remember that each coach is a representative of the Recreation Department.
3. Remember to encourage and compliment players when they show improvement, play with extra effort, or simply need kind words. Do not unduly criticize players in front of spectators or other players. Criticism should be constructive in nature.
4. Not allow a player to enter or re-enter a game or practice if there is any doubt as to the seriousness of an injury.
5. Abide by a doctor's decision in all matters of players health, injuries, and ability to play.
6. Exhibit good sportsmanship by demonstrating at every practice and game respect and positive support for all players, officials, coaches, staff and spectators by refraining from rude or abusive language, actions or gestures.
7. Never use any physical means against spectators, players, officials, or other coaches. Refrain from criticizing any of the above verbally or by gesture. Never allow an emotional reaction to result in a derogatory, violent or inappropriate response.
8. Respect the decisions of officials and other coaches, recognizing that both are often required to make difficult judgment calls. Accept decisions of officials as being fair and performed to the best of their ability.
9. Assist in maintaining a drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free environment by refraining from their use when in the presence of the players.
10. Be responsible for ensuring that players and team spectators are aware of and abide by numbers 7, 8, 9, and 10 above.
11. Remember these are young athletes who are still learning; encourage and compliment any player who demonstrates effort, good sportsmanship or improved play.
12. Demonstrate dignity in winning or losing, recognizing that both offer opportunities for the personal growth of our youth participants.

Coach's Name (please print) _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Team Name: _____

League: High School