

Rules & Regulations

SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

Good sportsmanship and cooperation is both anticipated and expected. The team captain or designated coach, if applicable, is expected to aid in controlling teammates' and team followers' conduct and to represent his/her team as spokesperson in case of appeals to the basketball official. Poor sportsmanship may result in penalties against the team, such as a Technical, Intentional or Flagrant foul. Failure to comply with the Sportsmanship Policy, with acts such as fighting, taunting, intimidating or verbally attacking a tournament official, player or spectator may lead to removal of that player, team and/or spectator from the tournament. Additional suspension for such acts will be determined by event organizers on a case by case basis. Decisions made by tournament officials are final and are not subject to review by video, other recordings or other sources.

1. Who Can Play

The tournament is open to adult players, as well as youth who are at least 8 years old by the day the tournament begins. Players under 8 years old will be allowed to register based on request by a team and acceptance by event organizers. A designated coach is required for all teams whose oldest player is 12 or younger. A player may not participate on multiple teams within the same bracket.

2. Number of Players

Each team must have a minimum of 3 players and may consist of a maximum of 4 players. A team shall have no more than 3 players on the court at any time. For all teams placed in a designated co-ed bracket (See Rule 5), a member of the opposite sex must be on the court at all times. All games must start with at least 3 players on each team. Any number of players (1, 2, or 3) may finish a game.

3. Authorized Equipment & Apparel

No player shall be allowed to wear a guard, cast, hard brace or other potentially dangerous equipment on his or her elbow, hand, wrist, finger or forearm, including equipment made of hard leather, plastic, plaster or metal—even if the equipment is covered with soft padding. Soft braces, sleeves and wraps will be allowed unless they pose a danger to other players. In addition, jewelry, hair bands and clips will not be allowed. Tournament officials retain the right to disallow any equipment or apparel that is judged to be dangerous or inappropriate.

4. Eligibility Issues

All high school and college players are encouraged to check with their coaches and/or athletic directors about participating in the tournament and the potential effects on their eligibility. Event organizers are not responsible for determining a particular athlete's eligibility under National Collegiate Athletic Association or applicable high school association rules.

5. Bracket Types

The tournament will consist of the following Divisions:

Junior Youth Division (ages 8 & 9) – No player on a team may be over 9 years old on the first day of the tournament.

Senior Youth Division (ages 10 - 12) – No player on a team may be over 12 years old on the first day of the tournament.

Teen Division (ages 13 – 19) – No player on a team may be over 19 years old on the first day of the tournament.

Adult Division (ages 20 & over) – A team has one or more players at least 20 years old on the first day of the tournament.

Youth, Teen and Adult Divisions teams will be placed in smaller groupings, called brackets, by tournament officials who will consider individual player and team characteristics including age, height, gender, and playing experience, obtained during the team registration process. Individual teams may consist of male and female players. Mixed gender teams will be placed in identified co-ed brackets if event organizers determine there are a sufficient number of co-ed teams to form a specific co-ed bracket in a particular grouping. Otherwise, mixed gender teams will be placed in a male bracket and the playing rule for designated co-ed brackets will not apply (See Rule 2).

Elite Division (Ages 18 & Over) – For the most competitive teams. There will be a Men's Elite Division and a Women's Elite Division. Unlike other divisions, teams in each Elite Division will be scheduled without regard to individual player characteristics. Event organizers reserve the right to determine team and player eligibility for Elite Division admittance. Players younger than 18 years old will be allowed to register based on request by a team and acceptance by event organizers.

Wheelchair Division – Limited to Wheelchair participants of all ages.

Special Olympics – Limited to Special Olympics and Unified participants of all ages.

*Wheelchair teams and Special Olympics teams will be bracketed based on the number of participants.

6. Player Age Verification

Every player must have available, for each game at their designated court, acceptable documentation to verify their age and birthday. All players 13 and older must also have photo ID available at all times. If a player's eligibility is challenged, the player must produce appropriate documentation to a tournament official.

If a player does not produce acceptable documentation, the player may be disqualified from further participation in the tournament, at the sole discretion of a tournament official. Any false or misleading information provided on a player or a team will also be grounds for dismissal of the player and team from the tournament.

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7. Basket Height / Two Point Arc

The basket height will be 10 feet in all brackets. The distance for the two point arc will be 16 feet in Youth Division brackets. The distance will be 19 feet in all other brackets.

8. Basketball Size

The intermediate size ball will be used in all female brackets and all Youth Division brackets. The full size ball will be used in all other brackets.

9. Free Throw Shooting Distance

The distance for free throws will be 10 feet in all Junior Youth Division brackets. The distance will be 15 feet in all other brackets.

10. Fouls

Basketball officials will call fouls for all games. All non-shooting fouls, including offensive fouls, shall result in one free throw. A made basket shall not count when an offensive foul occurs. If the fouled player is in the “act of shooting” and the shot is missed, that player will be awarded one free throw on a one point try and two free throws on a two point try. If the one or two point try is made, the fouled player will receive one free throw.

During a free throw, all players must stand behind the free throw line. An opposing player that intentionally disrupts the shooter’s unhindered throw, which is missed, entitles the shooter to another free throw. A change of possession will result following the last of any free throws, regardless of whether the last free throw is made or missed. After the last free throw, the ball will be put into play pursuant to Rule 17.

EXCEPTIONS: No free throws are awarded for any intentional, flagrant, or technical foul. The offended team receives one point and retains possession of the ball.

A. Intentional Foul

An intentional foul includes, but is not limited to, a foul designed to neutralize an opponent’s obvious advantageous position. It may be an act that is not a legitimate effort to directly play the ball or while attempting to play the ball, results in excessive contact.

B. Technical Foul

A technical foul includes, but is not limited to, unsportsmanlike acts such as taunting, baiting or trash talk by a player or coach. Taunting and baiting can involve derogatory remarks or gestures that incite or insult a player, official or fan. Trash talk involves a deeply personal, verbal attack directed toward any person involved in the event. In extreme cases, the player or coach may be suspended from play and removed from the court for the remainder of that game and possibly for the rest of the tournament. A technical foul will also be assessed under Rule 12 if a team is stalling in the interest of preserving a winning margin.

C. Flagrant Foul

A flagrant foul may be an act of a violent or aggressive nature, or one that displays unacceptable conduct. It may or may not be intentional. It may involve violent or aggressive contact such as striking, kicking, kneeling, moving under an opponent who is in the air, and crouching or hiping in a manner that could cause severe injury to the opponent. It may also involve dead ball contact or dialogue which is extreme or persistent, aggressive or abusive. A Flagrant foul will also be assessed on any player who comes into physical contact with or assaults a basketball official, court marshal or other tournament official. A player committing a flagrant foul will be suspended from play for the remainder of that game and possibly for the rest of the tournament, as determined by tournament officials.

D. Elite Division Fouls

All foul rules detailed within these Rules & Regulations apply to any Elite Division game. In addition, team fouls will be counted each game. All fouls, including offensive, intentional, technical and flagrant fouls, count as team fouls. Team fouls 1 through 6 will result in normal sanctions. Beginning with team foul 7, all fouls will result in two free throws, unless the basket associated with the foul is made, in which case the basket will count and one free throw will be awarded. The Rule 10 exception still applies.

11. Stealing the Ball

Players in all age categories may steal the ball when it is being passed. Junior Youth Division brackets will have a no-steal rule when a player is either dribbling or holding the ball. Stealing will be allowed in those cases in all other brackets.

12. Stalling

Stalling is prohibited at all times. Stalling involves a style of play in which a team does not actively attempt to advance the basketball toward the basket and shoot the ball at the basket. It is a method used in an attempt to run out the game clock to preserve a win. Stalling is considered an unsportsmanlike act and will result in a technical foul against the offending team (See Rule 10.B).

13. Which Team Receives the Ball First?

A coin toss prior to each game and to start overtime determines which team first gets the ball.

14. Scoring

Baskets made from inside the two point arc count for one point. Baskets made from outside the two point arc count for two points. The first team to 20 points within the 25 minute time limit is the winner, except in the Elite Division where there is no time limit. There is no winning score beyond 20 points. **There is NO win by 2 rule.** If neither team reaches 20 points in a timed game, see Rule 15 for further proceedings. All Elite Division games go to the targeted score of 20 points without a time limitation and without declaring an overtime session.

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15. Length of Play/Overtime

This rule does not apply to Elite Division games (See Rule 14). The first team to reach 20 points within 25 minutes of play is declared the winner. The team that reaches 20 points does not need to have a winning margin of 2 points or greater. The 25 minute clock is stopped during team timeouts and if the court monitor stops play for a player injury or other unusual circumstance. In all situations, the court monitor shall declare a technical foul if it is determined that a team is intentionally stalling to run out the clock.

If neither team has reached a score of 20 points, the court monitor shall stop the game after 25 minutes of play. At this point, if a team has a lead of 2 or more points, that team is the winner. If neither team has at least a 2 point advantage, the overtime rule must be activated. In overtime, the first team to score a total of 2 points more than the leading team's score at the beginning of the overtime session, or reach 20 points, is the winner.

Examples:

SCORES AT BEGINNING OF THE OVERTIME SESSION

Score of 18 to 17: The first team to 20 wins.

Score of 16 to 16: The first team to 18 wins.

Score of 8 to 7: The first team to 10 wins.

Score of 14 to 12: No overtime is needed since the leading team has at least a 2 point lead.

EXCEPTION

In all Junior Youth Division brackets, overtime is only played if the teams are tied after 25 minutes of play. In these brackets, the first team to score in the overtime session shall be declared the winner.

16. Change of Possession

The ball must change possession after scored baskets and after all free throw attempts with the exception of a Technical, Intentional or Flagrant foul (See Rule 10). There is no "make it, take it" rule.

17. Checked Ball

The ball must be "checked" by an opposing player before it is put into play. The "check-in" must occur behind the designated line above the 2 point arc and not any out of bounds line. The on-ball defender must remain behind the two point arc until the ball is "checked" and possessed. The ball may be passed, dribbled, or a shot may be attempted once it is "checked" and possessed.

In Junior Youth Division brackets only, the initial pass, if made behind the free throw line extended, shall not be contested by the opposing team. If the initial pass is made below the free throw line extended, toward the basket, the pass may be contested (See Rule 11).

18. Taking It Back

The ball will be "taken back" on each change of possession, regardless of whether or not a shot was attempted. Failure to "take it back" results in loss of possession and any points just scored. When taking the ball back, the player must bring his/her whole body and the ball anywhere behind the two point arc.

19. Ball Out-of-Bounds

A ball out-of-bounds will be taken out from the back court line.

20. Boundaries

The basket structure, padding and structural supports will be played as out-of-bounds. The actual backboard, including its face, top, bottom and sides shall be considered in-bounds.

21. Jump Ball

In a jump ball situation, the ball will first go to the team which lost the opening coin toss, with alternating possessions thereafter.

22. Dunking

Dunking is allowed in Elite Division games where breakaway rims are used, except during warm-ups. Dunking is not allowed at any time, including during warm-ups, in all other divisions. Unauthorized dunking is an unsportsmanlike act and will result in a technical foul (See Rule 10).

23. Substitutions

Substitutions may only be made during a timeout or a "dead ball" situation.

24. Timeout

Each team is allowed a single one minute timeout per game. The clock will stop during a timeout.

25. Wheelchair Participants

Players in the Wheelchair Division should be aware that a liberal three second in the key rule will be enforced. All wheelchair players not currently active in any game must stay positioned behind the back court line and not inside the curbing along the sides of the court. Chair measurements are expected to be in accordance with established wheelchair rules.

26. Player Injury

A basketball official has the discretion to suspend play for the protection of an injured player. If a player is bleeding or has an open wound, that player will be directed to leave the game and properly bandage the wound. A player with any bloodstained clothing or bandage must remove the stained or saturated material prior to re-entering the game. If it is believed that a player has lost consciousness during a game, or is severely injured, event organizers may require a written note from a medical doctor who has examined the player subsequent to the game injury and specifically authorizes that player to continue participation in the tournament.

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27. Game Times

Game schedules are subject to change, at the sole discretion of event organizers, due to unforeseen circumstances. Teams can report to the Information Tent for all official schedules, times, courts, revisions and general game information. Teams must be ready to begin play at their scheduled start time. Teams not at their court for their scheduled game are given a 5 minute grace period before a forfeit is enforced. Teams are encouraged to remain in contact with their court to observe the effects of scheduling changes that could occur mainly due to inclement weather or other unexpected delays. Inclement weather and non-playable situations may result in the modification or cancellation of the event. Under these unlikely circumstances team entry fees will not be refunded.

28. Use of Illegal Players

The players listed on the roster submitted in the team registration process, and accepted by event organizers, are the only players eligible for play on that team. Player changes are authorized only when submitted on a Player Change Form and accepted by event organizers. **Under no circumstances will roster changes be allowed after a team plays its first game.** If a team uses a player not properly registered, that team will be disqualified from the tournament. Before the beginning of each game, every player must sign the Official Scoresheet, which contains a Voluntary Waiver and Release Agreement and Sportsmanship Pledge.

29. False Information

Information provided during team registration or on an accepted Player Change Form is the basis for placement in divisions and brackets. It is expected to be both accurate and complete. Players and teams providing false, misleading or inaccurate information may be disqualified from the tournament.

THE FINE PRINT

Event organizers and designated tournament officials shall have the power to make all decisions on any points not specifically covered in the Rules & Regulations and shall have the sole authority to interpret the intent and purpose of these Rules & Regulations. Event organizers and designated tournament officials reserve the right to disqualify any player and/or team for infractions of tournament rules and policies.