

Bay State Youth Basketball League

Policies & Guidelines

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League Introduction

Welcome to the Bay State Youth Basketball League (BSYBL). The BSYBL is a travel league for 4th grade boys and girls teams from towns in the suburbs southwest of Boston, MA. We do not manage towns or individual teams and/or the day to day operations of individual member towns and how they conduct business. We do encourage each town to constantly be reviewing their policies and procedures to ensure the highest quality of integrity and fairness in their town and teams.

League Goals

1. Encourage competition with an emphasis on good sportsmanship
2. Enhance the self-esteem of all participants
3. Provide a safe, organized environment for all players and spectators
4. Continuous improvement of all League procedures, rules and technology
5. Actively engage coordinators to ensure ongoing feedback and involvement

League Responsibilities

Organize competitive grade/gender divisions to ensure all teams have the opportunity to compete at the appropriate skill level.

1. Scheduling of regular season games
2. Assigning of game officials for all games
3. Monitoring of all rules, guidelines and policies as decided upon by the member communities including rosters, codes of conduct, and game rules

Member Responsibilities & Codes of Conduct

Game Officials Responsibilities:

- Demonstrate the highest level of effort and integrity
- Alert the League of any ejections or code of conduct violations
- Ensure games do not start more than 5 minutes before scheduled time unless weather is an issue
- Ensure a safe and competitive environment
- Follow and enforce all rules set forth by Bay State Youth Basketball, MIAA and National Federation
- Show up on time

Coach Responsibilities:

- Ensure that all players, parents and other spectators demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times
- Support the referees and refrain from any derogatory comments towards them
- Refrain from actions or words that negatively impact the self-esteem of your players
- Do not allow players to make derogatory comments towards other players/officials
- NO trash talking
- Support positive postgame exchange between players and coaches
- Avoid rough or dirty play
- Update all rosters prior to the start of the season
- Notify your team of any schedule change

Player Code of Conduct:

- Treat your teammates and your opponents as you would like to be treated
- Be a good sport at all times and remember you represent your parents, your team, and your team
- Play by the rules
- Control your behavior at all times - foul language is unacceptable
- Do not do anything to endanger your opponents, your teammates, your coaches, yourself or the officials

Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct:

- Always keep in mind that the players are grade school children trying to learn a game, the team concept, improve their skills, and learn life lessons. They are NOT playing for the entertainment of the spectators.
- Applaud good performances by both teams and congratulate all players regardless of

the outcome

Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during competition - stay positive

Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches or players

Show respect for opposing teams and encourage players to obey the rules and respect the decisions made by the officials

Demonstrate appropriate social behavior by not using foul language or harassing players, coaches, and officials

Game Procedure for Dealing with Unacceptable Behavior

The game referees will monitor the conduct of coaches, players and fans with the following procedures in place.

Coach Misconduct:

If a referee deems it necessary, he/she will stop play and inform a coach that he/she is in violation of required game conduct policies. The referees will utilize technical fouls for inappropriate behavior, and all rules pertaining to coach suspension for two technical fouls will be in effect. Officials will enforce Federation Rules when a coach or assistant coach receives a technical foul.

If, in the judgment of the officials, a coach's conduct is extremely out of line, they will file a report to the league commissioner to review the situation. The town coordinator will be consulted and a determination will be made whether further action needs to be taken.

Coaches should not contact league officials, game officials, opposing coaches or players. Please contact your town administrator.

Spectator Misconduct:

If, in the judgment of the referees, spectator behavior is out of line with respect to the code of conduct, the referees will call a stoppage of play, and confer with the game coaches. The coach will in turn be responsible to contact the spectators for the purpose of correcting the inappropriate behavior.

If the inappropriate conduct is not corrected, the offending spectator may be asked to leave the gym. Failure on the part of the spectator(s) to comply may result in the referee calling a premature end to the game.

If the inappropriate behavior is not readily resolved, the game referees will file a report to the league commissioner. The town coordinator (s) will be contacted, and a determination will be made whether further action is necessary.

Spectators should not contact league officials, game officials or opponent coaches and players. Please contact your town coordinator.

Player Misconduct:

If a referee determines that a player is exhibiting inappropriate behavior, the referees will stop play and confer with the coach to correct the inappropriate behavior. The use of technical fouls will continue as in the past, including mandatory suspension of a player for game ejection.

If, in the judgment of the officials, a player's conduct is extremely out of line, they will file a report to the head of referees who in turn will contact the league commissioner to review the situation. The town coordinator will be consulted and a determination will be made whether further action needs to be taken.

Subsequent Action Penalties:

If it is determined by the league officials, head of referees, and the town coordinator that misconduct is of such a severe nature that a meeting is required to determine if further penalties or sanctions should be imposed on the offending parties, the league commissioner will call a meeting of involved parties to review the incident. Failure of involved parties to attend the meeting may result in suspension of play by the team(s) involved until the issue is resolved.

Team Responsibilities

Arriving On Time:

Each team shall be prepared to play at the scheduled start of the game. A grace period of 10 minutes is allowed, after which the delinquent team shall forfeit the game. Town Coordinators can delay games based on weather conditions.

Eligibility:

Coaches are responsible for ensuring that all members of the team are eligible players.

Uniforms:

Each team is strongly encouraged to use reversible jerseys or have "Home" and "Away" jerseys. Home team wears white or light color.

Game Times:

The times listed on the league schedule are the game start times. Teams can expect to have approximately 5-10 minutes to warm-up prior to the start of the game. Teams should arrive at the game site 20 minutes prior to the start of the game. Games will not start more than 5 minutes prior to scheduled times unless weather is an issue.

Inclement Weather

Inclement weather may cause game cancellations.

The process for cancellations is as follows: The Commissioner will decide whether all BSYBL games should be cancelled. This will be done by 3:00pm on game days. If games are cancelled, all coaches will be contacted by phone and e-mail. The website will also be updated with the cancellation announcement. Friday night games are cancelled automatically in the event the Canton schools are closed for the day due to weather.

Residency Eligibility

Boys and girls residing in the member community and currently enrolled in the 4th grade are eligible to participate in the BSYBL. Players may play up with a higher grade team but are not allowed to play on a lower grade team. Players may NOT participate on more than 1 BSYBL team. For unique circumstances, town contacts may apply to the Commissioner for a waiver on an ad hoc basis.

Note: Rosters are required for all BSYBL teams. Preliminary rosters must be submitted to the Commissioner prior the first game of the season. Final rosters must be submitted by December 31st.

Scores and Standings

Scores:

Home teams are responsible for reporting game scores via e-mail to the league commissioner (pnelson@bsybl.org) by 9:00pm on Sunday