

Bethany United Methodist Church

Men's Basketball League Rules

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE IS TO PROMOTE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, SPORTSMANSHIP, AND RECREATION AMONG THE CHURCHES OF THE SUMMERVILLE AREA. THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES ARE DESIGNED TO MEET AND ENFORCE THIS PURPOSE:

- Good sportsmanship will be required of the team leadership, players, and spectators.
- The Leisure Ministries Director, assisted by a steering committee representing Bethany U.M. Church's Leisure Ministries Committee, will be responsible for the business affairs of the league including the resolution of any disputes.

Entrance Requirements

1. Each team desiring to enter the league must have someone represent them at the team captains meeting.
2. The first 8 teams to have completed paperwork with payment of the team fee will be put on the schedule.
3. The team leadership should be selected for their skill and Christian character and will consist of the following three positions:
 - A team captain responsible for the players during the games including their attitude and behavior.
 - A team manager responsible for submitting paperwork and communicating with the players.
 - A prayer partner responsible for the spiritual needs of the players and contributes to the *Praise and Prayer* (see Playing Rules #3 below).
4. **The team leadership must be endorsed by the minister/officiant from the represented church.**

Qualifications for Players

1. The Men's Basketball League is only open to church teams.
 - Teams will consist of men who are out of high school and over.
 - The minimum number of players on a team is ten. The maximum number of players per team is fifteen.
 - We suggest that 50% of the team be church members leaving the remaining 50% open for non-members.
2. The team captain must present a roster signed by him verifying the players are qualified to represent their church by the entry deadline.
 - No additions may be made to the roster after the mid-point of the regular season.
 - Individual players must sign an insurance waiver form due by the entry deadline.
3. A player must play in at least 3 games in order to be eligible for tournament play.
4. Any team playing an ineligible player will forfeit all games in which that player participated.

Schedules

1. The league manager will draw an official schedule with establish game times. Regular season play will consist of playing every team one time. The results will determine seeding for a single elimination tournament.
2. Games will not be rescheduled except for unforeseen circumstances on Bethany's behalf.
3. Any changes will be posted on the official schedule on the bulletin board outside the Leisure Ministries office. Reasonable effort will be made to notify team captains of these changes with as much advanced notice as possible. It will be the responsibility of each team captain to notify the players.
4. The tournament will immediately follow the regular season. It is the responsibility of the team captain to keep up with the seeding and progression of the tournament to notify his players.

Playing rules

1. The league manager will hire the referees, timer and scorekeeper. The records kept by the scorekeeper will be official with disputes only settled between the referee and the scorekeeper.
2. **OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL RULES SHALL GOVERN ALL PLAY EXCEPT AS FOLLOWS.**
3. **Starting of the game:**
 - Each team will be given at least five minutes to warm up.
 - There will be no grace period for the start of the game. Scheduled time is game time except if the prior game is in overtime.
 - A team may begin the game with 4 players but will be assessed an administrative technical foul with the opposing team receiving two free throws and the possession of the ball.
 - Players must check in with the scorer and give their jersey number before entering the game.
 - Only players listed on the official team roster will be allowed to play.
 - *The home team will lead a time of meaningful Praise and Prayer in center court before each game.*
4. **The time clock:**
 - The games will consist of two 20 minute halves with a running clock except for shooting fouls (when the shooter receives the ball) and on every dead ball on the last minute of the first half and the last two minutes of the second half.
 - If there is a 30 point lead the clock will not stop the last two minutes of each half.
 - Each team will be allowed 3 full and 2 thirty-second time outs per game.
 - Half time will be 3 minutes.
 - Overtime periods will consist of 3 minutes each with a running clock except for shooting fouls (when the shooter receives the ball) and on every dead ball on the last minute of the period. One full time out will be awarded to each team and fouls will carryover.
5. **Defense:**
 - No team will full court press if they have a 30 point lead.

Technical Fouls:

1. **Player controlled technical foul**, ex. dunking, hanging on the rim, slapping backboard, will result in a technical foul and the player being dismissed from the game.
2. **Flagrant technical foul** (on a live or dead ball) for any adverse behavior, verbal or physical, will cause the individual to be suspended from the league. Flagrant technical fouls can be assessed on the team bench for any adverse behavior.
3. All technical fouls will be recorded on the official team roster in order to effectively enforce the rules pertaining to technical fouls.

Uniforms

1. All players of the same team must have the same color jerseys with legal numbers preferably on front and back. If a team does not have jerseys with numbers, they must wear numbered pinnies.
2. If teams have the same color uniforms, visitors will wear pennies.
3. For the safety reasons, all players should wear plain athletic style shorts. Non athletic style shorts with pockets and zippers will not be allowed.

Gym Rules

1. The referees have complete control of the game with their call being final. The Leisure Ministries Director or designees will only come onto the court when called by the referee.
2. Everyone will be expected to show respect for the rules of the game, other people, and the facility.
3. Game and practice balls will be furnished. Outside balls are not allowed in the gym.
4. Parents are responsible for the safety of their children at all times. They should not be left unattended or allowed to run through the building or property.
5. No smoking, eating, drinking, or profanity will be tolerated by anyone.