

# **ST. JOHN'S AMATEUR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION**

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR LEAGUE PLAY**

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The following rules and regulations are applicable to all players registered in the St. John's Amateur Basketball Association (SJABA).

## **ARTICLE I: COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS**

- 1.** Teams will be giving the opportunity to identify the perspective Division that they wish to play in for each season. The Executive will take this request, along with the submitted roster and complete an assessment, through a ranking committee, and assign the team teams to Division that suits the team.
- 2.** Teams will not be permitted to add additional players that will strengthen their roster as to rank them in a higher division after the ranking has been completed.
- 3.** Teams shall be notified of the Division of competition to which they have been assigned no later than a week prior to the commencement of play.

## **ARTICLE II: ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

- 1.** At each year's Annual General Meeting of the Association (usually to be held in September), the following executive positions are to be filled by nomination and vote proceedings:
- 2.** President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Scheduler and Conveners for each Division of League play. The executive has the right to attain the services of a website technician if deemed necessary.
- 3.** At-large positions will be created and appointed by the newly elected league executive at the start of each year. The at-large positions will assist and advise the executive on any matters related to the league, but will have no voting power. The elected league executive will make all final league decisions. The executive has the right not to fill as many positions if it so wishes.
- 4.** The executive and at-large positions will typically be filled by Member affiliated with SJABA (exceptions will apply).

## **ARTICLE III: RULES OF PLAY**

The rules of game play for the SJABA shall be those of the current FIBA Rule Book, and the accompanying C.A.B.O. Case Book.

League/Division Conveners should note such points as:

1. Scoresheets will be provided by the appointed SJABA Minor Officials.
2. All registered teams shall be responsible for having proper uniforms, which shall include top of the same colour and similar style with permanently affixed numbers.
3. Scoring for divisional play shall be awarded as follows; 3 points for a win, 1 point for a loss, zero points for a forfeited game loss.
4. A game may be forfeited by a team that does not field sufficient players for a scheduled game in a timely fashion, determined by the game officials assigned to that contest.
5. A team may also be subject to forfeit of a game should the Executive be notified, and subsequently verify, of the use of an ineligible player. An ineligible player may be defined as a player not registered with that team (subject to Section V (A.) of this document) or a player under suspension from the league.
6. The Scheduler controls all scheduling of games. Changes to the published schedule are done at the discretion of the Scheduler, and teams requesting a schedule change must give the Scheduler a minimum of 72 hours' notice. Such notice does not guarantee such schedule change as other factors may prevent time changes as well all affected teams must agree to the schedule change.
7. If a team can dress four players the team can start the game. If the teams fifth player shows up before the end of the first quarter the game can go on. If not, the game officials can call the game.

## ARTICLE IV: LEAGUE PLAY PLAYOFFS

### Playoff System:

The executive will determine the number of teams in playoffs and playoff format each season for each Division, with the format for playoffs finalized by January 31<sup>st</sup> and/or voted upon during the AGM. The following guidelines are in place:

Either:

1. All teams make playoffs make playoffs with top two finishing teams shall play a best of three series

Or:

1. For a three team Division: the top two finishing teams shall play a best of three series.
2. For a four team Division: the second and third place finishing teams shall play a best of three series. The winner of that series shall play the first place finishing team in a best of three series to determine the championship.
3. For five to eight team Divisions: the top four finishing teams shall play a best of three semi-final series (first playing fourth and second playing third). The winners of these series shall then play in a best of three series to determine the championship.
4. For Divisions of nine to twelve teams: the top six finishing teams shall play in the playoffs. The third place finishing team will play the sixth place finishing team in a best of three series; and the fourth place finishing team shall play the fifth place finishing team in a best of three series. Then the first place finishing team will play the lowest seed advancing and the second place finishing team will play highest seed advancing, both in best of three series. The winners of each of these series shall then play in a best of three series to determine the championship. (Note: The highest seed would be the first place team and the lowest seed would be the sixth place team.)
5. For Divisions of thirteen to sixteen teams: the top eight finishing teams shall play in the playoffs. The quarterfinal series shall have first place playing eighth (A); second playing seventh (B); third playing sixth (C) and, fourth playing fifth (D). In the semifinals, the winners of A play the winners of D and the winners of B play winners of C. The winners of each semifinal series shall then play in a best of three series to determine the championship.
6. For Divisions broken into two Sections of five or six: Each Section's first place finishing team shall receive a bye to the semi-final series. The second and third place finishing teams in each section shall play a best of three quarter final series. The winner of each Section's quarterfinal series shall play the Section's first place team in a best of three semifinal series. The winners of each semifinal series shall then play in a best of three series to determine the championship.
7. For Divisions broken into two sections of seven or eight teams: In each section the first place team will play fourth in the quarterfinals and second plays third. The winners of each sectional quarterfinal play each other in the semifinals. The winners of each semifinal series shall then play in a best of three series to determine the championship.

**Tie Breaking System:**

1. For all ties after penalties have been considered, the higher position(s) will be awarded to teams in the following order of merit:
  - a) has the best won - lost record of games played between the two teams
  - b) has the best won - lost record involving the entire Division
  - c) has the best points for and against record involving the entire Division

## **ARTICLE V: REGULATIONS AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

### **Team Eligibility for Participation in Regular League Play:**

- 1. A team is eligible if properly registered with the SJABA by the Registration deadline set by the Executive for the playing season. The registration deadline for all teams shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting by the in-coming Executive.**
- 2. All team registrations must be made on an official SJABA registration form and accompanied by the fees set forth by the Executive for the playing season. Failure to pay fees by the deadline imposed by the Executive shall result in removal of the team from the playing schedule and could lead to sanctions being imposed on that team and its registered members for future playing seasons.**
- 3. Once a team submits the names of each player at the registration deadline, no other additions will be permitted once the deadline has passed. The number of players on the final registration form shall remain fixed for the entire year and no alterations shall be made to this number (For example, if 10 players are registered, then a team will not be permitted to add an 11th player).**
- 4. Teams who lose players due to injury, school or work commitments or some other reason accepted by the executive, who wish to add a replacement player during the regular season, shall make a formal application to the League Executive at least 1 week before their next scheduled game. The replacement player shall be of the same caliber or lower of the previously replaced player. When a player returns from school, work or an injury, the player will automatically be eligible for league play and the replacement player must immediately be dropped from the team and is now free to be a replacement player on any other team. Any team found not complying, will be assessed a \$75 fine payable before their next scheduled game and a reduction of three points from the points standings.**
- 5. Teams will not be permitted to add replacement players during playoff play. Any team found not complying will be assessed a \$75 fine and an automatic forfeit of any games won during the playoffs. There will be no pick-ups during playoffs unless a team cannot field a team, in which case they can pick up a player(s) from lower divisions within the SJABA at the executives discretion.**

### **Player Eligibility for Participation in Regular League Play:**

- 1. An individual player is considered to be eligible for regular season play if:**
  - a) They are not, or were not, a member of a team that is *not* in good standing with the Association;**
  - b) they are not under any suspensions or sanctions served by an associated member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Basketball Association (NLBA); and**
  - c) they are registered with a team before the registration deadline.**
- 2. Players wishing to change teams after dressing for one game with a team must submit an**



application in writing to the League Executive at least 72 hours before they intend to transfer. The application must include written consent of the team they are leaving and be approved by the executive.

3. Any registered player is permitted to play in a higher division with any team provided that:
  - a) The higher Division Convener is notified to game time of the player's intent and the team with which they plan to play;
  - b) They play/call up no more than three games in the higher division or in the case of the lowest division calling across the division;
  - c) Once a player plays a fourth game in the higher Division, they shall not be permitted to play in the lower Division during that playing season. However this does not constitute an automatic transfer to the higher Division team. An application by the higher division team and written consent by the lower division team must be made to and approved by the League Executive. If a team refuses to release the player, then the player is ineligible to play in the higher division; and
  - d) If the player is in the same division. This applies to players approved to play in multiple divisions as per section 4 below.
  
4. Any registered player is permitted to play in multiple divisions with any team provided that:
  - a) The player will not be permitted to be a call up player in any division they are approved to play in.
  - b) The player will not be permitted to play on multiple teams in the same division. This would include, but not limited to divisions broken into section (ie A/B, East/West etc.); and
  - c) Such request is approved by the league executive.
  
5. To be eligible for playoff play, the player must register player on the roster of such team. If such player was replace during the season, that player is ineligible to play.
  
6. Players who have played on teams that have outstanding fees will not be permitted to play in any future seasons until their percentage of the outstanding fees are paid. For example if a team owes \$500 and there are 10 players on the registration form then individual players owe 10% of the \$500 or \$50.
  
7. Team Reps must be registered players within SJABA.

## ARTICLE VI: REFEREES

Floor officials for scheduled games shall be assigned by the St. John's Association of Basketball Officials.

## ARTICLE VII: SANCTIONS

- A. The Executive shall appoint a Jury Committee prior to the start of League play. This Committee shall be composed of three responsible individuals whose duty it is to rule on protests or appeals made to the Executive. The members of this Committee shall have no direct connection with any team in the League. All appeals must abide by the Association's Appeals Procedure, as attached in Schedule I.
- B. Any individual suspended in any capacity by the Association must serve that suspension within the SJABA league.
- C. The executive has the authority to review any situation and hand out disciplinary actions as they see fit, however the following minimum guidelines will be used:
1. Persistent criticism and persistent disputing of game officials' decisions (for which the player has been disqualified):
    - i. First Offense: minimum *one* game suspension
    - ii. Second Offense: minimum *three* game suspension
    - iii. Further Repetitions: minimum *one month* of league play or *four* game suspensions, whichever is greater.
  2. Deliberate insulting conduct towards game officials (e.g., personally insulting remarks and/or allegations and/or physical contact with no degree of violence) for which a player has been disqualified:
    - i. First Offense: minimum *three months* of league play suspension.
    - ii. Second Offense: minimum *one year* of league play suspension
  3. Deliberate violent physical contact against officials (e.g. deliberate striking, kicking, charging, threatened and pushing):
    - i. First Offense: minimum *one year* of league play suspension.
    - ii. Second Offense: automatic *life time ban* of league play suspension.
  4. Deliberate violent physical contact against opponents (e.g. deliberate striking, kicking, charging, and pushing) for which the player has been disqualified:
    - i. First Offense: minimum *three game* suspension.
    - ii. Second Offense: minimum *six game* suspension.
    - iii. Further Repetitions: minimum *two month* of league play or *eight*

*game suspension, whichever is greater.*

**5. Persistent criticism and persistent disputing of SJABA executive decisions and abusive behavior and language towards individual SJABA executive members.**

- i.** First Offense: minimum *one game* suspension.
- ii.** Second Offense: minimum *two game* suspension.
- iii.** Further Repetitions: minimum *four game* suspension.

- D.** Should a team drop out of league play without approval of the Executive, it shall forfeit the full registration fee paid and the team, and/or its players, may be subject to further disciplinary action upon review by the Executive.
- E.** Any player ejected or Two T's from playing in a game will be automatically assessed a minimum one game suspension for their first offense. A second offense during one particular playing season will result in an automatic three game minimum suspension. Additional suspensions in the same playing season may be assessed at the discretion of the Executive if warranted.
- F.** Suspension appeals must be made in accordance with the Appeals Procedure, as outlined in Schedule I. Assessment of minimum length suspensions as per guideline above in C, cannot be appealed.
- G.** All disciplinary action will be documented by the executive and will be on record for a minimum of 5 years. Players who are repeat offenders will be subject to suspensions greater than the minimum punishment.

## **ARTICLE IX: GENERAL RULES**

- A. Policies as set by facilities used by the league, shall be adhered to. Complaints received regarding transgression of this policy by teams or players will be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive.**
- B. Smoking, food and alcoholic beverages are strictly forbidden within any of the schools used for league play. Complaints received regarding transgression of this policy by teams or players will be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive.**

## **ARTICLE X: REGISTRATION FEES**

- A. Registration fees are determined by the League Executive based on the numbers of teams applying and the anticipated costs to effectively run the League. The SJABA operates as a non-profit.**
- B. Each team must pay all registration fees by the registration deadline set by the executive at the AGM. Teams who have not paid will not be included in the schedule.**

## **Schedule 1: SJABA Appeals Procedures**

- 1. All appeals from Executive decisions shall be submitted in writing to the Executive within 48 hours of notification of the Executive decision. The appeal must be submitted with a \$25 application fee, refundable should the appeal be successful.**
- 2. The written appeal must provide the reasons for the appeal and whether a representative of the team wishes to be heard in person before the Jury Committee.**
- 3. The Executive shall not determine any appeal, but shall determine whether the matter being appealed is eligible to be appealed under the Association's rules and regulations. Once this is determined, the appeal shall either be rejected by the Executive or submitted immediately to a member of the Jury Committee.**
- 4. Should the appeal be rejected as not eligible by the Executive, the team appealing shall be notified and the \$25 fee refunded.**
- 5. Should the appeal be submitted to the Jury Committee, the Committee shall hear the appeal as soon as practicable thereafter and its decision shall be submitted to the executive. The Executive will in turn notify the team appealing of the result and refund the application fee if the appeal was successful.**
- 6. While an appeal is being reviewed by the Executive or the Jury Committee, all suspensions or all regulations affecting a person or team shall be stayed until the outcome of the appeal is determined.**
- 7. The St. John's Association of Basketball Officials also has the right to be heard before the Jury Committee.**