

**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 given 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 teams to the 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 will be permitted to add players to their roster before playing their 4<sup>th</sup> game of the season if the player they are requesting to add would not impact team ranking. The player addition request requires review from the SJABA Executive to confirm the requested player addition would not strengthen the roster to the point it would need to be ranked a division higher based on the addition.**
- 4. League executive will determine the number of teams in each division and any subdivisions in each Division.**
- 5. The number of divisions is dependent on the number of teams registered, and available gym time.**
- 6. 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. Teams will have 24 hours following the updated Divisions posted on the league website to request a Division change with the ranking committee. Once the ranking committee determines the outcome of the request the team representative will be notified. Five days before the league start date, teams will be set in their division, they will not be moved following this date to other divisions. Once teams are set in their division, teams who refuse to play will forfeit any refund from the league.**
- 7. Teams that win their respective division in the prior year will be subject to being ranked up a division in the following season, at the discretion of the executive during the preseason ranking process. Alternatively, should a team finish in last place in their respective division in the prior year, they will be subject to being ranked down a division in the following season.**

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

- 1. At each year's Annual General Meeting of the Association (usually to be held in September or October), the following executive positions are to be filled by nomination and vote proceedings:**

**President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Conveners for each Division of League play. The executive has the right to attain the services of a website technician, or any other pertinent third-party service provider, if deemed necessary for the league to function.**

- 2. The league will hold a paid position responsible for gym, official, and game coordination, along with scheduling all games, titled: League Scheduler**
- 3. At-large positions and Minor Official Coordinator 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. Elected members will not be paid in any capacity from the league.**
- 5. 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.

1. Scoresheets will be provided by the appointed SJABA Minor Officials Coordinator.
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. Teams will have one month after league play starts to have matching jerseys before the league will determine if forfeits will be issued.
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 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) , a player under suspension from the league, a player not registered with NLBA or a player not approved by executive for call up.
5. 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 3 weeks' 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.
6. 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.
7. Call ups from a lower division do not require approval.
8. No call downs or call across are allowed except for the bottom Division of the league.
9. Exception to Rule 8 would be to avoid forfeit, a team can request special approval from their division convenor to allow a call down or call across in the event they are unable to field 5 players, and they are unable to secure a call up from a lower division. These requests must be made no later than 4 hours before a game. All requests made after this time may not be approved. Failure to get approval from the league may result in a forfeit.
10. Should a team request the use of a player in a call up capacity that is not registered with the league, the team will be required to register the player via Ramp and paying the associated NLBA fee, this request and fees must be submitted to the league executive, or respective convenor 24 hours in advance of the game the team wishes to use the player as a call up.
11. Players are only permitted to be used as a call up three times per team. Unless otherwise approved by the executive.
12. Call ups are not permitted in playoffs, UNLESS the call up is to make a 5<sup>th</sup> player and avoid forfeit, this call up MUST be from a lower division, and league approval is required, 4 hours notice is required for approval from league executive.

## **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:

All teams make playoffs: With single game play in elimination games where necessary to create brackets, where each set of games shall play best of three series. With this format in place, divisions with 2, 4, or 8 teams will result in best of three series for all playoff rounds. Divisions of other sizes will have single game elimination for first round to bring division to 2, 4, or 8 remaining teams. Additionally, bys might be required for highest ranked teams to get to rounds that consist of 2, 4, or 8 teams.

**OR:**

- 1. For a three team Division: the bottom two finishing teams shall play a best of three series to determine what team advances to play the first-place finishing team, the first-place team would receive a by.**
- 2. For a four team Division: The second and third place finishing teams shall play a best of three series, and the first and fourth place teams shall play a best of three series. The winners of those series shall play 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 semifinals 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 B. The winners of each semifinals series shall then play in a best of three series to determine the championship.**

## **ARTICLE IV: LEAGUE PLAY PLAYOFFS (Continued)**

### **Playoff System:**

- 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 semifinals 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 win - loss record of games played between the two teams**
  - b) has the best win - loss 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 for game participation 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 and set by the out-going/current Executive, in advance of the AGM.**
- 2. All team registrations must be made on an official SJABA registration form on the league website 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, unless reviewed and approved by the executive.**
- 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 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 in that division. Any team found not complying, will be assessed 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 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 executive's discretion.**
- 6. All players and coaches must be fully registered and approved with SJABA, NLBA and have fees paid before they play/attend games.**

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

**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 or after the registration deadline.
  - d) They are fully registered with SJABA (information and fees submitted) and have all NLBA fees paid.
- 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) They player/call up can play no more than three games with the same team in the higher division, or in the case of the lowest division calling across the division.
  - b) If the player is in the same division. This applies to players approved to play in multiple divisions as per section 4 below.

**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.
- 5. To be eligible for playoff play, the player must be a registered player on the roster of such team. If such player was replaced 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 Representatives and coaches must be registered players within SJABA and NLBA. All coaches must have all requirements completed with NLBA to be approved to coach in SJABA.**
8. **Players under the age of 18 will be required to provide parent/guardian consent to participate . Written consent must be forwarded to the executive confirming the legal guardians are aware of the inherent risk associated with the sport of basketball, and that permission is granted to play in this adult recreational league.**

## **ARTICLE VI: REFEREES**

**Floor officials for scheduled games shall be assigned by the Newfoundland Association of Basketball Officials (NABO)**

## ARTICLE VII: SANCTIONS

The Executive has the authority to review any situation and hand out disciplinary actions as they sit fit. Subject to; a thorough and full review of the situation which can include but not limited to: Game report from officials, team representative accounts of the situation, summary, and statement from minor officials on duty at time of incident/situation, and perspective/statement from players directly involved. Sanctions will be issued when required, with the below guidelines used, note that a players prior history of required disciplinary action, warnings, and suspensions will be taken into consideration when issuing sanctions, repeat offenders may be subject to sanctions above and beyond the scope of the below listed guidelines:

1. Persistent criticism and persistent disputing of game officials' decisions (for which the player may have been disqualified):
  - i. First Offense: maximum *one* game suspension
  - ii. Second Offense: maximum *three* game suspension
  - iii. Further Repetitions: maximum *one months* of league play or *four* game suspension, whichever is greater.
  
2. Deliberate insulting conduct towards game officials/table officials (e.g., personally insulting remarks and/or allegations and/or physical contact with no degree of violence) for which a player may have 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 *lifetime 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 months or eight games 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.

6. Spectators who attend SJABA league games who demonstrate persistent criticism and abusive behavior and/or language towards game officials, table officials, league executive for which they may have been disqualified:

i. First Offense: minimum *one-month* suspension.

ii. Second Offense: minimum *six months* suspension

iii. Further Repetition: Lifetime ban

**B. Any individual (player, coach or spectator) suspended in any capacity by the Association must serve that suspension within the SJABA league.**

**C. 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.**

**D. Suspension appeals must be made in the executive, the executive will review appeals with decision made within 48 hours of appeal request. Assessment of minimum length suspensions as per guideline above in A., cannot be appealed.**

**E. All disciplinary action will be documented by the executive and will be on record for a minimum of 5 years, except for players/spectators with lifetime bans. Players who are repeat offenders will be subject to suspensions greater than the minimum punishment, with also the possibility to be removed from the league participation or denied entry to the league during registration from future league play.**

## **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.**
- C. It is required that all players and spectators follow the noted and posted rules provided directly by the venues used by the association, such as the rules of the NL Sports Complex and Brother Rice.**

## **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 nonprofit.**
- 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.**

