

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE TIDEWATER CATHOLIC BASKETBALL LEAGUE

11/24/09

I. NAME AND PURPOSE

The name of this organization shall be the *Tidewater Catholic Basketball League*, hereinafter referred to as the *League*. The purpose of the *League* shall be to provide the physical, mental and spiritual development of the youth of Tidewater by fostering Christian ideals within an organized basketball program among the Catholic parishes/schools of Tidewater.

II. MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership in the *League* shall consist of teams from the Catholic parishes/schools of Tidewater. For the purposes of this organization, Tidewater shall be defined as the cities of

Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, Hampton and Newport News. Current members of the *League* include, St. Patrick's, Christ the King, Holy Trinity, Portsmouth Catholic, St. Gregory's, St. John the Apostle, St. Matthew's, St. Pius X, and Star of the Sea.

B. Any Catholic parish desiring membership in the *League* may apply by submitting an application to the *League* President no later than the first day of August immediately preceding the season in which they desire to begin participation.

C. The *League*'s Board of Directors, at its next regular meeting or at a special meeting, if necessary, shall act upon such application. All applications received by the first day of August will be acted upon prior to commencement of the *League* season.

D. The first year of membership shall be probationary. Permanent membership shall be acted upon at the conclusion of the *League* season. Any member parish or team thereof may be removed from the *League* at the request of the member parish or by a two-thirds vote of the entire Board of Directors.

III. GOVERNMENT

A. A Board of Directors, which shall consist of one representative from each member parish, and an elected President of the Board shall govern the *League*.

B. Member parishes shall notify the *League* of changes in their parish representative by the first regular season meeting of the *League*.

IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the final meeting of each *League* season ending in an even number year, the Board shall elect a President/Treasurer, Vice-President. The term of office shall be two years. The President shall not be counted as the representative of his/her parish.

The duties of the officers of the *League* shall be as follows:

- A. *President/Treasurer*: shall preside over all *League* meetings, have authority to appoint such committees necessary to conduct the business of the *League*, and have custody of and keep accurate records concerning *League* assets.
- B. *Vice President*: shall assist the President in his/her duties, shall preside over *League* meetings in the absence of the President and shall oversee duties of all standing committees.
- C. *Executive Consultant*: shall act as council to the board of directors in a non-voting position.
- D. *Spiritual Consultant*: shall act as council to the board in a non-voting position.

V. MEETINGS

- A. A minimum of three regular meetings will be held per year. Special meetings may be requested by two-thirds of the Board.
- B. Board members shall attend all board meetings. If any board member misses, 2-board meetings without advance approval of the Executive Committee the board will contact the parish, of the representative, and ask that the parish replace the representative no later than 5 days of notification.
- C. In addition, any guests wishing to attend Board meetings must notify the Executive Committee prior to attending. They must provide a list of items to be addressed, so that the Executive Committee may add them to the board agenda, prior to all scheduled meetings.
- D. All parish topics for discussion will be submitted to the Executive Committee one week prior to each meeting date in order to be added to the agenda. All *League* meetings are open to the public. Issues will only be heard if they are on the board agenda.

VI. VOTING

Voting on all matters, which come before the Board, shall be as follows:

- A. Each Board member, except the President, shall be entitled to one vote.
- B. The President shall cast the deciding vote in case of a tie.
- C. A quorum, which shall consist of at least 50% of the Board, shall be required to vote on *League* business with the exception of motions to expel a member parish or team thereof. All member parishes will be required to vote on an expulsion motion. (Voting by secret ballot will be permitted on an expulsion motion provided a motion to do so is passed. Such a motion and its subsequent passage shall be required for vote by secret ballot.) Voting on all other matters shall be by show of hands. Absentee ballots must be cast with the President prior to the formal vote. It is preferred that a proxy be given to a substitute representative in case absence is required. Decisions of the Board shall be final and binding on all member parishes. Failure to abide by decisions of the Board may result in suspension from the *League*.

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

There shall be nine standing committees of the *League*: Executive, Admin, Web-Master, Schedules, Awards, Competition/Rules, Summer League, Registration and Ethics

- A. *Executive Committee*: shall consist of the officers of the *League*. The duties of the Executive Committee shall include preparation of an agenda for each *League* meeting and consideration of all questions referred to it by the *League*. The Board may empower the Executive Committee to perform such tasks, as the Board is willing to delegate to it.
- B. *Admin Committee*: shall record the proceedings of *League* meetings and public relation matters. All minutes and public relations matters will be provided to the Executive Committee for approval prior to distribution or release.
- C. *Schedules Committee*: shall consist of three Board members appointed by the Board. The duties of the Schedules Committee shall include preparation of the *League* schedule, resolution of schedule conflicts and action on questions referred to it by the *League* on all scheduling issues.
- D. *Awards Committee*: shall consist of two Boards members appointed by the Board. The duties of the Awards Committee shall include preparation of all awards.
- E. *Competition/Rules Committee*: shall consist of three Board members appointed by the Board. The duties of the Competition/Rules committee shall include, but not be limited to, enforcing fair play, investigating referee issues, and ensuring all *League* rules are enforced. Lastly, they shall make recommendations to the Board on issues that need to be reviewed by the Ethics Committee.

F. Summer League: shall consist of two board members appointed by the board. The duties of the Summer League Committee shall include preparation of the Summer League Team Rosters, uniforms and coordinate Summer League locations. Locations shall change each year to allow each parish to share in the funds raised for the parish basketball program.

F. Registration Committee: shall consist of one lead member appointed by the board. The duties of the Registration committee shall include all the requirements of Article XII.

G. Ethics Committee: shall consist of three Boards members appointed by the President when required. The duties of the Ethics Committee shall include rendering decisions on questions of player eligibility in accordance with the provisions of Article IX and implementation of the provisions of Article XI concerning conduct.

H. Webmaster: The duties of the Webmaster shall include the management of the TBCL website.

VIII. REGULAR SEASON

TEAMS

A. Member parishes may enter boys and/or girls teams in either or both the Senior, Junior, and Midget divisions. Players may have only two true years of eligibility in each division.

B. There shall be no limit on the number of players on a team's roster. All players listed on the roster must be entered into the official scorebook. If a player becomes ineligible for any reason, his or her name will be lined through in the official scorebook for that game or games of ineligibility.

C. Proof of birth must be provided with the players League registration form.

D. Each team may have one head coach, one assistant coach and one equipment manager on the bench during the game.

E. No player will be allowed to play up in any division.

F. No team shall begin practice prior to October 15 of the current season.

G. All other requests for exceptions shall require approval of two-thirds of the members of the Board.

Senior Division:

Teams in the senior division shall be composed of players who have not yet entered the 9th grade and/or who have not reached the age of 15 on or before the first day of the month of March of the current season.

Junior Division:

Teams in the junior division shall be composed of players who have not yet entered the 7th grade and/or who have not reached the age of 13 on or before the first day of the month of March of the current season.

Midget Division:

Teams in the Midget division are specified in the Midget division by-laws.

PLAYER/COACH ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible to participate in the *League*, a player must satisfy one of the following two requirements:

- A. The player shall be enrolled and in good standing in school.
- B. The player shall be enrolled and in good standing in the CCD program of a Tidewater parish and at least one of the player's parents/legal guardians shall be a registered member of the same member parish. Proof of CCD program enrollment must be provided with the players League resignations form. Each parish/school with CCD players must submit a monthly enrollment report to the League's Registration Committee from the CCD Coordinator/Parish Religion advisor.

Special exceptions to the player eligibility rules stated above are as follows:

- A. A player who attends the school of one member parish and who has at least one of his/her parents/legal guardians as registered members of another member parish may play for either one of those member parishes.
- B. Any player who has been previously certified for play in the *League* and whose family relocates to a non-member parish within the boundaries of the *League* may continue to participate in the *League* with the team of his/her choice provided said player makes a request to the Board to do so and the request is approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board.
- C. All other requests for exceptions to the above eligibility rules shall require approval of two-thirds of the members of the Board.
- D. All school shall ensure that any coach, manager or team representative will be VIRTUS certified, meet all requirements regarding background checks and in good standing within their parish.

IX. SUMMER SEASON

TEAMS

The Summer Season will consist of two divisions. A boys division and a girls division.

PLAYERS/COACHES ELIGIBILITY

Players will be rising, 5th graders through rising 8th graders of TCBL member parishes. The Summer League Committee will select coaches. Coaches maybe High school age with an interest in basketball.

X. ELIGIBILITY VIOLATIONS

Any use of a player in a *League* game who is ineligible under the provisions of Articles VIII or IX shall result in forfeiture of all the games in which said ineligible player participates. Any coach or parish member who knowingly conceals the fact that a player is ineligible will be permanently barred from the *League for life*.

XI. CONDUCT

In order to ensure that the conduct of all personnel is consistent with the purpose of the *League*.

The following code of conduct will be strictly enforced.

- A. Any head coach, assistant coach, or equipment manager ejected from a game will be suspended for the next *League* game. Any action by head coaches, assistant coaches, or equipment managers deemed inappropriate or detrimental to the *League* will be investigated by the Competition/Rules Committee and referred to the Ethics Committee for action. The Ethics Committee will acting on behalf of the Board of Directors and will make recommendations on action required.
- B. Any player ejected from a game shall be suspended for the next *League* game.
- C. Vandalism shall not be tolerated. Member parishes will be held responsible for property damage to the facilities used by the *League* caused by members of their teams and/or fans. Acts of vandalism may result in suspension of a member parish from participation in the *League*.

D. Coaches, players, representatives and other member parish officials will not discuss a game with referees after its completion unless there has been an incident, which is to be reported to the *League*. In such case, only the member parish representative or coach involved will enter into discussions with the referees and only to the extent necessary to determine

the facts concerning the incident. At no time shall players or fans be involved in such discussions. Violation of this provision may result in suspension of the team(s) involved for the

next *League* game, i.e. forfeiture of the next *League* game. Any controversy/incidents, which arise during the play of a *League* game, which cannot be resolved by the officials, will be

managed by the Parish representative and reported in writing within 48-hours of the controversy/incident. A resolution or a recommendation will be provided to the Executive

Committee within 7 days of the controversy/incident. The Executive Committee will review the information and they will send the resolution or recommendation to the

Competition/Rule Committee for investigation. They then will provide recommendations for the Ethics committee and the Board for resolution.

E. All players in good standing are required to play in all league regular season games.

1.) At the junior level, all players in good standing are required to play at least one (1) quarter in each game, excluding tournament play.

2.) At the senior level, all players in good standing must play in each game, excluding tournament play.

3.) Good sportsmanship requires that the winning team not “run up” the score. In conjunction with this, any team shall not use the “full court press” or half “court trapping”

in possession of a lead in excess of twenty (20) points. Also, they shall play a zone defense behind the 3-point arc. After (1) warning by the officials, the second warning will

result in a technical foul assessed against the bench.

F. The responsibility for conceding a game by clearing his/her bench rests with the coach of the losing team. The coach of the winning team will respond immediately to such action by

inserting his/her substitutes. This rule does not preclude either coach from returning his/her starters to the game should circumstances dictate nor does it require that the substitute

players perform at less than their ability.

G. Violations of A or B will be reported to the board within 24 hours. At that time, the board will inform the coach/player of their suspension through the representative of their member parish in writing. Alleged violations of items D, E, or F will be reported to the Ethics Committee within 24 hours in writing. If the Ethics Committee determines that a violation has occurred, the first violation shall result in one-game suspensions for the Head coach. Any coach or player who

continually violates applicable provisions of the Article may be brought before the Board for permanent suspensions from the *League*. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire Board shall be required to rescind a disciplinary action that has been levied. It shall be the responsibility of the representative from each member parish to inform his/her coaches and players of these rules of conduct and the disciplinary actions resulting from their violation.

XII. REGISTRATION

- A. The registration meeting will be held at least one week prior to the beginning of the *League* season. At this meeting, each member parish representative will submit rosters of players for each of the teams his/her member parish/school will enter in the *League*.
- B. The roster for a team shall contain the full name, age, school, grade and indication of whether the player's eligibility is by virtue of elementary school or CCD criteria for each player on the team. A new registration form and a copy of an acceptable certification of age will accompany the roster for each player on the roster.
- C. The member parish/school representative will certify that each player on the roster satisfies the requirements of Articles VIII and IX concerning eligibility. In addition, the Principal of the elementary school and/or the Director of the CCD program to certify each player's attendance as appropriate will certify the rosters.
- D. The roster and registration form must be in the official *League* format and no player will be eligible for *League* play unless his/her name appears on a team's entered in the *League*.
- E. A second registration will be conducted no later than one week prior to beginning of *League* play following Christmas break. Member parish representatives will submit registration forms and certifications of age to the Registration Committee. The Registration Committee will update official team rosters and provide a list of newly certified players to all member parish representatives prior to the resumption of *League* play.

XIII. REGULAR SEASON

- A. The regular season shall be on a home and home basis. Teams without home facilities will play their home games on neutral floors.
- B. The home team will be responsible for paying the officials and any gym rental fee plus providing official scorer and timer.
- C. The scorers and timers must be at least High School age.

- D. The master schedule will be followed for all *League* games unless the Schedules Committee has authorized a schedule modification.
- E. The boys and girls regular champion in each division will be the team with the best win-loss percentage after the regular season games are completed. If a tie still exists, then both teams will be declared co-champions.
- F. Team trophies will be presented to the regular season boys and girls first and second place team in each division. In the event of a tie for second place, duplicate trophies will be presented to teams tied for second place.

XIV. TOURNAMENT

- A. A *League* tournament will be played at the conclusion of the regular season in the Midget, Junior, and Senior divisions.
- B. The tournament will be single elimination and will involve all teams.
- C. Pairings for the tournament for the Junior and Senior divisions will be determined by the Board of Directors and will be based on the regular season standings. In the event of a tie for any place order of finish for the regular season, the tie will be decided by record against each other during the regular season. If a tie still exists, it will be decided by a coin toss conducted by the President and Vice President. The winner of the coin toss will become the higher placed team.
- D. Pairing for the Midget tournament will be determined by the Board of Directors and will be selected by drawing teams from pool of all teams.
- E. Team trophies will be presented to the 1st and 2nd place teams, in all divisions.

XV. GAME TIMES

Junior Division games will consist of four (4) six-minute quarters. Senior Division games will consist of four (4) eight-minute quarters. Overtime periods for Junior Division will be three minutes and four minutes for Senior Division.

XVI. PLAYING RULES

All Divisions *League* play will be governed by the current National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) rules except as voted or amended by these by-laws and Midget rules. Coaches and/or Parish representatives will not adjust playing rules prior to game time.

XVII. ADMISSION CHARGES

Member parishes may charge admission for their regular season home games. Prior to opening day of each *League* season, the Board will establish a set of guidelines for admission charges. The member parishes shall not exceed the guidelines in their admission charges. The admission charges for the *League* tournament will go to the league.

XVIII. AMENDMENTS

Only two-thirds shall make amendments to the constitution and by-laws vote of the Board.