

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
SMYRNA JUNIOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Revised
September, 2008

**CONSTITUTION OF THE
SMYRNA JUNIOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE**

Article I

Par. 1 Name:

The name of this league shall be Smyrna Junior Basketball League.

Par. 2 Organization and Purpose:

- A non-profit organization founded for the purpose of providing a healthy recreational program for young boys and girls interested in basketball;
- Teach fundamental basketball skills and techniques;
- Provide fun, enjoyment, and game competition with responsible adult leadership;
- Teach sportsmanship under all conditions;
- Build minds and bodies through good, clean, sportsmanlike play, and vigorous exercise;
- Teach boys and girls the importance of teamwork;
- Encourage all participants to complete what they start;
- All adults are advised that this organization is for the benefit of young people that are not yet capable of providing this type of activity for themselves. This organization has no provisions for and will make every effort to avoid adults and adult organizations that would use this program to further personal ambitions or gains.

Par. 3 Principle operations:

The principle operations of this league shall be in and about the city of Smyrna, County of Rutherford, and State of Tennessee.

Par. 4 Board of Directors:

The Board of Directors shall have the power to make and enforce rules and regulations to govern itself.

Par. 5 Membership

Membership shall consist of parents/legal guardians, coaches, assistant coaches and Board members.

Par. 6 Organizational Meeting:

The President of the league shall hold an Annual Organizational Meeting the second Sunday of March for the purpose of electing Board Members. New Board Members shall take over April 1.

The membership shall elect the Board of Directors by popular vote, using secret ballots. No "PROXY" ballots shall be accepted. The new Board of Directors shall elect officers at the April meeting. Vacancy of board members shall be filled by 2/3-majority vote of the Board of Directors. Board members shall be interested parties or persons living in the Smyrna area and having a real interest in the league's purpose.

Par. 7 Amendments:

The Constitution may be amended, supplemented, or modified by a 2/3 majority vote of those Board of Directors present at a regular scheduled Board Meeting. The Constitution CAN NEVER be amended, supplemented, or modified at a SPECIAL called meeting. Votes will be conducted by secret ballots.

Par.8 Constitution/By-Laws Review:

The Board of Directors, present and incoming shall review The Constitution and By-Laws every year.

Article II

Par. 1 Teams:

The Smyrna Junior Basketball League shall organize and supervise nine youth basketball divisions. The nine divisions shall be organized as follows:

Boys Divisions

- Pee Wee League (seven and eight year olds)
- Training League (nine and ten year olds)
- Junior Varsity (eleven, twelve, and thirteen year olds)
- Senior Varsity (fourteen, fifteen, sixteen and seventeen year olds)

Girls Divisions

- Pee Wee League (seven and eight year olds)
- Training League (nine and ten year olds)
- Junior Varsity (eleven, twelve, and thirteen year olds)
- Senior Varsity (fourteen, fifteen, sixteen and seventeen year olds)

Coed Division

- Lil' Dribblers (five and six year olds)

Each division will be made up of the needed number of teams to be determined after the last sign-up, and before the draft. No division will consist of fewer than four teams.

NO team shall consist of more than 10 players.

Par. 2 Players:

- Players will be any boy or girl ages five through seventeen.
- No child under the age of 5 on October 15th of the upcoming season will be allowed to participate in the Smyrna Junior Basketball League
- All ages shall be determined by the player's age on October 15th of the up-coming basketball season. Players can play up in league age but can not play down in league age.
- Teams will normally consist of a maximum number of players not to exceed 50% of any age group.
- Applications will be accepted up to the draft. A waiting list will be established for those applicants who sign-up after the draft and before uniforms are ordered. These players will be assigned to those teams eligible for a player through a random draw conducted with those coaches. The "draws" will be conducted as needed.
- Every player must participate in at least fifty percent (50%) of regular season games to be eligible for tournament play.
- A player being ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct will at that time be asked to leave the school property and shall be suspended for his/her next practice and game. If a player is ejected more than once, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

Par. 3 Games:

The Board of Directors shall schedule make-up games.

- All games must be played to completion.
- There shall be two officials, an official scorekeeper and clock keeper for each game. The Board of Directors shall hire officials, scorekeeper, and clock keeper.
- The officials or board member in charge shall have the authority to remove any coach, player, or spectator from school property for conduct not consistent with the organizational goals.
- ALL games are played on a regulation court and shall play according to TSSAA basketball rules in effect for the coming season, along with the rules implemented by the Board of Directors.
- Eight minute quarters will be played, with the clock stopping for free throws and time-outs, except last two minutes of the final quarter, which will be run by regulation basketball rules.
- When enough players are not present to make up a five player team to play in the second quarter, the opposing coach shall pick the player of his/her choice.
- Each team shall have 4 time outs per game. Each team shall receive an additional time out per overtime session.
- OVERTIME PERIODS WILL BE 3 MINUTES, WITH THE CLOCK STOPPING ON EVERY WHISTLE THE LAST 2 MINUTES.

The Lil' Dribblers League shall play on a regulation court and according to TSSAA basketball rules in effect for the coming season with the following exceptions:

- Seven minute quarters shall be played.
- The goal will be 8 feet;
- A junior-sized (27") basketball will be used;
- When possession changes hands, the team gaining possession shall be permitted to move the ball into their half of the court without defensive interference. (The new defensive team must remain on the offensive goal side of the five-second line until the ball crosses half court). A team will receive three warnings for backcourt violations. Every subsequent violation will be a team technical. There will be pressing in the last four minutes of the fourth quarter in this division. Teams will not be allowed to press if they have a 10 or more point lead. Overtime will be three minutes each;
- The game clock will not stop until the last two minutes of the game, with the exception of a coaches time out;
- Free throw line will be 12 feet.

The Pee Wee League shall play on a regulation court and according to TSSAA basketball rules in effect for the coming season with the following exceptions:

- Eight minute quarters shall be played;
- The goal will be eight feet;
- A junior-sized (27") basketball will be used;
- When possession changes hands, the team gaining possession shall be permitted to move the ball into their half of the court without defensive interference. (The new defensive team must remain on the offensive goal side of the five-second line until the ball crosses half court). A team will receive three warnings for backcourt violations. Every subsequent violation will be a team technical. There will be pressing in the last four minutes of the fourth quarter in this division. Teams will not be allowed to press if they have a 10 or more point lead. Overtime will be three minutes each;
- Free throw line will be 12 feet.

The Training League shall play on a regulation court and according to TSSAA basketball rules in effect for the coming season with the following exceptions:

- Eight minute quarters shall be played;
- The goal will be 10 feet;
- A 28.5 inch circumference basketball will be used for girls and a mens regulation ball will be used for boys;
- When possession changes hands, the team gaining possession shall be permitted to move the ball into their half of the court without defensive interference. (The new defensive team must remain on the offensive goal side of the five-second line until the ball crosses half court). A team will receive three (3) warnings for backcourt violations. Every subsequent violation will be a team technical. Fourth quarter pressing will be allowed by a team if that team does not have a ten-point or more lead. Overtime will be three minutes each. Free throw line will be 13 ½ feet.

The second and third quarter of all regular scheduled games shall be used to insure that all players of each team are permitted to play. The following shall govern participation in this quarter:

- Any five players may play in the first quarter.
- In case of injury the opposing coach shall pick the substitute. The substituting player will be allowed to score. The injured player shall return as soon as able and must make up his time missed while injured in the next quarter.
- Any other five players play in the second quarter. If a team does not have five players left that did not play in first quarter, the opposing coach shall pick additional players. In case of injury in the second quarter, the opposing coach will choose the replacement player.
- Any player who has not played must play the entire third quarter and the coach may choose the remaining players. (If this rule is violated, a technical foul will be called and the player must play one full quarter). All players must be present before the start of the third quarter to participate in the game.
- Any players may play in the fourth quarter.

Smyrna Jr. Basketball League may play a single elimination tournament at the end of the season (to be determined by Board of Directors). At the completion of the tournament, a benefit game may be held (Board of Directors shall decide details and participants).

Only league basketballs will be allowed in the gyms. The team coach will be responsible for the basketballs. Any balls found at the gym will be confiscated, both at games and practices.

At the conclusion of the game, all coaches and players will shake hands in a "sportsmanlike" manner. The penalty for refusing to comply is a three game suspension for the "guilty" party.

Par. 4 Draft:

- Last year's standings at the end of the regular season shall determine draft order in reverse order (last place team first and first place team last).
- Order for draft purpose or tournament seeding shall be decided by head to head competition then by a flip of the coin, in case of tie.
- Head coach's son/daughter is protected until the end of the third round. Brothers/sisters of coaches are considered in the same manner as sons/daughters.
- Siblings of returning players must be taken by the end of the third round. With other siblings, they must be taken in subsequent rounds.
- Any team that has three or less players returning will get a bonus pick. A bonus pick will be allowed after each round until the team's number of players is equal to the team with the fewest number of returning players.
- If a player re-enters draft and did attend skills assessment, the coach of the player's former team gets a supplemental draft pick immediately at the time each player is drafted. This is limited to two supplemental picks.
- If a new team or teams are to be formed, the coach shall be permitted to select a number of players equivalent to the returning team with fewest returning players by getting a bonus pick at the beginning of the second round until caught up. If two or more teams are formed, a coin toss will determine draft order and rotate each round thereafter.
- No participant will be allowed to register without proof of age and fulfilling financial responsibility.
- If a team's head coach steps down, the members of that team will be placed back in the draft, unless the current assistant coach from the previous year agrees to take the team.
- If the head coach leaves the team and the assistant does not take over the team, the team will be treated as an expansion team and all of the players will go back into the draft. The players will have to attend the skills assessment.
- Coaches moving from one age group to another age group will have to draft a new team with only their child being protected.

Par. 5 Sign-Up:

- The Board of Directors shall make every effort to publicize the sign-up dates two weeks in advance of the first date.
- All applications must be signed by the applicant's parent or guardian before he/she is evaluated during Skills Assessment.
- All new applicants, players re-entering the draft or players moving up in league age, must be evaluated during Skills Assessment to be eligible for the draft. Any player who does not participate will be placed on a team after all eligible players have been selected in the draft. (These players will be placed on a team following the draft order.)
- Proof of age must be shown at sign-ups.
- The league will impose a \$20.00 late registration charge for anyone signing their child up after regular published registrations.
- The league will impose a \$25.00 fee for checks returned for insufficient funds.
- **NO PLAYER WILL RECEIVE HIS/HER UNIFORM UNTIL ALL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO THE LEAGUE ARE MET.**

Par. 6 Coaches:

- Each team shall have one head coach and no more than two assistant coaches. All coaches must submit an application and must be approved by the Board of Directors.
- A coach cannot coach or assist on more than one team in the same division.
- A coach who is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct will at that time be asked to leave the school property and shall be suspended from all league functions until they attend a hearing before the board of directors. After such hearing a decision will be made to reinstate the coach.
- Coaches will remain in a designated coach's box. The referees determine the coach's box.
- Coaches can be removed by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors.
- All coaches must be certified with the Smyrna Parks & Recreation Department.

- Board of Directors shall reserve the right to invoke major punishment for severe violation or misconduct by a coach.

Par. 7 Practice:

- A player who has missed two consecutive practice sessions without a legitimate excuse shall not play at all on game day.
- Each coach shall turn in a team roster before each game and will notify the opposing Coach and the Board Member in charge if a player is being disciplined. (This supersedes Paragraph 3, section H).
- Each team has one scheduled practice per week. Violation of this rule will result in the forfeiture of the next game.
- **Practice is defined as three or more team members together with a coach present.**
- Coaches are responsible for damages done to school property due to the actions of anyone affiliated with their team. Violation of this rule may result in loss of practice time for the remaining of the season.

Par. 8 Gymnasium:

- Neither players nor spectators are permitted on the stage of the gymnasiums.
- Drinks MAY NOT be brought to practice or inside the gym. (SEE SCHOOL RULES).
- NO TURF SHOES. (Players will not be allowed to play or practice if wearing turf shoes).
- Players and coaches must not arrive more than five (5) minutes before their scheduled practice time and must leave immediately after practice is over.
- **TOBACCO IN ANY FORM WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE GYM OR ON SCHOOL PREMISES. IF YOU WANT TO SMOKE, YOU MUST GET IN YOUR CAR. THIS IS NOT ONLY SCHOOL POLICY, BUT RUTHERD COUNTY LAW. THE LEAGUE CAN LOSE THE USE OF SCHOOL GYMS IF THIS RULE IS NOT ABSOLUTELY FOLLOWED.** (Penalty will be determined by Board of Directors)
- No alcoholic beverages are allowed on school property.
- Cursing, unsportsmanlike conduct, or taunting will not be allowed. A representative from the Board of Directors will give one warning (either verbal or written). These offenses will be dealt with accordingly. Any repeat occurrences will result in expulsion from all gyms in the Smyrna Junior Basketball League.

Par. 9 Parent Representatives:

Coaches are responsible for the following when assigned:

- Hall monitors

PENALTY FOR NOT FULFILLING DUTY WILL BE FORFEIT OF NEXT PRACTICE AND HEAD COACH WILL BE ASSESSED A TECHNICAL AT THE START OF NEXT SCHEDULED GAME

Par. 10 General Terms:

- The user (coach) will repair or replace damage to equipment and/or building.
- The user (coach) is responsible for supervision of participants in their programs while on school premises.
- Practice may not be conducted at league gyms on days that school is not in session. (Any school holidays, early school closings or all day school closings due to inclement weather). The user will clean spills and trash inside/outside the building when related to their activity. Any issues or concerns can be granted a hearing before the Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting.
- **Practice cannot be held at any gyms that are not assigned and approved by the league**

Par. 11 League Uniforms:

Only League uniforms can be worn by players in all games, including league tournaments. A penalty of one (1) technical foul on team for every player not wearing entire league uniform will be assessed. Entire league uniform is defined as the jersey and shorts provided by league. ALL PLAYERS ARE TO BE CHECKED FOR UNIFORM VIOLATIONS BEFORE START OF GAME AND PENALTIES IMPOSED. NO TECHNICALS FOR IMPROPER UNIFORM WILL BE IMPOSED AFTER THE GAME HAS STARTED. It is the responsibility of the coaches to bring this violation to the attention of a Board member, who will then notify the officials.

**SMYRNA JUNIOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE
BY-LAWS**

Par. 1 Membership:

- The membership shall elect the Board of Directors as described in the Constitution, Article I, Par.6. The Board of Directors shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Lil' Dribblers Commissioner, Pee Wee Commissioner, Training League Commissioner. Jr./Sr. Varsity Commissioner, Commissioner of Uniforms and Equipment, and five interested persons and one coach's representative from each division. Board Members shall attend all scheduled meetings unless excused by the President.
- Two unexcused absences shall result in consideration for dismissal.
- Board Members may be dismissed by 2/3 vote of entire Board.

Par. 2 Duties of the Board of Directors:

- **President:** The President shall preside at all League conducted meetings; carry out policies set by the Board of Directors; appoint all committees and supervise their activities; insure that the League adheres to the rules, regulations and policies of the Smyrna Junior Basketball League; responsible for League protests and disputes; sign checks as necessary.
- **Vice-President:** The Vice-President shall perform all the duties of the President in the absence of or the disability of the President; carry out duties and assignments as delegated by the President.
- **Secretary:** Record and keep the minutes of all meetings; maintain an official record of the League's activities; perform other duties as the office may require.
- **Treasurer:** Shall receive and safely keep all funds of the League and pay out the same on order of the President; shall sign checks along with the President; prepare a Financial Report of receipts and disbursements at each board meeting.
- **Commissioner of Uniforms and Equipment:** Responsible for acquiring all uniforms, trophies, and other equipment as assigned.
- **Commissioner of each age division:** Responsible for staffing the gymnasium with a clock and score keeper and maintaining order in same gymnasium each game day; maintaining contact with coaches in his/her division to keep coaches apprised of updates and meetings; other duties as asked.
- **Board of Directors:** The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the Smyrna Junior Basketball League. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to fill vacancies on the Board should this arise between the annual meeting.

Par. 3 Policies:

Policies shall be adopted by the Board of Directors as needed to aid in the enjoyment, learning and encouragement of all players to continue to participate in organized basketball.

Par. 4 Goals and Purposes of League:

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to designate and delegate necessary authority to the officers of the organization to accomplish the goals and purposes of the League.

Par. 5 Order:

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the official order for conducting league meetings and procedures.