

RALEIGH ASSOCIATION BROTHERHOOD BASKETBALL LEAGUE BYLAWS FOR ELIGIBILITY & RULES FOR 2007-08

The church athletic organization shall be called the Raleigh Association Brotherhood Athletic League. The Brotherhood Basketball Committee will have oversight of this league.

The purpose of the Brotherhood basketball is to help boys and young men have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to learn what it means to live the Christian life. Living the Christian life means being more concerned about people and their feelings than winning a basketball game. Brotherhood Basketball should strengthen youth activities, by participating in meetings, mission activities, Bible studies, and interest activities such as basketball. Some of the positive influences of Brotherhood basketball include good sportsmanship, making new and strong friendships, having fun and character building that comes from being around coaches and counselors.

GENERAL RULES

1. The league entry fee is **\$450** per team. The Rosters, Entry Fee, and Release Forms are due **Saturday, November 17th by 9:00 pm** at the League Chairman's house. The league is not responsible for how the mail delivers. The schedule will be constructed from the teams who have registered at that time.

Note: Release forms can be turned in at a later date as long as they are in the possession of the League Chairman before the start of the season. Players may be added to the roster up until the start of the season, **Friday, Nov. 30th, 2007.**

2. If a church fails to have enough players to field a team in a certain age group, if necessary, they may use a younger player(s) to help field a team. However, older players cannot participate in a younger division because this would defeat the purpose of the league. We want to help protect the younger players. **A player cannot play for two teams.** Once a player is on a roster, he must play for that team.
3. Games will be scheduled on Friday evenings (6:30 PM-9:30 PM) and Saturdays (9 AM-1 PM). Games canceled because of bad weather will NOT be made up. If your church would like to have a date off, it must be written on the registration form. The league will guarantee that requests for one week off per team will be honored. Second and third weeks off will be accommodated if possible, but are not guaranteed.
4. A coach that deliberately uses illegal players will be suspended and the team will forfeit a game selected by the Committee and the team may not be allowed to continue in the league. If a coach unknowingly used illegal players, the team may be required to forfeit a game selected by the Committee, but will be allowed to continue in the league with the Committee's approval.
5. The chairman should be notified **forty-eight (48) hours** before game time when your team cannot play. Remember that you deprive the boys on your opponent's team the opportunity to play when you forfeit. This will be a forfeited game, there will be no rescheduling. The coach who forfeits must let the opposing coach know they are forfeiting the game.
6. Trophies will be given to the league champions, the tournament champions, tournament runner-up, and for the four (4) best essays in each age group. Counselors will select the best three (3) essays on their team and indicate this when the essays are turned in on **Sat., February 17, 2007.**
7. The League will have a post-season banquet and All-Star event. The Freshman League will have a free throw contest; the Junior and Senior Leagues will have a three-point contest.

8. No protests will be accepted unless a specific league bylaw has been violated. Interpretation of the rules is the sole responsibility of the Brotherhood Basketball Committee.
9. Any player, fan, or coach who verbally or physically attacks a referee during or after a game will result in action from the Committee. The people involved will not be allowed to participate in future games (the Committee will decide what action to take.) If it happens during the post-season tournament, that church could be banned from the Raleigh Association Brotherhood League the following year for that age group.
10. All head coaches must be at least 21 years or older at the beginning of the season.
11. If a church has more than one team in the league, it is up to that church to decide how they wish to divide the teams. It is recommended that you think about what is best for your players, and for the league as a whole, but it is the decision of the church.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Any player whose name is on a school basketball eligibility sheet (public, private or home school, middle school or high school) is **ineligible** to participate in the Brotherhood league.
2. A player cannot participate in basketball for another church unless his church does not have a team in the league for his age group. He must then attend the youth program for the church for which he is playing. Two churches can form a team together if there are seven players or less in an age category in the church.
3. In order to participate in the basketball program, a player must meet the following attendance requirements: (NOTE: The young men do not have to be members of the church, but **MUST** meet these requirements at the church for which he is playing.)

***By 1st Reg. Season Game: Have four (4) 'youth activities' signed off.**

***By 1st Game in January: Have 5 additional 'youth activities' signed off for a total of 9.**

***By 1st Game in February: Have 5 additional 'youth activities' signed off for a total of 14.**

****Retroactive to the beginning of the current school year.***

4. 'Youth Activities' are considered any one of the following (depending on the programs a church has in place): youth Sunday School, youth Wednesday night activities, youth Sunday night activities, church sponsored youth projects or outings. If you have any questions about if an activity, project, etc. applies toward the requirements, contact Rob Neill (847-6613). Basketball practices **do not** count toward the attendance requirements
5. This year each player in the Junior and Senior leagues will be required to have their own eligibility sheet. The player must get their youth minister or other church minister to sign the sheet when they attend a youth activity. The coach may not sign the sheet unless he is a member of the church's ministry staff. Each coach will have a team eligibility sheet listing all the players on his roster. At each teams first game of the month an RBA Committee member will check the players eligibility sheets (they must bring them to this game) and, if complete for that month, will sign their name on the coach's eligibility sheet for that player. If a player is not present for the first game of the month, he must bring his sheet to his next game, and have it checked by a committee member, and have his named signed off on the coach's eligibility sheet before playing that month. No player will be allowed to play if he has not had his eligibility sheet checked for that month. This rule will not be in effect for the Freshman league.
6. Every effort will be made to have a Committee member at every game. But due to a lack of volunteers willing to serve on the RBA Basketball Committee, Coach's Eligibility Sheets for some games might not be

checked. If a committee member does not appear at a particular game, the opposing coaches have the option of verifying that each player has met their eligibility requirements, using the 'Coach's Eligibility Sheet'.

7. Each player who participates in the Raleigh Association post-season tournament must write an essay describing what he has learned in his youth activities this year. The essay must be at least one page and should be no more than 200 words. **Each coach should mark the best three essays** for the committee to consider for the best essay trophy. All essays should be about what the young man has learned during the year. **All completed essays must be in the possession of an RBA Basketball Committee Member by the end of the last regular season game on February 16th, 2008. *No Essays will be accepted after this. If an essay is not received, those players will not be allowed to participate in the league tournament.***

BASKETBALL RULES

1. The league will use the current North Carolina High School Basketball Rules, unless otherwise stated in these rules.
2. Teams are divided as the age groupings and titles found in the Brotherhood programs. A player who graduates from high school is ineligible to participate. These teams shall be called as follows:

i. Grades 4th - 6th:	Freshman League
ii. Grades 7th - 9th:	Junior League
iii. Grades 10th - 12th:	Senior League
3. **Freshman League:** These players will play four (4) eight minute quarters and follow all regular high school rules that do not conflict with written rules herein. Exceptions:
 - 5 second lane violation
 - No backcourt pressing until last 2 minutes of a game. One warning will be given to each team for the game.
 - Foul line and lane will be 12 feet.
 - 28.5 ball will be used
 - No 3-point shots
4. **Junior/Senior League:** These players will play four (4) eight minute quarters.
5. There will be a 5-minute warm-up before each game.
6. The clock stops for foul shots and official time-outs. The clock will stop on all whistles during the last two minutes of regulation and overtime.
7. Overtime periods will be three (3) minutes. One additional timeout will be given during overtime (all remaining second half timeouts will carry over).
8. After the 10th team foul, the opposing team will shoot two free throws instead of one-an-one.
9. No backcourt pressing when your team is leading by 20 points. A warning will be issued on the first occurrence and a bench technical foul for all others.
10. There will be a mercy rule in all games. If a team is leading by 30 or more points with 2 minutes or less remaining in the game, the game will end at that point. This rule is being added to reduce the incidents of rough play and unsportsmanship that have been occurring in these games. This rule is only for the senior

league.

11. **NEW** Coaches are required to follow NC high school rules and remain seated during the game. This applies to all leagues.
12. **Dunking** or **attempting to dunk** during warm-ups or during the game is a technical foul. If a technical foul is called and the dunk attempt is successful, the two points from the dunk will be removed from the score.
13. A team may start with four players. The opposing team will have the option of starting with four or five players. A team must have a coach or the game will be forfeited.
14. Each eligible player on the bench dressed for a game (who is physically able to do so) must play at least eight minutes per game if there are 5 to 9 players, or six minutes per game if there are 10 or more players on the bench. This is the coach's responsibility.
15. Each team will begin with **three (3) full timeouts and two (2) twenty-second timeouts**. All full timeouts can carry over to the second half, but only one (1) twenty-second timeout can be used during a half. The twenty-second timeouts **do not** carry over to the second half.
16. There will be a five-minute halftime, if time permits.
17. A player (who is physically able to do so) must participate in at least one half of the official associational games in order to participate in the post season tournament.
18. A member of the **visiting team** will lead in prayer **before the game**.
A member of the **home team** will lead in prayer **after each game**.
19. Any boy, young man, or coach using profanity, fighting, or unsportsmanlike conduct will have a technical foul called and can be thrown out of the game. They could be suspended for the remaining part of the schedule. This rule will be strictly enforced by the referees and the Committee. Two technical fouls on a player or coach and he will remove himself from the gym. This rule will be strictly enforced. **If a player or coach is ejected from a game, he will be suspended for the next scheduled game, even if it is a tournament game.**
20. Tiebreaker: For the regular season champion, all teams tied for first place will be declared co-champions. In cases where teams do not have the same number of regular season games (due to cancellations), the number of losses will determine league champions, not winning percentage. For tournament seeding, the tiebreaker will be head-to-head competition then a coin toss or draw. In case teams do not have the same number of regular season games, the winning percentage will determine seeding.
21. Coaches are allowed to call timeouts from the bench.
22. There will be a 10-minute grace period for teams. After 10 minutes, the game will be considered a forfeit.
23. North Carolina High School rules state that a technical should be called if a player enters the game and his name is not in the official scorebook. In the spirit of our league, the player's name should be added to the official scorebook with no technical foul.

COACH'S EXAMPLE

Each coach needs to realize that they set an example for their players to follow. If a coach shows poor sportsmanship then the players will show poor sportsmanship. If a coach complains or verbally abuses an official, then players will do the same. We must remember that we are members of a church league and our

league is held to a higher standard. Too often I hear that church leagues have the worst attitudes, especially towards the officials. We should remember, no we must remember, that our actions influence others. Not only the players, but the fans and yes even the officials. We never know the situation of the people watching us. I would hate to think that anything we do would turn anyone away from the Lord.

SUGGESTIONS

Each team should have a parent's meeting before the season begins. You should explain the requirements their children must complete. The basketball rules and most importantly that their behavior during a game reflects on their church. If a fan uses bad language, a technical foul could be called on their team.

FAN BEHAVIOR

It is important for spectators to act as Christians! Leaders should feel responsibly for spectator's conduct and actions. No spectator will act any better than the players and coaches for whom they are supporting. The team must set the example. Player, coach, or spectator behavior can ruin the Brotherhood Basketball Program.

GYM CONTACTS

The following is a list of gym contacts. This list should be used if a gym is not opened when you arrive for a scheduled game.

First Baptist, Cary:	Mike DeVoss 624-0672
Bayleaf Baptist:	Adam McCullough Home: 341-3833 Cell: 828-421-4773
Trinity Baptist:	Spencer Good 274-8166
Committee Chairman:	Rob Neill Home: 847-6613 Work: 224-1892 Cell: What's that?