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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BASKETBALL LEAGUE

LEAGUE RULES: 2025 – 2026 SEASON

*Affiliated to:
Buckinghamshire Basketball Association*

1. **Name**

The League shall be known as the Buckinghamshire Basketball League (BBL), hereinafter referred to as the League.

2. **Aims and Objectives**

2.1 The aims and objectives of the League shall be to promote and develop the game of basketball in the county of Buckinghamshire, and to organise a basketball league primarily for Buckinghamshire clubs at the following age groups:

U12 Mixed	U16 Boys
U14 Mixed	U18 Boys
U14 Girls	

2.2 Each age division is to be limited to six entries with priority given to:

Clubs attending the AGM.
Then if there are spaces left, Buckinghamshire based clubs.
Then if there are spaces left, clubs located outside Buckinghamshire.

2.3 In cases of application deadlock priority will be given to entries in order of date surety is received. If a team cannot be accommodated their surety will be refunded.

3. **Membership**

3.1 Membership of the League is open to any club that is affiliated to Basketball England (BE).

3.2 To become a member of the League a club must have sent to the nominated Officer a fully completed Team Entry Form, a signed copy of the League Rules and a surety payment for £100 per team by the date agreed at the AGM.

3.3 In order for a member club to be eligible to begin playing their fixtures in the league, they must have paid their entry fees in full before the first game of the season. Failure to do so will result in a team's removal from the league.

3.4 **Surety fee:**

- (i) The surety fee shall be used to pay fines incurred by a member club during the season.
- (ii) Any balance of the surety fee will be paid back to clubs after their last game of the season.
- (iii) If the surety fee balance reaches £0 before the end of the season, a further surety fee cheque will be required by the League prior to the team's next game. Failure to provide an additional surety fee will result in a team's removal from the league.

- (iv) A fine of £20 will be deducted from the surety fee per game cancelled by a club to cover the costs of officials
- (v) If a team pulls out once invoices have been sent, their surety fee will not be refunded.

3.5 Registrations:

- (i) Any Buckinghamshire based basketball club entering the League should register their club and players with BE.
- (ii) Any non-Buckinghamshire basketball club entering the League should normally register the club and individual members with BE, through their own county registration procedure.

3.6 Licences:

- (i) Coaches must produce a valid BE licence to the table at each game, for each person taking part. Proof of age must be shown at the players first game.
- (ii) If a valid licence is not produced for the player or coach then the referees will not allow them to take part in the game.
- (iii) If a team does not have enough licensed players for the game to go ahead, the game will be forfeited, 20 to 0 and the team in question will incur the cost of the game, which shall be taken from your surety fee.

3.7 Team sheets:

- (i) Coaches must produce a fully completed team sheet (and licences – see 3.6) to the table 10 minutes prior to their game taking place.
- (ii) Failure to produce a fully completed team sheet by this time will result in a £10 fine, which shall be taken from your surety fee.

4. Player Eligibility

4.1 The following age rules apply to player eligibility:

U18 - born after the 31st August 2007
U16 - born after the 31st August 2009
U14 - born after the 31st August 2011
U12 - born after the 31st August 2013

4.2 All players must hold a playing licence for the team they are playing for (see point 3.6 on licenses).

4.3 Any male player who currently or has in the last 12 months belonged to a representative squad (regional, APC, England or GB) is not eligible to play with their own school year and must play up to the next school year as follows:

School Year 13 and above – Compete at Senior Men Division
School Year 12 - Compete at U18 Boys Division
School Year 11 - Compete at U18 Boys Division
School Year 10 - Compete at U16 Boys Division
School Year 9 - Compete at U16 Boys Division
School Year 8 - Compete at U14 Mixed Division
School Year 7 - Compete at U14 Mixed Division
School Year 6 - Compete at U12 Mixed Division

4.4 If a team is found to have fielded an ineligible player, the game will be forfeited, 20 to 0 and the team in question will incur a £10 fine per game played in, which shall be taken from the team surety fee.

4.5 For U12s in the case that a club enters more than one team into the same division the club must nominate eight players who will remain first team players all season. In the event of teams entering a third team they must nominate a further list of six players who will remain second team players all season. The players remaining may play in either team. This list must be supplied to

the Fixtures Officer prior to the start of the season.

For U14s and above: Where one or more team is entered by a club into a single league the players must be designated a team and they cannot move to the other team once they have played. The club may use players from younger age groups and they too must remain in the designated team.

- 4.6 Female players are permitted to compete at one school year below their own (unless they are regional, APC, England or GB) so that:

School Year 10 – Permitted to compete at U14 Mixed Division

School Year 9 – Permitted to compete at U14 Mixed Division

School Year 8 – Permitted to compete at U12 Mixed Division

School Year 7 – Permitted to compete at U12 Mixed Division

- 4.7 Teams playing National League players should only play a maximum of 1 on court at any one time, unless they are playing in the age category above their own.
- 4.8 In order to play in the play-offs or finals a player must have played in at least one league match in the appropriate age category.

5. Game Format

- 5.1 Timing:

The game shall be made up of 4 quarters.

Each quarter will last 8 minutes.

The clock shall be running, except for the last 2 minutes of the game.

In the last 2 minutes of the game the clock shall be stopping.

Overtime shall be a period of 2 minutes, stopping clock.

- 5.2 Substitutions:

- (i) No player can play in both the 1st & 2nd quarter.
- (ii) In the case where a team has fewer than 10 players the coach of the opposing team can select a player who CANNOT play the 2nd quarter. This will be done at the end of the 1st quarter. In the case where a team has 8 or less players, the other team shall be awarded 5 points at the start of the 2nd quarter.
- (iii) In the 3rd and 4th quarter, a coach can substitute using the normal rules of basketball.
- (iv) An 11th and/or 12th player can be used at the coach's discretion in the 3rd and 4th quarter.

Injury affecting team's ability to play 5 different players in each of Q1 and Q2.

- (i) If a player is injured during a previous match on the same day - the match day official reserves the right to override the rule re points deduction for the subsequent match and not impose the penalty.
- (ii) If a player is injured in the first or second quarter, the player can leave the court and return for Q3/4 ONLY. The opposing coach can select the player *NOT to play as a replacement or in the second quarter* should the team not be able to field a completely different 5 players. The replacement player can be selected by their own coach to play again if desired.
- (iii) If the injury is to the head and the official deems the player unfit to play for the rest of that day the same rules apply.

- 5.3 Each team shall be allowed one time out in each quarter.

- 5.4 Defence:

U18 Boys = any defence

U16 Boys = no full or half court zones, but can play full or half court man.

U14 Mixed = teams can play full court defence in the last 2 minutes of the game provided they are not winning by more than 10 points, otherwise half court man only.

U12 Mixed = as per U14 Mixed.

5.5 Any player or coach receiving a disqualifying foul will receive an automatic one match ban for the next game, with no appeal, followed by a subsequent disciplinary committee hearing

5.6 A win shall be worth 2 points, a loss worth 1 point and a forfeit worth 0 points.

5.7 League position is determined as follows:

First: League points

Second: if league points are equal, position is determined by the results between teams – eg wins or losses between the 2 teams only.

Third: if the results between two teams are the same eg they win 1 game each then the position is determined by the net points position in the results of games played between those 2 teams only.

Fourth: if the above are all equal or unsolvable – then and only then does the DIFF column come into play on the points from all matches.

6. **Organisation**

6.1 The League shall have the following Committee members:

Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Fixtures Officer

Officials Officer

6.2 The Committee members shall be elected annually at the Buckinghamshire Basketball League AGM and retiring Committee members shall be eligible for re-election.

6.3 Nominations for posts together with the names of proposer and seconder shall be submitted to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the AGM and these shall be circulated to clubs seven days prior to the AGM.

6.4 Committee members shall submit a written annual report to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the AGM and these shall be circulated to clubs seven days prior to the AGM.

6.5 Meetings of the Committee shall normally be held at monthly intervals. The Secretary shall notify members at least seven days in advance of a meeting and include an agenda and minutes of the previous meeting. A quorum of three elected members shall be necessary for any business to take place.

6.6 The EB Regional Development Manager may attend meetings and work in partnership with the Committee but cannot vote on any issue pertaining to the League.

6.7 Should any Committee member positions remain vacant after the AGM, the Committee is empowered to nominate which clubs must fill these positions. Failure of a club to do so satisfactorily shall result in their expulsion from the League.

7. **Finance**

7.1 The financial year of the League shall end on the 31st May each year.

7.2 A statement of accounts for the season shall be presented at the AGM.

7.3 A current statement of accounts shall be presented at Committee meetings.

7.4 The accounts of the League shall be lodged at a bank in the name of the League and all cheques drawn on the account of the League shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by any of the Committee members nominated to the bank.

8. **Annual General Meeting**

8.1 The AGM of the League shall be held during the month of June.

8.2 Each member club shall be given 21 days written notice of the date of the AGM (via post or e-mail as nominated by that member club). An agenda, Committee member's annual reports and nominations for the positions of Committee members shall be circulated to each member club 14 days prior to the AGM.

8.3 All member clubs must send at least one representative to the AGM or they shall incur a £20 fine.

8.4 Proposals affecting the League may be voted on by all member clubs (one club = one vote) and Committee members who are not connected with any club. In the event of a tied vote, the Chair will cast the deciding vote.

8.5 Any proposals to amend this Constitution (which may only be achieved at the AGM) or any other matters to be included on the agenda, must be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the date of the AGM, unless fewer than 21 days notice is given for the date of the meeting.

9. **Extra-ordinary General Meeting**

9.1 An Extra-ordinary General Meeting shall be called by the Secretary within 14 days of either a written resolution for such a meeting being passed by the Committee, or on receipt of a written request by authorised representatives of at least four member clubs.

10. **Disciplinary Matters**

10.1 Any disciplinary matters affecting the League shall be dealt with by a Disciplinary Committee comprising the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The Secretary will send written notification of the judgement within 3 days to any person, club or official.

10.2 The Disciplinary Committee shall be convened as and when deemed necessary by the Secretary.

10.3 Right of Appeal:

Any person, club or official has the right of appeal to the Secretary for up to 3 days after they have received written notification of the judgement. Any written notice of appeal should arrive within this time and list all the grounds of appeal. In all cases, the composition of the Appeal Committee shall be at least 50% different from those present at the original disciplinary meeting.

10.4 If a Committee member is personally involved in a matter (e.g. match official, member of opposing club, etc.) then he/she shall not participate in the disciplinary or appeal committees and shall be replaced by an official from a neutral club.

11. **Miscellaneous**

11.1 All clubs must ensure all members of their club, including supporters, must read and adhere to the League's Code of Conduct.

11.2 Where there is no BBL rule Basketball England rules will apply.

11.3 First Aid – all teams are required to have a First Aider at their matches.

Club Contact Signature: _____ Date: _____

Club Contact Name: _____