

**Updated 10/15/18**  
**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP BASKETBALL LEAGUE**  
**RULES AND BYLAWS**  
**\*\*\* 6TH GRADE SCHOOL TEAM LEAGUE \*\*\***

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this program is to provide a recreational sports experience for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls that attend Lawrence Township elementary schools with emphasis placed on teaching basic basketball fundamentals and skills. The development of team play and good sportsmanship, with a minimum amount of tension on the participants, is also an important objective of this program.

Although competition will be an integral part of the program, every effort will be exerted to maintain a low-key, well-supervised, organized and safety-oriented atmosphere in which the participant will play in.

Finally, but by no means of lessor importance, a vital aim of the program will be to encourage a wholesome, cooperative effort on the part of the spectators, coaches and game officials. Our league motto is *“Coaches coach, Players play, Officials officiate and Fans Cheer (positively).”*

1. **FINANCING:** There will be a fee of **fifty (\$50.00)** dollars charged as a participation fee for each player. Each school and their coach are responsible in the collection of this fee from each player.
2. **SPONSORS:** Sponsors will be permitted in the program at the discretion of the league. Please contact the league commissioners if you have a potential team sponsor.
3. **AWARDS & TROPHIES:** A league championship trophy will be awarded to the school. Individual trophies are not to be given to the players in the program by parents and/or coaches. Year-end awards (i.e. Sportsmanship, most improved) can be given out by the head coach at the end of the season at his/her discretion.
4. **BOUNDARIES:** All participants in the program must be enrolled as a student of good standing (including a minimal grade requirement as set by the School district) during the full season at the specific school that they are a participant. **The minimum grade requirement is that a player is passing all of his/her classes. Each school leadership team (i.e. principal) has the discretion to enforce stricter eligibility rules (academics and discipline).**
5. **REGISTRATION:** At least one parent or guardian's written consent for participation required.

6. **GAME EQUIPMENT:** The gymnasiums and basketballs are furnished by the league for each game. Participants should not to bring basketballs to league games. All participants must wear non marking soled shoes.

7. **SCHEDULE:** League game times will be prepared and distributed by the League Commissioner. Practices will be limited to no more than two sessions per week and each session shall be no longer than 1.5 hours. No unscheduled or outside practices may be held.

8. **SELECTION OF COACHES AND ASSISTANT COACHES:**

- 1) Head Coaches will be selected by the School district or its appointee.
- 2) Assistant coaches are allowed and can be selected by the head coach but must be approved by the School district or its appointee.
- 3) A coach may not coach more than one team in this league.
- 4) All head and assistant coaches must pass the School District's background check.
- 5) A team is limited to 2 assistant coaches. During a game, only the head coach and the approved assistant coaches can sit on the bench.

9. **COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES:** The responsibilities apply to ALL coaches' both head coaches and assistant coaches in the league.

***Coaches are required to:***

- a. Attend ALL coaches meetings,
- b. Complete any paperwork required by the League.
- c. Contact **ALL** players and parents as soon as possible after the teams have been selected and before the first scheduled practice providing them with all pertinent information about the team, the League and yourself. It is important to contact all players (including cut players) as soon as possible.
- d. Notify all players' parents in the event of any changes or cancellation of any practice session or scheduled game.
- e. **Ensure that no players are left unattended during or after practices or games.**
- f. Provide all players with a team roster and game schedule.
- g. **Provide a qualified scorekeeper/timekeeper for each game. The league will handle scorekeeping and the scoreboard for the tournament dates.**
- h. The League is responsible for the gyms and facilities used for practices and games. The responsibility is delegated and discharges through each team coach.

- i. **Ensure players, siblings and other family members conduct themselves properly and respect school/gym property and stay in approved designated areas only.**
- j. All coaches will be provided with, read and become familiar with the League Rules & By-Laws and Code of Conduct agreement.
- k. Create a positive environment for all team members at all practices and games.
- l. Create positive self esteem in each player throughout the course of the season.
- m. Coaches will be required to teach fundamentals of basketball, good sportsmanship and leadership. Encourage and insist upon good sportsmanship from players and parents. This applies to practice sessions as well as games. It is especially important for the coaches to demonstrate, as well as teach, in this regard.
- n. Coaches will set an example for their teams. They will refrain from:
  - o Reprimanding players on the floor before spectators or fellow team members.
  - o Baiting of officials or disputing decisions.
  - o Riding the opposition or fans by words or gestures.
  - o Permitting a player to reenter a game if injured.
  - o Physically abusing any player or fan.
- o. Emphasize good fundamentals above all else in all practice sessions and games. Emphasis should include fundamentals of:
  - o Shooting
  - o Passing
  - o Defensive technique
  - o Rebounding
  - o Dribbling
  - o Movement without the ball
  - o Basic rules
- p. Emphasize teamwork over individual play. Involve all team members in the flow of play.
- q. Conduct practices with safety of the players in mind at all times.

***Note: If a problem arises concerning any member(s) of the coaching staff; the School District or its appointee will take whatever action is necessary to correct the situation.***

## **TEAM STRUCTURE**

- 1. A team will consist of up to ten (10) players per team. No more than 10 players will be permitted. If there are fewer than 10 players trying out for the team, then there will be no cuts and your roster will be comprised of those players (as long as they meet all other eligibility requirements) However, a team shall not consist of fewer than six (6) players. The coach will be required to turn in their official roster and YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ADD PLAYERS once this final roster is turned in (except as provided in item 3 below).**
- 2. All participants will be in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The Commissioner may make exceptions to this rule but it must be requested and pre-approved.**
- 3. A team will be comprised of 10 players and there will be no replacing of players once the team is selected. However, if a team is to lose players for the remaining season (due to discipline, injuries, or academic failures) they are allowed to add players to bring their active roster up to 10 players. All players added must be pre-approved by the league commissioner before being eligible to join the team.**
- 4. A player on this school team will also be eligible to participate in the LTBBL recreation league or LTBBL Travel team.**
5. Player eligibility will be based on guidelines established by the School district including proper enrollment at the specific school as well as good academic standings (passing grade in all 5 of player's classes). Player must maintain being a student of good standing at the school in order to be eligible to play (i.e. moving to another school will result in dismissal from the team).
6. The League, as previously stated, promotes proper discipline, attitude and sportsmanship in addition to learning basic basketball skills. Once a player is on a team for the current season, they certainly can be dismissed for disciplinary reasons with the approval of the coach and the League Commissioner. It is the responsibility of the coach to notify the player and his parents of the action and to explain the reason for the action.
7. Each school leadership team (i.e. principal) has the discretion to enforce player eligibility rules (academics and discipline). The coach or school leadership team should communicate this to the league commissioner.

## **PLAYING RULES**

All games will be played under the IHSSA rules with the following exceptions:

1. All games will be played with six (6) minute running quarters with the clock only stopping for time outs and shooting free throws. **For the last two minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and the last 1 minute of any overtime, the clock will stop on all official dead balls (i.e. fouls, timeouts and after each whistle).** The clock starts when a player in bounds touches the ball, and when the ball touches any player following a foul shot. There will be one (1) minute between quarters and three (3) minutes between halves. Overtime will be limited to two three (3) minute periods, except in playoff games where there must be a winner.
2. There are four (4) sixty second timeouts per game, with one (1) timeout per overtime. Regulation period timeouts **WILL NOT** roll over into overtime.
3. Substitutions:
  - a) **During the regular season, the coach should make every effort to play every eligible player during the game. However, there are no minimum playing time rules for players.**
  - b) If a player shows up late to a game (i.e. the game has already started), that player will not be eligible to play until the start of the next quarter (so he can be officially checked into the scorebooks).
  - c) Player Substitution Rules:
    - **Teams will be able to freely substitute players during any dead ball (even with a running clock). Players must check in at scorer's table and be ready to enter the game when the officials waive them in.**
    - Players must check in at the scorer's table and must wait entering the game until waived in by the referees.
  - d) The coach may, for disciplinary reasons, withhold a child from play.
4. Back Court Defense: Guarding players in the back court (also known as “full court pressure”) will be allowed under the following conditions:
  - a) If the difference in the game score is less than 20 points, both teams may full court press man-to-man or zone for the entire game, and in overtime.
  - b) **If a pressing team's lead is below 20 points, it may press all players until the lead reaches 20 points.** If the difference in the score is 20 points or greater, only the team that is trailing will be allowed to use full court pressure defense.
6. Free Throws:
  - a) Players will use the designated free throw line.

b) Players may enter the free throw lane once the ball leaves the shooter's hand.

7. Fouls:

a) Each player will be limited to five (5) fouls. Each player will be required to raise his hand after a foul he has been called for a foul.

b) Any player or coach receiving two technical fouls will be ejected from the game. The coach will be required to leave the gym and the player may remain on the team bench at the discretion of the game officials if the offending player is not a disruption to their team or the game. Both the coach and the offending player will be required to serve a one game suspension for the next game per IHSAA rules.

c) Offensive language or gestures may require an immediate ejection (i.e. only one technical foul) for either a coach or player at the discretion of the game officials.

d) A player serving a one game suspension will automatically be reinstated after their one game suspension, but a conference between the player, League Commissioner, Coach and the player(s) parents must take place prior to the player returning to the game court to reinforce acceptable behavior, the goals and rules of the League and to judge the commitment of all parties.

e) A coach serving a one game suspension must petition the League Commissioner for reinstatement prior to returning to coach a practice or game. The Commissioner will review the severity of the incident and judge the coach's attitude and commitment to League goals, policies and standards. Coaches represent Lawrence Township as our most visible and influential ambassadors and will be held accountable to the highest standards.

8. **Mercy Rule: If a team is up by 25 points or more at any time during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, the clock will continue to run with the exception of time outs. If the lead goes below 25 points, than the league's regular game clock rules will be utilized (as described in item 1 above).**

9. **Uniform Rules: To be eligible to play in a game, the player must have on the proper team uniform. The School league follows IHSAA rules as it applies to a proper uniform including:**

a. Player must be dressed in league issued jersey and shorts

b. Any shirt worn under the jersey must either be solid white in color or be a single color similar to the predominant color to the uniform jersey.

c. Players shall not wear undergarments or tights which extend below the uniform bottom.

**I have received and will abide by the Rules and By-Laws of the Lawrence Township Boys Basketball League.**

**Coaches name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Coaches signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_