

RULE III - YOUTH BASKETBALL

ARTICLE I - ELIGIBILITY

SECTION A - AGE DIVISIONS

- (1) The age Control Date is on or before September 1st of the current school year.
- (2) There are four (6) age divisions for boys and girls. The divisions are:
 - (a) Boys and girls ages 8 and under on or before September 1st
 - (b) Boys and girls ages 10 and under on or before September 1st
 - (c) Boys and girls ages 12 and under on or before September 1st
 - (d) Boys and girls ages 14 and under on or before September 1st
 - (e) Boys and girls ages 18 and under on or before September 1st
- (3) A participant is allowed to compete in one division only. Youth participants may compete in an older youth age division provided they remain in that same older youth division for all games through all levels of youth basketball competition.
- (4) A person may compete in District and State levels of play provided he or she is not in violation of any rules or regulations in this Manual. (REF: Rule I)

SECTION B - ENTRIES

- (1) An affiliate may enter into District Competition as many teams as it wishes to enter in all divisions provided the District does not establish an entry limit.
- (2) A District not conducting a District level tournament or playoff may allow one Affiliate team to represent its District at the State level of competition.
- (3) Only persons whose names are approved on their Affiliate team's ARPA Official Roster, who meet all ARPA eligibility requirements, and who are representing an Affiliate not on current suspension for basketball may compete in ARPA games.
- (4) The ARPA Official Roster limit for players is fifteen (15) players.
- (5) State tournament shall consist of the winner of each age group from every district and/ or sub district plus the host team. The host can choose to include 2nd place teams from each district or sub district. ARPA recommends if a 2nd place team chooses not to attend their slot will be filled at the discretion of the host in consultation with the Rec Sports chair.
- (6) When any District in the Alabama Parks and Recreation Basketball program reaches twelve (12) teams in any age group, they would be allowed to subdivide and be allowed to send a winner from each division to the ARPA State Tournament.

ARTICLE II - REGULATIONS

SECTION A- GOVERNING RULES

- (1) ARPA basketball games at the State level of play are governed by the current rules and regulations of the Alabama High School Athletic Association Constitution and By-Laws with the exceptions found in this Manual.
- (2) The National Federation (National Alliance) Edition of Basketball Rule Book is the official guide for ARPA and AHSAA games with the exceptions as may be found in this Manual.

SECTION B - LENGTH OF GAMES

- (1) 18 & Under Boys and Girls games shall consist of eight minute quarters. 14 & Under Boys and Girls, 12 & Under Boys and Girls, 10 & Under Boys and Girls and 8 & Under Boys and Girls shall consist of six minute quarters.

SECTION C - SPECIAL PROVISIONS

- (1) A team must have five players (in any particular division) to start a game.
- (2) No form of tobacco is permitted on the playing court or in the bench area regardless of gymnasium rules.
 - (3) There will be no full court press in the 10 & Under Basketball until the last quarter. There will be no full court press in the 8 & under for the entire game.
- (4) Teams will be given two warnings concerning backcourt pressure. After the second warning if a violation occurs, a team technical will be assessed to the coach.
- (5) The 10 & Under and the 8 & Under basketball foul line will be three (3) feet shorter than regulation. Players will line up at the

lane starting below the block. Exception: When a hangover goal is used in the 8 & under division, foul shots will be taken from the regulation free throw line and players will line up in regulation positions.

- (6) Teams must be present at site & ready to play at their designated game time. Game time is determined by the Tournament's Official Bracket. Penalty: Forfeit.
- (7) The 3-point rule shall be allowed in all age divisions (boys and girls) in youth basketball.
- (8) A full court press is defined as any pressure applied on an offensive player in the backcourt, either on an inbounds or after change of possession while the ball is live.
- (9) **8 & Under Basketball: During the last (1) one minute of the fourth quarter & overtime, the clock will stop on every made basket until the ball crosses half-court. Also, the clock will not start until the ball crosses half-court following a dead ball.**
- (10) (All age groups) - A team cannot press/ play full court defense if ahead by 20 or more points.

ARTICLE III - EQUIPMENT

SECTION A - APPROVED EQUIPMENT

- (1) Shoes are mandatory for all play in all divisions. Shoes shall be smooth and soft-soled for athletic use.
- (2) The approved basketballs for divisions are as follows:
 - (a) For 10 & Under Division and 8 & Under Division, the regulation size basketball for girls that meet the current standards of the Alabama High School Athletic Association shall be used.
 - (b) For all divisions except 10 & Under, the regulation size basketball that meets current standards of the Alabama High School Athletic Association shall be used.
 - (c) No other basketballs except those approved above shall be used for ARPA games unless approved by the Recreational Sports Committee Chairperson.
- (3) Uniforms for all players shall be defined as a team shirt or jersey with legal numbers on the front and back, identical in style and color with other players on the same team. A technical foul will be given at the beginning of each game to teams that fail to have legal numbers on the front and back of the uniforms as per federation rules.

SECTION B - PLAYING COURT REQUIREMENTS

Court specifications and height of goals shall be in accordance with the Alabama High School Association standards found in the National Federation Basketball Rule Book. **The 8 & Under Boys and Girls Divisions will use a goal 8 feet high.**

ARTICLE IV - GAMES AND AWARDS

SECTION A- DISTRICT

- (1) Each District shall have the right to conduct its own basketball tournaments for each division in a manner approved by the majority vote of participating District Affiliates provided any exceptions to the rules in this manual are approved by a District's State Recreational Sports Committee member. District or Affiliate Hosts are responsible for all District awards.
- (2) It is recommended that District Level competition in Basketball be completed as follows:
 - (a) All divisions (8 & Under, 10 & Under, 12 & Under, 14 & Under, and 18 & Under) by the last Saturday in February.

SECTION B - STATE

- (1) The State Tournaments in all divisions of basketball shall be single elimination to be scheduled on the following dates:
 - (a) All divisions (8 & Under, 10 & Under, 12 & Under, 14 & Under, and 18 & Under) to be played on the second Friday and Saturday in March.
- (2) Pairings for the State Tournament will be determined by Blind Draw by the State Recreational Sports Committee Chairperson and Tournament Director.
- (3) State Tournament Brackets are in the back of this Manual.
- (4) Trophies will be awarded to the Affiliates that finish first and second in each division. A sportsmanship trophy will be awarded in each age division. The Recreational Sports Committee Representatives and the Game Officials will determine the recipients of this award.

ARTICLE V - OFFICIALS AND PARTICIPANTS

SECTION A - HOST

- (1) The Host Affiliate shall provide a minimum number of competent adults for scorers and timers, a Tournament Director, and approved game officials in accordance with Rule II, Article IV, and Rule II, Article V, Section b, Paragraph 1 (a).
- (2) The Host Affiliate shall be responsible for proper conduct by Spectators.
- (3) The Host Affiliate shall be responsible for providing the game ball in accordance with ARPA specifications in these rules.
- (4) The Host Affiliate shall be responsible for seeing that the playing court and gymnasium meet ARPA specifications.
NOTE: See Rule I, Article IV, Section B and C for tournament organizations and host responsibilities.
- (5) *The host shall be responsible for supplying warm-up balls.*

SECTION B - GAME OFFICIALS

See Rule II, Article IV.

SECTION C - PLAYERS AND OTHER TEAM MEMBERS

- (1) Any player, coach, manager, team scorer, or assistant disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct including abusive language is ineligible for further participation in the game in progress and may be dismissed from ARPA competition by a State Recreational Sports Committee member, Tournament Director, or District Commissioner (at the District level only) subject to appeal by the dismissed person's affiliate.
- (2) The use of ineligible players in accordance with the Rules in the Manual shall result in forfeiture (of game and tournament). Burden of proof rests with the protesting Affiliate's representative (See Rule II, Article I, Section A, Paragraph 2).

ARTICLE VI - PROTESTS AND APPEALS

See Rule II, Article I, Section A.

ARTICLE VII - FEES

- (1) Districts will establish the fee schedule for their District tournaments.
 - (a) In addition to the above fees, there will be a onetime charge of \$10.00 per team to be paid to the State Office. Host will be responsible for collecting.
- (2) Fees from the ARPA State Basketball Tournament are to be set at \$150.00.
 - (a) In addition to the above fees, there will be a onetime charge of \$25.00 per team to be paid to the State Office. Host will be responsible for this fee.