

DORSET BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
RULES FOR COMPETITION *[Reviewed August 2022]*

1. Organisation

1.1 – These Rules shall apply specifically to the Dorset Basketball Association (known as DBA) leagues and knock-out competitions. They shall be framed, and amended, if necessary, by the Executive Committee (known as EC). They shall be published and circulated to all officers, clubs, individuals and referees by the EC, prior to the season starting. In any situation not covered by the rules, the EC shall have the power to make an executive decision. This power may be delegated.

1.2 – The EC shall invite entries into competitions from teams formed by clubs in membership of the association and shall accept into competitions only such teams as the committee judge, after due consideration, to be suitable based on: conduct, administrative and financial grounds, and as having deposited the required surety, any remnant of which shall be returnable to each team at the AGM.

1.3 – The EC shall delegate to officers or sub-committees some of its day-to-day functions, particularly:

- a) To the General Secretary the day-to-day administration of the association and the registration of clubs.
- b) To the Registrar the registration of clubs, teams and individual members.
- c) To the Referees Secretary the appointments of referees to all competitions.
- d) To the Competition Secretary the compilation of the programme of league and knockout matches.
- e) To the League Secretary the administration of league results, tables and knockouts.
- f) To the Treasurer the administration of all financial matters and the keeping of proper accounts.
- g) To the Welfare Officer the administration and implementation for safeguarding of all members.
- h) To the EC decisions on any appeals against fines; the impartial imposition and collection of fines (with a deadline of two weeks to pay or appeal from the date of the fine).
- i) To a Disciplinary Committee the review of the sanctions on any disqualified player.
- j) To an Emergency Committee any of its functions in an emergency situation.
- k) To officers or individuals administering statistics, social media, press and website functions.

Each of these Officers and Committees should report back on these functions to each meeting of the EC.

1.4 – Along with the Rules, the EC shall publish a list of sanctions to be imposed on teams and/or individuals for breaches of the rules. Financial liability shall be between teams and the Association. Therefore, a liable team shall make payment to the committee and a beneficiary team shall be paid by the Committee, even if the liable team defaults its payment.

1.5 – Any team or individual may appeal to the EC against any sanction. Such appeal must be preceded by an attempt to resolve the issue by negotiation between the appellant and the General Secretary. If the issue cannot be so resolved then an appeal in writing must be sent to the General Secretary within two weeks of the imposition of the sanction. If the team or individual wishes to appeal against the decision of the EC, a further appeal must be made in writing, and sent to the General Secretary accompanied by an appeal fee of £20. The General Secretary shall present the appeal to the next meeting of the EC. If the appeal is upheld, or if the EC so decides, the appeal fee shall be returned.

1.6 – In matters relating to teams that is ‘time crucial’ and cannot wait for a formal appeal process the decision of the EC is FINAL.

2. Team & Club Administration

2.1 – The Association fees are as follows:

- a) Senior league entry fee shall be £60 per team.
- b) Junior teams with associated senior teams shall be £20. Junior teams that do not have an associated senior team in the DBA regular season shall be £40.
- c) Senior cup competition will be free for DBA regular season entrants, with OOA teams shall be £20.
- d) Senior Summer League entry fee; for DBA regular season teams shall be £20 and OOA teams £40.
- e) None of the above fees include Basketball England registration.

2.2 – Players registering to DBA: £5 Senior & £1.50 U18. These do not include Basketball England fees.

2.3 – Any clubs that register players that play out of area in competition the DBA does not offer (e.g. ladies); the management committee will deem a reduced registration fee on a case-by-case basis.

2.4 – A fee of £50 shall be paid by each team which shall be held in trust and will be refunded on request at the time of a team's withdrawal from the association, subject to the deduction of any outstanding fine(s) etc. Any team withdrawing mid-season will lose their right to redeem their £50. A further guarantee fee of £50 shall be paid by each team that incurs fines in excess of £50 in any season as a guarantee of the administrative conduct for that team in the coming season.

2.5 – All monies owed from previous season and entry fee for current season to be paid in full prior to the first Management meeting of that upcoming season.

2.6 – A representative for each CLUB is required at each Management Meeting. A fine (of up to £20) will be applied to clubs that repeatedly refuse to send representatives to management meetings.

2.7 – All senior games must be available for streaming over a range of platforms, with the images used to promote the association and assist in association business. It will be the responsibility of teams to liaise with parents, carers and individuals in regards to gaining the appropriate permissions.

3. Competitions

3.1 – All competitions shall be conducted according to Basketball England Rules, except where specifically contradicted by these rules.

3.2 – Application by teams for entry into competitions shall be made on an official entry form via the DBA web site link, and contain such information as is necessary to the efficient running of the competition.

3.3 – Teams may be divided by the EC into various competitive categories to form separate league, knockout, tournament and other competitions. These categories may restrict participants by age and/or sex or geography, but not necessarily.

3.4 – Knockout & Playoff competitions should, if practicable be played at neutral venues in their semi-final and final rounds. Additional fees may be charged to the relevant teams, if necessary, to achieve this aim.

3.5 – Matches in knockout competitions (that are not play-offs) should be arranged by random draw.

3.6 – The classification of teams shall be made according to the Basketball England Official Games Procedures.

3.7 – In the event of a team withdrawing or being expelled from a competition, all its effects on that competition shall be annulled and voided.

4. Match Administration

4.1 – It shall be the first priority of the EC that all matches shall be played where practicable within the rules.

4.2 – The Competition Secretary shall circulate to all teams a schedule of matches for League and knockout competitions, at least 1 month before start of the season. Teams shall check the schedule, particularly to ensure that venues are bookable and that players are not likely to be unavailable on the specified dates. If any alterations are necessary, teams shall propose them to the Competition Secretary a reasonable period before the start of the season at which teams will be required to confirm the schedule.

4.3 – Every match should start at the scheduled time, except by prior arrangement of the Competition Secretary alongside both teams and the appointed officials. If any team is not on court and ready to start play as per Basketball England rules, its opponents may claim the match and in that event the referee shall award the match and sign the scoresheet accordingly. If the offending team subsequently is ready and able to play, and there is sufficient time for a full match to be played, the match shall take place, and a second scoresheet shall be completed. Both scoresheets shall be forwarded to the League Secretary, who shall present them to the EC for a decision as to which scoresheet shall apply. Sanctions against the offending team shall apply in either event.

4.4 – Every match should be played on its scheduled date. In the event of a team requiring to postpone a game they must inform: Opponents, Referees and League, Referee & Competition Secretary (via WhatsApp, Email, Phone or Text is acceptable as long as a response is received) – 48hrs before the scheduled date. It will then be the responsibility of the League and Competition Secretaries to organise all arrangements for the game rescheduling. If the rearrangement causes any other party unavoidable expenditure, e.g. referees will be entitled to claim match fee if they are advised with less than 24hr notice, the postponing team shall pay compensation of that amount to the Association and the Association will compensate the other party to that amount. If for any reason the match is eventually not played, then it will count as a default against the original postponing team.

4.5 – Teams who participate in the knock-out competition may have a combination of upper and lower league players but once they have played for the decided team in the knock-out competition they may not play for the other team.

4.6 – One week prior to a scheduled match the home team contacts their opponents to confirm that the match will take place and its venue, tip-off time, and team colours. Contact can then be made with the listed match referees to confirm that the game will proceed.

4.7 – Abandoned Matches: For matches abandoned through no fault of either team during a match (e.g. light failure), if there are less than 5 minutes left of the final quarter and one team is 20 points or more behind, OR no more than a quarter left with one team more than 30 points behind, the result will stand. All other matches will be replayed unless both teams and The Executive agree to the result as it was when the match was abandoned.

4.9 – Both teams must provide a print out (or screen shot) from their club membership BE portal of full license cards (players, coaches and officials include) to accompany their team lists for referee reference prior to the game.

4.10 – It is the responsibility of the home team to photograph **WHITE COPY** of the completed scoresheet and send to the DBA Season group via WhatsApp within 48hrs of the game.

5. Playing Matches

5.1 – The home team through the coach shall be responsible for:

- a) Providing and paying for all suitable facilities required to stage the match.
- b) Provide competent BE members as Table Officials. All teams should endeavour to qualify regular table officials through BE to ensure a raise in standards. The away team may elect to provide one of those if it wishes, subject to advance notice of 48 hours, with payment being the responsibility of the visiting team (if applicable).
- c) Providing a visual running scoreboard.
- d) Providing technical equipment as per Basketball England rules.

e) Providing court furniture as per Basketball England Official Game Procedure. The table equipment list will include a towel for the use of referees in maintaining a safe playing surface. Each home team will also provide a complete (and in date) First Aid kit that will include the location and combination of the nearest public defib machine.

f) Providing a visible running clock (or flip time chart).

g) Tip-Off time being no earlier than 7pm, and no later than 8:45pm.

h) Provide a game ball in good condition, in line with branding and standards provided by the EC at the start of the season. Any failure of the home team to comply with the above standards should be reported by the Referee on the back of the scoresheet, having entered PTO before their signature.

5.2 – Should the uniforms of competing teams be similar in colour, then the home team shall change its colours, unless prior agreement arranged. Undershirts (compression vests) shall not go beyond the elbow and must be tight fitting and the same colour as either the kit main colour or trim.

5.3 – Each team shall provide the scorer with a list of names and initials of its players and coaches, their playing numbers in ascending order and their association registration numbers at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Each team's coach shall sign the scoresheet before the start, as the formal representative of team, to signify that the information entered for their team is true and correct. The appearance of a player's name on a scoresheet shall **not** count that they have played. A player is not counted as having played in a match, unless they have physically stepped on to the court, and is recorded as having done so by the official Scorer on the Scoresheet, or that it is obvious the player has participated due to fouls or a score being attributed to them.

5.4 – In the event that only one official turns up, that official shall have the responsibility to make whatever arrangements they deem suitable for officiating the match. If they officiate alone, they are entitled to an extra 50% of their match fee (not travelling expenses). In the event that there are insufficient table/scoreboard officials, or in the absence of correct technical equipment, the referee shall have the power to require whatever measures they deem necessary to remedy the situation, including requiring home players to fulfil the official roles.

5.5 – Following conclusion of the match, the losing team coach (or team captain in absence) shall endorse the (winning team) player on the scoresheet with MVP. This notation on the scoresheet and decision will be made in accordance with the referees to ensure transparency of selection.

5.6 – In the event of a 'signed under protest' scoresheet, it will be the 'protesting' team that submits their copy of the scoresheet (or copy) within 72 hours to the General Secretary along with a letter/email explaining their protest and a £20 fee (which will be returned if protest is successful). It will be the General Secretary's responsibility to bring this to the attention of the Chairperson.

5.7 – Each team is responsible for their own first aid arrangements for players, supporters and others within the sports arena, the location of an open hospital with emergency department should be made readily available by the home team with post code available.

5.8 – Teams that contain junior players (as decreed by Basketball England rules) should have at least two responsible adults to allow a game to continue in the unfortunate event of injuries, etc.

5.9 – Teams that postpone or cancel 2 matches will be seen in good faith. Any further postponed or cancelled matches will incur a fine of £15 for each offence. In the event 5 total games have been postponed or cancelled, the committee will be called upon to confirm the team will be removed from the league with immediate effect. All previous league/cup/plate/playoff matches involving offending team will be considered void within the same season.

6. Individual Eligibility

6.1 – All players, coaches, table officials, referees and umpires shall be currently licenced by Basketball England, registered with DBA and their numbers entered on the scoresheet.

6.2 – On first licensing, and on relicensing, with Basketball England the individual application and its payment must be forwarded to the Registrar, along with the application for registration as a member of the Association. On first licensing the individual's registration with the Association will not come into effect until the application is received. A player is only eligible to play once registered and these registration numbers endorsed in the relevant location on the score-sheet prior to tip-off. If no registration number is available for a player prior to tip-off that player shall take no part in the match. If a game is found to contain unregistered players the match is voided and the opposing team be awarded 20-0 win (alongside 0 league points as a loss to the offending team). Consideration will be given in the event the non-offending team win the match as this may have effect on individual statistics.

6.3 – Players shall be registered with one club, and may only be registered with one club in the Associations competitions.

6.4 – Where a player wishes to transfer from one club to another, the receiving club must apply on their behalf in writing to the Registrar, enclosing written agreement from the player and their current club, and the required fee. Transfers of players shall not be approved after 1st February in any given season.

6.5 – Where a club has more than one team in different divisions, seven chosen players must be nominated for the higher-level team, all other players can move between teams for the same club. If a club has two teams in the same division, both teams must nominate seven players, and will have no limit on playing for the club if it has an additional team in a higher division. In Knockout Competitions players will be considered 'cup tied' for that season to the first team they played for in the knockout competition. NBL registered players will have no limits set in Div1 participation, and will be limited to 1 player per game in Div2.

6.6 – A player may not play for a team in Play Off competition unless they have played in at least three league games for that team. Where a club has more than one team in the league but only enters one team in the Knockout competition, the player must have played for one of the teams previously in the same season. When competition leads to knockout stages, a player must have played for the team in the group stage (if scheduled). Where an injury has occurred, teams may write to the General Secretary for committee consideration on allowing inclusion into knockout stages.

6.7 – If a player receives two 'unsportsmanlike' fouls in a match, and is deemed to receive them for conduct outside of general basketball play, it is the referee's responsibility to ensure a report is submitted to the General Secretary. This will be then be subject to a disciplinary committee to decide if the player is to receive a minimum one match ban (can be extended dependant on circumstances). This process is subject to the 'Appeal's Process'. If a player receives two 'technical' fouls in a match, there is no further sanction unless other disciplinary matters occur.

6.8 – It is the Coach's (Captain in absence of a Coach) responsibility for ensuring that all players on a scoresheet are registered and eligible to play.

6.9 – In accordance with BE advice, players must be aged 14 or over to play in the senior leagues and teams with such players (under 18 years old) must adhere to the following conditions:

a) Players are the responsibility of the coach / captain of their team and all safeguarding provisions must be made in relation of travel and changing facilities.

b) Arrangements must have been made by clubs, with the parents of the child to ensure their welfare, whilst participating and following the BE directive of having the written waiver/consent obtained.

c) In each game it must be agreed by both team coaches and officials that it is suitable for the child to play.

d) Coaches (or those responsible for teams) must have completed DBS and safeguarding.

6.10 – Those teams that have no intention of registering under 18 players are required by BE to sign/scan their safeguarding waiver.

7. Officials

7.1 – Qualified Officials will be appointed wherever possible to each match by the Referees Secretary, but may include where necessary apprentice or unqualified Officials under training who have passed their theory examination and are

awaiting practical examinations. Officials shall be able to adjudicate on any possible infraction of Competition Rules during the period of the match. All referees MUST have a current safeguarding course and valid DBS check.

7.2 – The home team shall be responsible for submitting the white section of the scoresheet to the League Secretary following a match and within 1 week of the game (hi-res photo or scan via email/text is acceptable).

7.3 – Each team in the league should have at least 1 referee available for appointments through the season. It is acceptable for BE registered referees based in other associations/teams to cross over into the DBA.

7.4 – All officials shall be paid a fee in accordance with current Basketball England rates: Referees – £15 (Level 1 or Level 2), £20 (Level 3 or Level 4). Travelling expenses shall be 40p per mile for the most direct route. Referees MUST travel together if possible and keep expenses to a minimum. The home and away team will share all costs in relation to referees for a league, cup and playoff fixtures. Payment of table officials is at the discretion and is responsibility of the home team.

7.5 – Games may be assigned with 3 man officiating crews; however, this will be in agreement with teams prior to game, due to increased cost implication.

8. Disqualifications

8.1 – Referees will provide a report on any disqualifying foul committed by a player or coach. This must be sent immediately to the General Secretary.

8.2 – Any player or coach against who a disqualifying foul is awarded shall automatically be banned from competing in the next scheduled match of the team which they were representing when disqualified. If an appeal is lodged and the ban is upheld, the ban will be enforced for the game following the decision from the Disciplinary Committee.

8.3 – If a Disciplinary Committee reports that a one match ban is sufficient, then the matter shall not proceed further, unless the disqualified player or coach appeals to the EC. If the Disciplinary Committee does not so report, then the matter is referred immediately to the Chairperson/General Secretary. In the case of appeal or referral, a special Disciplinary Committee of two independent officers and himself shall be convened urgently by the Chairperson and General Secretary, with powers to impose a fine up to the maximum of £100, and/or to impose suspension of any duration.

8.4 – An appeal must be sent to the Chairperson to arrive within 72 hours of the disqualification, together with an appeal fee (£20) which is returnable in the event of the appeal being upheld. If there is an appeal, the suspension is nullified until the appeal is heard. An appellant shall have the right to further appeal to Basketball England, under its rules.

8.5 – If there is to be an appeal hearing, the Chairperson shall:

- a) Arrange for the hearing to be heard on the earliest possible date, arranging the venue, and included use of virtual meetings if the chairperson feels it is appropriate.
- b) Inform the appellant of the arrangements, and that they may include someone to speak on their behalf.
- c) Provide copies of the referee's report and of these Rules, and a memorandum of the procedure, to the appellant and the Disciplinary Committee members.
- d) Arrange for witnesses to attend if they decide it is desirable.
- e) Ensure that any decision is notified immediately to the General Secretary and the Referees Secretary, and to the EC at the earliest convenience.

9. League & Cup Grouping Positioning

9.1 – Unless otherwise stated; three points will be awarded for a win and one point for a loss for all played games. A team losing by default/forfeit will be awarded zero points.

9.2 – Position in the event teams have the same number of points, the following result will take priority (all in regards to that specific competition):

- a) The head-to-head wins between the teams.
- b) The greater +/- of points in games between the teams.
- c) The greater +/- of points within all games for that season.
- d) Coin toss administered by the DBA chairperson.

10. Play-Off Competition

10.1 – At the conclusion of the league fixtures, the EC will aim to provide independent Play-Off competition for each division/league (or as decided that season by the committee). The schedule of games will be set on seeding basis (example - 1st placed team shall play the 4th placed team, the 2nd placed team shall play the 3rd placed team) with higher seeded teams having home court advantage. In playoff competitions with more than 4 teams, the committee will agree upon a format of seeding and/or allow for higher seeded teams to have a 'game bye' in earlier rounds. The leagues higher placed team will have home advantage for the semi-final/final, so long as no neutral venue is arranged. In the event that a lower seed team beats a higher seed team, the lower seed will gain the higher seed and the potential for home court in the next round.

10.2 – The initial rounds are to be played within the month following the end of the season (as directed by the Committee) with the final taking place at a neutral venue (if directed by the Committee).

10.3 – Teams will share all costs in relation to referees for fixtures and will share the costs for the neutral venue for the semi-final/finals (where the Association is unable to fund). Any team unable to fulfil their semi-final fixture or final fixture will lose by default. The Association reserves the right to replace any team unable to fulfil semi-final/final fixtures.

11. Cup & Additional Knockout Competitions

11.1 – The EC will aim to provide independent knockout competition for each division/league (or as decided that season by the committee). The format which the knockout follows will be decided by the EC, informed by the number of teams, available games/dates and played within the season. Teams from 'out of area' will be allowed enter upon invite from the EC.

11.2 – No matches will consider 'higher seed' and all group stage & quarter finals will be scheduled via a '1/2 draw'. Those teams drawn first will host the match on their regular game night. In semi-finals, if no neutral venue is secured, it will be set by the Executive.

11.3 – Teams will share all costs in relation to referees for fixtures and will share the costs for the neutral venue for the semi-final/finals (where the Association is unable to fund). Any team unable to fulfil their semi-final fixture or final fixture will lose by default. The Association reserves the right to replace any team unable to fulfil semi-final/final fixtures.

12. Adapted Summer League Rules

12.1 – The below rules are in effect throughout DBA summer league competition, all other rules should be referred to in this document:

- a) Players can only play for 1 team.
- b) Any player that plays in the playoffs must have stepped on court in 2 league games (number of games can be adapted by the executive, if number of league games available is reduced).

- c) The number of free throws taken will be based on the original act of shooting, counting for the corresponding amount (example: a player fouled on a 3-point attempt, with take 1 free throw counting for 3 points). Free throws taken after a foul that includes a made shot, commonly known as an “and one” will remain at a value of 1 point.
- d) All completed shots from behind the halfway line will count for 5 points.
- e) Game timing will be determined prior to start of SL and in dialogue with participating teams.
- f) Administration will not include rescheduling of games. Fixtures are final and any cancelled games will be received as a forfeit, based on circumstance of cancellation. In extraordinary circumstances the EC can be appealed to via the DBA chairperson.
- g) Games will not require use of BE level scoresheet. The DBA will send out an appropriate document before the start of the league and an image of the scoresheet must be shared in the whatsapp group after the game.
- h) Overtime period will start with a jump ball and will be played as a “first to 5 points” with a reset of team foul (3 being the limit).

13. Additional Junior Competition Rules

13.1 – The below rules are for junior games; all other rules should be referred to in this document or the appropriate FIBA guidelines:

- a) Games are 20 minutes running clock (lengthened/halves for when time allows).
- b) Both boys & girls can play across all of the age groups.
- c) Stop clock in last 2 minutes if lead is less than 10 points (or if time requires it - no stop clock).
- d) Substitutions will use ‘high 5’ format (avoiding defence to offence transition).
- e) Foul when shooting: 1FT will be taken counting for an amount equal to the original shot.
- f) Team fouls will total 8 for the game and thereafter 1FT will be taken counting for 2 points.
- g) Players must be registered through Basketball England with license numbers on rosters/scoresheets.
- h) No zone defence is permitted in the any of the competitions and no full court press defence for U12.
- i) Teams with a lead of 15+ will not be permitted to full court press & coaches should encourage competitive sportsmanship through there on court player choices.
- j) Players shall not be permitted to play if part of the ASPIRE program or considered to be of national league starter standard.
- k) All age groups will play over the same day; this will require venues to be available for around 8hrs.
- l) Not all clubs have all age groups (U12/14/16/18) so the DBA will schedule days to best fit and attempt to include other clubs if there is space. Age groups may be adapted where appropriate to ensure range of participation.
- m) Teams will be expected to pay in full on arrival. Payment will still be made in event of cancellation, if costs cannot be amended leading up to the day.
- n) Juniors may only play in their own age group competition and the next age group up (if physically/skill ready). Where a higher age group competition is not available, juniors may play up to the next available competition.

14. End of Season Awards

14.1 – The EC shall delegate to officers or sub-committees the decision on type of award and its method of procurement and purchase.

14.2 – The EC ensure feedback is sought for a consensus where awards require.

14.3 – The following awards are those set out for each season and any additional methods of qualification. Where seasons are cut short or circumstances change, the EC shall adapt the award format and its method of qualification.

- a) Divisional league winners.
- b) Divisional Most Valuable Players (appearing in at least 51% of league games).
- c) Cup competition and Plate competition winners.
- d) Cup final & Plate final Most Valuable Player (committee decision in discussion with relevant parties).
- e) Divisional Playoff winners.
- f) Divisional Playoff Most Valuable Player (committee decision in discussion with relevant parties).
- g) Divisional Scorer (player with the higher scoring average appearing in at least 51% of league games).
- h) 3 Point Shooter (player with the most 3 pointers made in league games – across association*).
- i) Official of the Year (committee to award in discussion with teams).
- j) Junior Competition awards, set out in agreement amongst Junior teams.

*For those players appearing in both divisions, statistics will be considered from the league in which the player has made the most appearances, and the lower division if it the same number of games for each division.