

## **Massachusetts Charter School Basketball League**

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### **League Directors**

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### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Massachusetts Charter School Basketball League (MCSBL) is to oversee the regulation, organization and promotion of member charter schools' interscholastic basketball programs.

MCSBL will provide opportunities for charter school student/athletes to compete at a high level and to use that competition to teach the fundamental values of teamwork, discipline, sacrifice and sportsmanship. This will contribute to the students' overall educational experience and development as individuals. MCSBL is committed to educating our youth for a better tomorrow and will work in partnership with local communities to establish and maintain charter school athletic programs.

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## Section I: General Rules – Middle School

League – will include two contests versus all league division members (North or South).

- 1.1 If a member charter school cannot host a league game due to lack of facilities, they may have the option to relinquish the home site and play the game at the opposing school's gymnasium. The yearly rotating schedule may remain the same.
- 1.2 The original home team will be considered the home team, even though they are not at their home gymnasium.
- 1.3 The on-site team arranges for scheduling referees and gym times, but the original home team remains responsible for all additional costs that occur as a result of hosting the game (gym fees, referees, etc.).

Member Charter Schools – each participating member charter school principal/school coordinator, athletic director, coaches and/or designees must read, understand, abide by and enforce all rules, regulations and guidelines set forth by the MCSBL Committee. A league fee of \$100 per-team entered is due before the first league contest.

League Committee – the athletic director or a designee from each member charter school is eligible to serve as a voting member on the league committee. This committee will establish and implement all rules, regulations and guidelines pertaining to league governance.

Procedure For Rule Changes – any rule change proposal must be first approved by the member charter school athletic director or designee. All rule change proposals must then be submitted in writing to the league office. The League Committee will then be notified, review the proposal and vote to approve or disapprove. All proposals must pass by a two-thirds (2/3) margin in order to be enacted.

Coaches – are responsible for their players at all times and should be aware of their players' behavior. All players should be supervised when inside a facility and not allowed to wander around the building and/or grounds. Home teams are not responsible for lost items.

- 5.1 Visiting teams are responsible for compensation for all damages that occur as a result of the actions of their players and/or coaches.

Roster – size of roster is limited to 20 players. Final rosters must be submitted to the league office by roster deadline day. No roster additions can be made once this deadline has passed, with the exception of a new student starting in your school after deadline. Any changes to a player's jersey number must be reported to the league office prior to their next scheduled league contest.

Age – a student is eligible to play if he/she is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade or below, and he/she remains no more than 15 years of age through March 31<sup>st</sup> of that school year. Students who turn 16 years of age prior to March 31<sup>st</sup> of that season are ineligible to play.

Sportsmanship – all players, coaches and spectators are required to display, at all times, the characteristics associated with "good sportsmanship." Sportsmanship is the ability to treat everyone involved in an athletic contest with fairness, generosity, respect and courtesy regardless of the outcome of the game.

- 8.1 Taunting/Trash talk – any action or comment on or off the court that is used to demean, bait or embarrass others is strictly prohibited. Game officials are to treat any form of taunting as a flagrant unsportsmanlike foul and immediately disqualify the offender(s). The offender(s) will be required to leave the contest area immediately and are not allowed to return.
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- 8.2 Physical Altercations – any player, coach or spectator who willfully attempts to injure any game official, player, coach or other spectator should be immediately removed from the contest site and be suspended for one year from the date of the infraction.
- 8.3 Direct Profanity – any player, coach or spectator who uses profane language directed towards a game official, player, coach or other spectator should be immediately removed from the contest site and suspended from the next league game.
- 8.4 Indirect Profanity – any player or coach who uses profane language indirectly will receive a warning on their first offense. Any further violations are subject to all rules pertaining to technical fouls.

Fraudulent Documentation – any player and/or coach who knowingly falsifies any official document (s) or participates under an assumed name will be immediately suspended from further participation for one year from the date of the infraction.

Hearings – all hearings/investigations will be conducted by the League Committee in response to any protest, incident or allegation made by or against any member charter school. The League Committee will then schedule a meeting with all relevant parties involved (athletic directors, coaches, game officials, players, etc.) to hear and clarify all evidence presented. At the completion of the meeting, the League Committee can (1) render a decision by voting or (2) take the situation under advisement and reconvene at a later date to vote on a suitable resolution.

10.1 All parties that are involved in a hearing are not included in the voting process.

11. First Aid & CPR - each member school should employ a licensed certified athletic trainer, RN or LPN for all home contests. Athletic directors and coaches should also be trained and certified to administer First Aid and CPR. Each team should be assigned their own separate medical kit containing all the basic supplies necessary for administering first aid. This medical kit is required by the MCSBL and must be present at all practices and games. It must also contain any medical information/instructions/instruments pertinent to rendering appropriate first aid to a particular individual(s) when called for.

11.1 A Fifty (\$50.00) dollar penalty fee will be assessed to each member school for each time they are found not to be in compliance with the medical kit requirement

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## **Section II: Student Eligibility – Middle School**

Parent/Guardian Permission – a signed and dated parent/guardian form must be submitted and kept on file in the member charter school principal's and/or athletic office prior to the first tryout or season practice. An assumption of risk should also accompany this form.

Physical Examinations – each student athlete is required to pass a physical examination performed by a registered physician one year prior to participation. Physical examinations are good for one year from the date of examination and must be continually renewed to remain eligible. A copy of this exam must be filed with the member charter school nurse and/or principal.

Birth Certificates – an original copy of each student/athlete's birth certificate/official documentation (members who are on the official team roster) must be present in school's records. Birthdates must be present on rosters sheets. Any student/athlete who does not meet this requirement will be ineligible until the copy has been submitted and approved. Birth certificates must be made available upon request.

League Sportsmanship Policy – a copy of each student/athlete's sportsmanship contract must be submitted to the league office prior to the first scheduled league game. Any student/athlete who does not meet this requirement will be ineligible until the copy has been submitted and approved.

Academics - Each school is required to submit their own academic eligibility standards. Each member charter school must also uphold their own academic eligibility standards they have set for their own students.

### Injuries

- 1.1 If any injury or illness occurs during the season which requires medical attention, the student/athlete must submit written approval from the attending physician to the principal/head of school and/or athletic office prior to returning to athletic participation.
- 1.2 Any student/athlete who is injured or ill prior to the start of a season which required medical attention but would join the team at some point during the season, must submit written approval in accordance to rule 5.1.

Student Handbook – all student/athletes are subject, first and foremost, to school rules and regulations governing student behavior as cited in the member charter school's student handbook. Violations of school rules resulting in suspension (in/out of school) from school will automatically preclude student involvement in MCSBL contests until the student is officially readmitted to school.

Attendance – student/athletes should not be allowed to participate in any MCSBL contest on the same day they are absent from school unless the absence has been approved in advance by the principal/head of school. Student/athletes must be in attendance for at least half of the school day in order to be eligible to participate in an MCSBL contest. If a contest is scheduled for a weekend, the student/athlete must be in school on Friday for at least half of the day.

Alcohol/Tobacco/Drugs – during the course of the season, student athletes are prohibited from using, consuming, possessing, purchasing, giving away or being in the presence of any beverage containing alcohol, tobacco products, marijuana, steroids or controlled substances.

- 1.3 Penalties will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the league committee.

Steroid use – use of Anabolic Androgenic Steroids is strictly prohibited. It has been proven that steroid use has serious short and long-term effects. We encourage all our coaches to take a proactive approach in educating student/athletes about the harmful effects of steroid use.

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Amateur status – all student athletes must be of amateur status. An amateur is defined as an athlete/participant who competes for the intrinsic value of the game and at no time, under any circumstances accepts money or compensation for his/her efforts involving the activity in question.

### Section III: League/Game Rules – Middle School

Scheduling – the scheduling of contests against member charter schools should be the first priority of the athletic director or designee. Scheduling of non-league opponents should be secondary and utilized to round out your regular season schedule.

Forfeitures - any member charter school who plays any student/athlete in a league contest and is later found to be ineligible in accordance to MCSBL regulations, or is in violation of that school's separate eligibility requirements, will forfeit every game in which that ineligible student/athlete competed in. The athletic director or designee of the member charter school must notify in writing the principal/school coordinator of both schools involved and the league office within 2 days of the disclosure.

Postponements – any postponed contest between member charter schools must be rescheduled at the earliest convenient time. The athletic director or designee from both schools should work collaboratively on this process. The home team is responsible for notifying in writing the league office of the scheduled change as soon as a new date and time have been agreed upon.

Cancellations - With only the exception of weather related cancellations, any member school that cancels a scheduled contest within twenty-four (24) hours of that originally scheduled contest will forfeit that contest to their scheduled league opponent and will be responsible for any/all costs (i.e., ref's fees, bus fees, etc...) associated with said contest.

Game officials – the home team is responsible for the scheduling and payment of game officials. IAABO (International Association of Approved Basketball Officials) officials are **required**. There will be two (2) IAABO game officials - for some reason only one is there the game can be played but it is under protest, and if there is not a IAABO official the game will be a forfeit. Game officials will have the final decision in any game circumstance in guidance with the MSCBL committee, rules & regulations.

Games – **the MCSBL will run two 20 minute running time halves, there will be stopped time for official whistles only during the last 2 minutes of second half.**

Timeouts – each team will be allowed five (5) one minute timeouts per game. One additional one minute timeout will be given per overtime period. Unused timeouts can be carried over into the overtime period(s).

League Balls – The Rock 28.5 Women and Men 29.5 ball or Spaulding NFHS TF-1000 (28.5 Women and Men 29.5) are the official league balls. All teams will have to purchase one women's and one men's ball for their home games. Website for purchase is Anaconda Sports – The Rock you want to click on overrun <http://www.anacondasports.com/default.htm> - click on Rock Basketball in Departments

Overtime(s) – will be five (5) minutes stop time in length. League games will include an indefinite number of overtime periods to determine a winner. Coaches will agree upon a solution to a game that must be ended due to time constraints.

Rule Book - League Rule Book must be present at scoring table during each game (home team supplied) If not present \$25 fine will be issued by the league office.

Home Game Supervisor - A designated representative must be present for each game played at

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the home team site. The HGS's role is to deal with any problems that may arise during a game either during game play or outside of it. Ideally the HGS is not a coach that is present, however, coaches may rotate responsibility when their team is not playing. The HGS cannot be coaching a game and be the HGS. If no HGS is designated a \$25 fine will be issued by the league office.

Jump Balls – will be used to start the game and any overtime period. An alternating possession arrow will be used at all other times.

Warm-ups – teams should be given adequate time to warm-up to prevent injuries.

Uniforms – it is recommended that uniforms consist of jerseys with numbers on the front and back. It is recommended that only digits 0-5 be used to help officials. Shirts worn under uniforms must be of the same color. All shirts must be tucked in at all times with the exception of uniforms specifically designed to fit outside the shorts. Home teams choose the color of the uniform, and must communicate this information to the visiting team at least one day prior to the game.

10.1. *Mouth Guards-**it will be optional for** players to wear a mouth guard during games.*

Fouls – any player committing five (5) fouls in a game is disqualified from that game. Teams will shoot one-and-one after seven (7) team fouls per half. Teams will be over the limit with ten (10) team fouls. When this occurs, their opponents will shoot two (2) free throws for the remainder of the half or game, including overtime.

Technical Fouls – any player and/or coach who receives two (2) technical fouls in a game will be disqualified from that game and must leave the contest area immediately. The athletic director or designee at the home site is responsible for having MCSBL suspension notification forms readily available for the game officials to complete at the conclusion of the game. Copies of the suspension notification form must be forwarded to both schools' principal/school coordinator and the league office within two (2) days from the date of the incident. Any player and/or coach who is disqualified twice in the same season is now suspended and ineligible to participate in the school's next scheduled league contest. Three time offenders shall be suspended for the remainder of the season.

**Any rule not listed here will be in accordance with NFB regulations.**