

RULE III - YOUTH BASKETBALL

ARTICLE I - ELIGIBILITY

SECTION A - AGE DIVISIONS

- (1) The age Control Date is on or before September 1st of the previous year.
- (2) There are (5) Boys and (3) Girls age divisions. The divisions are:
 - (a) Boys and girls ages 8 and under
 - (b) Boys and girls ages 10 and under
 - (c) Boys and girls ages 12 and under
 - (d) Boys and (girls) ages 14 and under
 - (e) Boys and (girls) ages 18 and under
- (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)
- (5) **Regular season basketball team rosters due January 15 to District Recreational Sports Chair.**

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 two Affiliate teams to represent its District at the State level of competition in each age group.
- (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 and runner-up of each age group from every district and/or sub district division plus the state tournament host team. The request for additional teams shall go from the tournament host to all the district sports chairs.
- (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 and runner-up 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

Age Division	Length of Game
8 & Under Boys and Girls	Six (6) minute quarters
10 & Under Boys and Girls	Six (6) minute quarters
12 & Under Boys and Girls	Six (6) minute quarters
14 & Under Boys	Six (6) minute quarters
18 & Under Boys	Eight (8) 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 age groups 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) **8 & Under / 10 & Under:** 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:** 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) A team cannot press (apply full court pressure on defense) if ahead by 20 or more points. This rule applies to all age divisions
- (11) **Mercy Rule:** Any time a team leads by 30 or more points at any point in the second half of a game the clock will run and only stop on timeouts and end of quarter.

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) 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.
- (3) Basketballs, Goal Height and Free Throw Line Distance (please see table below):
 - (a) All basketballs that meet the current standards of the Alabama High School Athletic Association shall be used.
 - (b) No other basketballs except those approved above shall be used for ARPA games unless approved by the Recreational Sports Committee Chairperson.

Age Division	Ball Size	Goal Height	Free Throw Line Distance
8 & Under Boys and Girls	28.5" (women's ball)	8' Feet	12 Feet
10 & Under Boys and Girls	28.5" (women's ball)	10' Feet	12 Feet
12 & Under Boys	29.5" (men's ball)	10' Feet	15 Feet
12 & Under Girls	28.5" (women's ball)	10' Feet	15 Feet
14 & Under Boys	29.5" (men's ball)	10' Feet	15 Feet
18 & Under Boys	29.5" (men's ball)	10' Feet	15 Feet

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.

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) must be complete by the last Saturday in February. All rosters must be signed off on before play begins on the last Saturday in February by a Rec Sports Committee Member. A committee member cannot sign off on rosters of the departments they are employed by.

SECTION B - STATE

- (1) The State Tournaments in all divisions of basketball shall be:
 - a) **Two game guarantee (single pool game seeds into predetermined single elimination bracket.)**
 - b) **Champion and Runner-up only from each District, plus a host team, will be allowed in each age division.**
 - c) **Both District Champion and Runner-up will be required to advance to State** to be scheduled on the following dates:
All divisions (8 & Under, 10 & Under, 12 & Under, 14 & Under, and 18 & Under) to be played on the second Friday, Saturday and Sunday (if necessary) in March.
 - d) **If you do not show up for pool play game, in basketball, you are automatically disqualified from the tournament. Host city keeps your entry fee.**
- (2) State Tournament pairings will be determined by Blind Draw by a group of at least 3 individuals composed of the State Recreational Sports Committee Chairperson, Tournament Director and District Recreational Sports Committee Members.
- (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, the following scheduled game, and may be dismissed from ARPA competition by a State Recreational Sports Committee member, Tournament Director, or District Commissioner (at the District level only).
- (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 per team.
- (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. Tournament host will be responsible for paying this fee to the state office.