

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

PART 1

RULES & REGULATIONS

RULE 1 – TOURNAMENTS

The official Tournaments of the Antigua & Barbuda Basketball Association (hereinafter referred to as the Association) shall be:

- a) The National League & Play- off Championships
- b) The Women's Championships
- c) The Business League Tournament
- d) Youth Competition
- e) Other tournaments /competitions sanctioned and officially recognized by the Association.

RULE 2 – DUTY OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association shall do all in its power to ensure that competent persons, maintaining absolute impartially, are selected and/ or appointed to successfully administer any competition/tournament held under its auspices.

RULE 3 – ADMINISTRATION

The responsibility for the administration of the Association's affairs is fully vested in the Executive Committee elected by the general membership in accordance with the Constitution of the Association.

RULE 4 – GOVERNING RULES

All tournaments/competition, where practical, shall be governed by the Official basketball Rules of FIBA, to which the Association shall remain, affiliated, at all times.

RULE 5 – APPLICATION OF RULES

These rules shall be applicable to all officials and players participating in any game, competition or tournament organized or sanctioned by the association and also to National players while on local or overseas assignments.

RULE 6 – LEAGUE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- 1) The executive shall appoint a League Management Committee under the direction of one of its members, prior to the start of each season. The Committee shall be charged with responsibility of making sure that all officials tournaments/competitions rules and regulations are known and consistently adhered to and shall:
 - a) Supervise and approve all playing venue and technical equipment.
 - b) Approve, organize and manage personnel assigned to the scorers' table
 - c) Approve final scores at the end of each game in conjunction with the referees.
 - d) Examine and forward protests, injury reports and disciplinary matters to the General Secretary of the Association where necessary for appropriate handling.
 - e) Make recommendations to the Executive Committee for improvement of the League.

RULE 7 – REGISTRATION

1. Registration in any tournament/ completion shall be done in writing on an appropriate registration form supplied by the General Secretary, before the commencement of the said tournament / competition.
2. The Executive shall administer the following Divisions during the domestic league & playoff championships:
 - a) 1st Division (males)
 - b) 2nd Division (males)
 - c) 3rd Division (males)
 - d) Female League comprising any number of teams (where applicable).
 - e) Youth League (where applicable)

RULE 8 – DUTIES OF TEAMS

1. Affiliation

It is the duty of each team desirous of competing in any tournament/completion of the Association, to become a member by remitting the membership fee subscribed.

2. Participation

Participation in any domestic tournament /competition of the Association is open to all member clubs/teams and shall be done on the appropriate form in accordance with these rules.

3. Fees

- a) The Executive Committee shall, at its discretion, set registration and membership fees

All fees are subject to review and change at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

4. Meetings

All teams / Clubs who are members of the Association shall be obligated to be represented at all General Meetings at which adequate notice is given or be subject to a fine of \$100.00.

5. Insurance

All Teams are required to subscribe to the Insurance Policy negotiated annually by the Executive in order to be allowed participation in any tournament /competition of the Association.

6. Deadline for Entry

Deadline for registration and entry in any tournament /competition shall be set at the discretion of the Executive Committee and participating teams shall be obligated to respect these deadlines or may be subject to withdrawal.

RULE 9- OPENING CEREMONY

1. All teams/ club registered to participate on the annual domestic League & Play- off must attend the Opening Ceremony and present at least eight (8) uniformed players.
 - a) Teams who fail to participate in the Opening Ceremony with the required number of uniformed players shall be subject to a fine.
 - b) This fine is subject to waiver and /or change at the sole discretion of the Executive Committee.

RULE 10- FORFEITURE

1. Any team that forfeits three (3) consecutive games during any one (1) tournament/competition, shall be suspended from further participating in the current league program, and may also be subject to a fine of not more than \$500.

RULE 11 – RESPECT

1. All players participating in any tournament/competition of the Association must respect the referees, umpires, table officials, Executive members, and each other, during any game at any official venue being used by the Association.
2. Any player found guilty of breaching this rules shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

RULE 12 – TRANSFER

1. Any player may be transferred from one (1) registered team to another, provided that said transfer occurs during the prescribed period indicated by the Executive committee prior to the commencement of the league.
2. Any player wishing to transfer must first complete and submit a transfer form to the Secretary of the Association. This form to be provided by the Association must be accompanied by a fee of \$100.00 and must be forwarded at least 24 hours before the next scheduled game of the new team in order for that player to participate in said game. Alternatively, participation commences at the next proceeding game once all requirements have been fully met.

RULE 13 – NATIONAL COACHES SELECTION

1. All registered team Coaches and Assistant Coaches are eligible for selection as National Coach and Assistant.
2. National Coaches appointment shall be based on the following selection criteria:
 - a) Exemplary attitude to players and officials on and off the court of play.
 - b) Respect for the rules of the game and the officials
 - c) Overall knowledge and concept of the game
 - d) Teams' overall league and playoff performance
 - e) Teams' attitude and behavior
 - f) Demonstrated leadership and control of team.
 - g) Coaches 'certification and or voluntary service to the Association would be considered an asset.
 - h) Any other criteria that the Executive Committee considers appropriate.

RULE 14 - NATIONAL TRAINING SQUAD

1. Selection to the National Training squad for possible selection to National Team, shall be done by a select committee appointed by the Executive Committee.
2. All registered players participating in the domestic league shall be eligible for selection to the national training squad.

3. All overseas-based players who are eligible to represent Antigua and Barbuda shall be eligible for selection to the National Training Team.
4. Players shall be selected to the National Training Squad based on the following criteria:
 - a) Participation in the current league and playoff
 - b) Participating in professional or international basketball leagues overseas.
 - c) Overall performance in the league and play-off
 - d) Respect for the rules and officials of the game
 - e) Demonstrated team leadership
 - f) Command of position played on the court versatility and fitness
5. It shall be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee to approve any selectee to the national training squad.
6. The selection of the final team for national day shall be the sole responsibility of the National Coach and his Assistant but subject, at all times, to ratification by the Executive Committee.

RULE 15 - DUTIES OF OFFICIALS

1. The referees are responsible for the application and interpretation of the official Basketball Rules of FIBA. They must make certain that the interest of the two (2) competing teams on the court is in no way encroached upon.

RULE 16 – PROCEDURE FOR PROTEST

1. During any tournament/competition, a team/club that believes its interest have been adversely affected by a decision of an official (referee, umpire or game commissioner) or by any event that took place immediately before or during a game, must proceed in the following manner:
 - a. The captain of the Team must, immediately following the game, respectfully inform the referee that his /her team is protesting the result of the game and sign the score sheet in the appropriate space marked “ Captain ‘s Signature in case of Protest “.
 - b. The referee or table official is required to notify the General Secretary of the Executive Committee of the action of the protesting team through the submission of a game report, for appropriate handling.
 - c. In order for a team to make a protest declaration valid, the team is further required to fill out a protest form and submit to the General Secretary of the Association within 24 hours of the said game.
 - i. Each Protest Form must be accompanied a fee of \$100.00, which shall only be refundable if the protest action succeeds.

All protest matters shall be handled expeditiously and shall be decided upon the Disciplinary & Protest Committee.

RULE 17- DISCIPLINE

- 17.1 Authority of Disciplinary Committee

- a. The Disciplinary and Protest Committee has the power to hear and protests and to adjudicate charges made against persons, affiliated associations, teams or clubs arising from or related to basketball activities, matches and competitions conducted by the ABBA.
- b. The committee shall have power to suspend, disqualify, reprimand, fine, or ban any person involved with basketball in accordance with these procedures regarding any incident arising from an activity conducted by the ABBA.
- c. The Committee must at all times act independently and impartially in carrying out its duties in accordance with these procedures.

17.2 Membership of the Committee

- a. The Committee panel shall be appointed by ABBA and shall comprise of no less than three (3) persons, one of whom shall be a chairperson who shall be a person of experience and skills suitable to the function of chairing the Committee and discharging the responsibilities set out in these procedures.
- b. Where the chairperson or member resigns or is dismissed such that a vacancy exists on the Committee, the Executive shall act to fill such vacancy by appointing a replacement for that position as soon as is reasonably practical to do so.
- c. Wherever possible, matters referred to the Committee for determination shall be heard by three members of the Committee as determined by the chairperson, however a quorum of the Committee shall be two (2) members.

17.3 Responsibilities of Committee chairperson

- a. Without limiting the duties of the Committee chairperson as set out under the various clauses of these procedures, a person appointed to the position of chairperson shall have the following responsibilities:
 - i. To ensure accurate records are kept of all of the Committee's proceedings and decisions and to make such records available to the Association upon request;
 - ii. To communicate to ABBA the results of hearings of the Committee;
 - iii. To chair hearings of the Committee or to ensure that such task is delegated to a member of the Committee;
 - iv. To raise with any proposed Committee member any potential or possible conflict of interest which may arise from time to time.

17.4 Meeting of the Committee

- a. The Committee will be convened to hear charges arising from a match as soon as is practicable, preferably prior to the next round of matches occurring.
- b. Notification of persons charged under these procedures shall include details of the day, time and place of the Committee hearing at which the charge will be heard in accordance with these procedures.

17.5 Reports by officials

- a. Any official, who has been so empowered by ABBA, shall be entitled to report any person, team or club who, in the opinion of the official has committed an offence under these procedures.

17.6 Investigations

- a. Where the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association or an official of ABBA believes an offence may have been committed or the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association receives a letter of complaint, but no report has been made, ABBA may investigate, or appoint a person to investigate, the alleged offence. If after the investigation it, or the person appointed to investigate recommends that a report should be made ABBA, or the person appointed by it may make a report.
- b. A report arising out of an investigation conducted under this clause should be made within 1 week of the date on which the alleged offence took place.

17.7 Duties of Officials making a report

- a. Any official who makes a report under these procedures shall ensure that the charged person, team or club is notified of the report, as well as any other person involved in the report and all other match officials as soon as possible after the report is made.
- b. An official who makes a report shall enter the details of the alleged offence(s) on the report form issued by ABBA for that purpose as soon as possible after the match or other activity, noting all the particulars in connection with the report so that a clear account can be given to the Committee when the report is to be dealt with.
- c. An official who makes a report shall lodge a report form with the General Secretary of ABBA, as soon as possible after the activity.

17.8 Duties of General Secretary upon receiving a report

- a. ABBA shall require each team entered in competitions to designate on the entry form the telephone number of the team secretary, or manager, to be used for notification of reports.
- b. To notify the reporting official and any other officials or witnesses required to be in attendance, of the date, time and place of the hearing.
- c. To notify the chairperson (or his/her delegate) of the Disciplinary Committee that a report has been received, and to deliver to the chairperson (or his/her delegate) of the Committee the report form and any other information relevant to the case

17.9 Period between report & hearing

- a. A charged person, team or club shall be entitled to participate in basketball competitions conducted by the ABBA until such time as the committee has heard and determined the report.

17.10 Attendance at hearings

- a. The following persons may be required to attend a disciplinary hearing conducted under these procedures:
 - i. The charged person;
 - ii. The president, secretary or other delegate representing a charged team or club;
 - iii. The reporting official(s);
 - iv. Any other person involved in the report;
 - v. Witnesses as indicated by the reporting official or charged person to be notified by the officer designated
 - vi. Any witness required by the Committee.
 - vii. ABBA Executive Representatives

17.11 Non-attendance at hearings

- a. If any charged person (or representative) fails to attend a hearing, the hearing may proceed and a determination made by the Committee in the absence of the charged person, team or club,

provided that the Committee is satisfied that all notification procedures under these procedures have been carried out.

- b. A charged person, team or club or reporting official may apply to the Disciplinary Committee to have a hearing adjourned, this will be at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee, and if the application is granted a new date shall be fixed.
- c. A charged person who is unable to attend a hearing shall be entitled to appoint a representative to appear in his/her place.
- d. If any witness fails to attend a hearing, the hearing may continue in their absence.
- e. If a reporting official fails to attend a hearing, the hearing may proceed and a determination made by the Committee in the absence of the reporting official, provided that the Committee is satisfied that all notification procedures under these procedures have been carried out.

17.12 Procedures of the Disciplinary Committee

- a. For the purpose of this clause, a reference to a charged person includes a reference to the representative(s) of a charged team or club.
- b. The procedures of the Disciplinary Committee shall be determined by the committee and shall be outlined to any all parties prior to the hearing of any disciplinary matter.

17.13 Offences and Penalties

This Clause sets out the standard offences and maximum penalties to be applied where a Committee has established a charge.

- Unsportsmanlike behavior: Maximum penalty: 3 games suspension
 - Obscene racial gestures: Maximum penalty: 3 games suspension
 - Offensive language (which may include abusive, obscene or insulting language): Maximum penalty: 5 games suspension
 - Attempting to strike a player / official etc.: Maximum penalty: 3 games suspension
 - Striking a player/ official etc. or fighting: Maximum penalty: 8 games suspension
 - Coaching, playing while under suspension: Maximum penalty: 2 games per instance plus the suspension period
 - Deliberately endangering the safety, health, of the players, spectators, officials: Maximum penalty: 10 games suspension
 - Conduct which brings the game of Basketball into disrepute: Maximum penalty: 5 games suspension
- a. Where charges arising from one particular incident are heard together and the Committee finds the person or team guilty of more than one offence, it may impose a single penalty, being not more than the maximum penalty for the most serious of the offences, or it may impose individual penalties for each offence.
 - b. A penalty handed down under this clause shall commence from the date of the Committee finding unless otherwise expressly directed by the Committee.

- c. Where a Committee imposes more than one period of suspension, it may impose them to be served concurrently or cumulatively or partly concurrently and partly cumulatively.

17.14 Right of Appeal

A person seeking to appeal a decision of the Committee must:

- a. Submit a notice stating full details of charges and results thereof and stating in full the grounds of appeal with the General Secretary of ABBA within seven (7) days of the notification of a determination of a hearing ("Notice of Appeal").
- b. Pay the appeal fee to the Treasurer or General Secretary of ABBA when submitting the Notice of Appeal, which shall be \$100.00
- c. An Appellant shall be notified within seven (7) days of receipt of the Notice of Appeal as to whether an appeal hearing is to be granted and the time, date and place of the Appeal hearing, in the event that it is granted.

17.15 Appeal Committee

- a. If an appeal hearing is granted, the Executive of ABBA or their nominee shall convene an Appeal Committee to hear and determine the appeal in accordance with these procedures.
- b. An Appeal Committee shall consist of no fewer than three (3) persons appointed by the Executive of ABBA from time to time to hear appeals as required by the Association.
- c. Members of an Appeal Committee will preferably have experience in hearing and determining disciplinary matters in sport, however need not have any particular experience with the sport of basketball.

17.16 Serving of Penalties

- a. Where the Committee imposes a penalty that prevents the Appellant from participating in a match, the appellant shall serve that penalty pending the determination of the appeal.

17.17 Procedures of the Appeals Committee

- a. The General Secretary of ABBA shall forward records of the hearing in which the matter the subject of the Appeal was heard at first instance to the chairperson of the Appeal Committee.
- b. The Appeal Committee is not obliged to give oral or written reasons for a decision.
- c. The Appeal Committee shall have the discretion to conduct the hearing as a complete rehearing or to limit the hearing to consideration of the ground(s) of appeal relied upon by the Appellant.
- d. An Appeal Committee shall have the power to:
 - i. Dismiss the appeal;
 - ii. Uphold the appeal;
 - iii. Impose any of the penalties set out in these procedures.
 - iv. Reduce, increase or otherwise vary any penalty imposed by the initial hearings in such manner as it thinks fit.

The chairperson shall notify the Executive of ABBA or their nominee of the decision of the Appeal Committee.

17.18 Single Right of Appeal

- a. There is only one right of appeal following the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. The Appeal Committee must solely and exclusively resolve any appeal and the decision of the Appeal Committee is final and binding on the parties.

PART 2

GUIDELINES FOR PLAY

Regulation 1 – UNIFORM

1. All registered Teams are required to report for the annual Opening proceedings and official games properly uniformed.
2. Team uniform shall be numbered from 1-15, from 20-25 from 30-35, etc.
3. Any player who desires to wear an undergarment under his/his uniform, such garment must be of the same majority color of the uniform.
4. Any player entering the court of play during an official game must be properly attired; i.e. socks must be worn and visible above the ankle, vest or jersey must be properly tucked into shorts and shoes must be tightly laced up.
5. No wearing of jewelry is allowed while on the court of play.

Regulation 2 – DURATION OF GAME

1. Games shall be conducted according to the Official FIBA Rules

Regulation 3 – TEAM ARRIVAL

1. It is the teams' responsibility to arrive at the game venue at least twenty (20) minutes before the schedules start of any game. However, a fifteen (15) minute "grace " period will be extended to each team in case of late arrival. Should the team fail to present a fully uniformed starting five (5) at the expiration of the "grace "period, it shall forfeit the game to the opposing team.

Regulation 4 – BEHAVIOR OF TEAM & FOLLOWERS ON THE BENCH

1. The team management /coach /captain is fully responsible for the behavior of his /her players, team officials and any other party given permission to occupy the players' bench. Therefore, any infraction by the bench will be subject to the rules of the game.
2. All other spectators, team followers and fans are to occupy seats in the area designated for such seating (i.e., the spectator stand).

Regulation 5 – CHARGED TIME OUTS

1. The duration of charged time-out is always one (1) minute. It is not possible to resume the game earlier when the team requesting the time-out is ready to play.

2. It is required that the Coach, or in his /her absence, the Assistant coach or team captain, signs in the designated area on the official score sheet. Only the person who has signed is allowed to signal or call an official time-out.

Regulation 6 – REFEREES’ MANDATE

1. The referees’ mandate (at the venue) commences twenty (20) minutes before the official start of any game and ends twenty (20) minutes after close of the said game. Therefore, during this duration, all players and teams officials are subject to the rules of the game.

Regulation 7 – ON THE COURT OF PALY

1. The Team Captain, or in his /her absence, the acting captain, is in charge of his/her team while on the court of play.
2. Only the registered captain, manager or coach is allowed to address or question the referee or game officials on any matter during a game, provided that they do so respectfully and in the “true “ spirit of the Game.
 - a) The referees are under an obligation to answer any concern when appropriately addressed by the Coach or Team captain.
 - b) Any other personnel or player, who chooses to do so, risks being called for an infraction (technical foul) of this rule, at the Referee’s discretion.
3. All participants in official tournament/ competitions must respect the spirit of fair play and display good sportsmanship both on and off the court of play.

PART 3

REFEREES’ CODE OF ETHICS

1. Referees’ and umpires shall dress as outlined in the Officials Rules of FIBA, while officiating.
2. Members of the Referees’ Committee should not criticize each other openly except in appropriate meeting of the Committee.
3. Members shall not display embarrassing conduct on or around the court or play.
4. Members have the right to defend his or herself physically attack by a player or spectator.

PART 4

DISCIPLINARY CODE

The Executive Committee of the Antigua & Barbuda Basketball Association is obligated to ensure that any game played under its auspices, are played in the best interest of all its members and registered players.

Therefore, all players and appropriate officials are being forewarned that any unwarranted and unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated and will be dealt with accordingly by the appropriate body. In an effort to achieve this, it has been found necessary to state the following disciplinary guidelines, which every player / official is expected to abide by:

1. Any member/ player who verbally assaults or insults an Executive member, referee or table official, which he/she is carrying out duty, whether immediately before, during or immediately after a game or any other activity organized by the Association, may be subject to Discipline by the Disciplinary Committee subject to appeal to the Appeals Committee.

2. Any player being ejected from the game will be automatically suspended from the next scheduled game of which his/her team is participating and may be further subject to attend for a disciplinary interview with the appropriate body if a formal report is made by the referee.
 - a) Any disciplinary situation or question of interpretation of these rules and regulations that arises and which are not otherwise mentioned or made clear above shall be subjected to the discretion and interpretation of the Executive Committee if the Association.

The Executive Committee reserves the right to add to, alter, change or in any way amend these rules and regulations in the interest of maintaining discipline and improving the overall conduct of the game.

Signed:

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President

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Secretary

Date