



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

2025 HOWARD COUNTY ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE RULES

www.hcrpsports.org/adultbasketballleagues

The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, through the League Commissioner, reserves the right to amend the rules and schedules as conditions may warrant.

1. ROSTERS

- 1.1. Each team shall be limited to twelve (12) players on its official roster.
- 1.2. **Rosters must be complete by your first game.** Failure to complete a roster before the first game will result in forfeiture of every game until the roster is on file with the League. Officials will not be assigned to any game in which a team does not have a roster on file with the League office.
- 1.3. Rosters are to be submitted on the official roster form through SportsEngine. Players listed without electronic signature and age are ineligible.
- 1.4. A player can only be on the roster of one team per night. Players cannot change to a different team at any point during the season. Teams cannot add players after the third game of the season.
- 1.5. Any additions or deletions must be put in writing and submitted to the League office before the player is eligible to play. Additions must include the player's full name, signature, address, and home and/or work phone numbers.
- 1.6. Teams using ineligible players shall forfeit each game in which the individual played. Further infractions will be subject to disciplinary actions as deemed necessary by the League Commissioner.
- 1.7. Any team using a suspended player or player under an assumed name, shall be dropped from the League; all games played using that player plus all remaining scheduled games shall be forfeited and no refund provided.
- 1.8. **Players must carry photo identification to each game and shall produce it upon request of the scorekeeper.**
- 1.9. Protests concerning an ineligible player must be submitted in writing by the Team Manager to the League Commissioner office within 48 hours of the game; no protest fee is required.
- 1.10. Teams are only allowed one coach. Coach must be on the team roster.
- 1.11. Only rostered players and coach may sit on the bench. All spectators must remain in the stands.

2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1. All players must be at least 18 years of age.
 - 2.1.1. For the 30+ & 40+ leagues the players must be at least 30 or 40 years old during the calendar year of participation. (e.g., if a 30th birthday falls on or before Dec. 31, player is considered to have met the minimum age requirement for that entire calendar year).
 - 2.1.2. For the 30+ league each team may carry one player between the ages of 28-29 years of age.
 - 2.1.3. For the 40+ league each team may carry one player between the ages 38-39 years of age.
 - 2.1.4. Proof-of-age documentation must be provided if requested. Use of an under-aged player will result in a forfeit.
- 2.2. Teams may not play in more than one division in the same day/night.

3. GAME RULES

- 3.1. Games are played using National Federation High School (NFHS) rules with the following modifications:
 - 3.1.1. Length of games will be two (2) twenty (20) minute "running clock" halves with a five (5) minute break between halves. Overtime period(s) shall be three (3) minutes.
 - 3.1.2. The clock will stop when an official signals:
 - 3.1.2.1. Unusual delay in getting a dead ball alive.
 - 3.1.2.2. Injury time out.
 - 3.1.2.3. Any technical or flagrant foul.
 - 3.1.2.4. Any whistle during the final two (2) minutes of each half.
 - 3.1.2.5. Any whistle during the final one (1) minute of each overtime.
- 3.2. Each team has **two (2) one-minute time outs per half**. Unused timeouts do NOT carry into overtime. Each team will be given one (1) timeout per overtime.
- 3.3. Teams may start and finish a game with a **minimum four (4) players**; Teams starting with 5 players can drop to 4 players and complete the game. Teams who drop below 4 players will forfeit the game.
 - 3.3.1. Game time is forfeiture time; there is no "grace period."
- 3.4. During free throws eligible players may enter the lane upon release of the ball.
- 3.5. **NO DUNKING** or hanging on the rim is allowed at any time (before, during or after a game) in any facility. If this occurs the goal will be canceled, and the player will be **ejected** and **suspended for TWO games**. A warning will be given to both teams. The opposing team will take possession of the ball.

- 3.6. Players, Managers, Coaches or Team Followers will be ejected from the game and facility upon receiving a flagrant foul or any two technical fouls (player, substitute, bench or administrative).

4. **UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT**

- 4.1. Uniforms - each player must wear the same color jersey (color-coordinated shirt) with a minimum five-inch (5") number on the back. Teams that do not have the appropriate uniform will be issued a two shot technical with loss of possession at the start of the game.
- 4.2. Each team should have an alternative color coordinated shirt for each player in the event both teams have the same color jersey/shirts. It is the home team's responsibility to change to their alternate color if both teams are wearing the same color.
- 4.3. 29.5" basketball (men's divisions) or 28.5" basketball (women's divisions) is the only approved ball for this league. The referee has the right to determine if a ball is illegal and require a legal ball to be used. Home team will provide a legal ball. If a team cannot provide a legal ball, they will forfeit the game.
- 4.4. The referee has the final say on the legality of equipment.
- 4.5. Jewelry is prohibited. Religious and medical-alert medals are not considered jewelry. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical-alert medal must be taped and may be visible.
- 4.6. The referee shall not permit any team member to wear equipment or apparel which, in his/her judgment, is dangerous or confusing to other players or is not appropriate.

5. **FACILITIES & SCHOOL RULES**

- 5.1. No street shoes are permitted on the basketball court.
- 5.2. No food or drink is permitted in the gym or surrounding areas.
- 5.3. No smoking is permitted in or on the school / facility property.
- 5.4. Children are permitted in the gym only when accompanied by an adult.
- 5.5. Disobeying any school or facility rule or regulation will result in the team being dropped from the League.

6. **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

- 6.1. Game officials' judgement calls are final.
- 6.2. **Any player, coach, manager or team follower ejected by an official must vacate the building within four (4) minutes of the ejection.** The officials will indicate to the scorekeeper to stop the game clock and start the 4-minute clock. The game will not be restarted until the person who is ejected has vacated the building. It is the responsibility of the team manager or other members of the team to ensure the person ejected has vacated the building. Failure to comply will result in further suspensions and the team's forfeiture of the game. **Ejected persons shall also be suspended for at least one (1) additional game.** A second ejection during the same season may result in further suspensions of up to a period of one (1) year. And automatic suspension from any Department Sports sponsored activity for a period of at least one (1) year from the date of the second incident.
- 6.3. If a suspended player attends the game for which they are suspended, that player must stay in the spectator area (cannot be on the team bench or near the score table).
- 6.4. **Anyone one who strikes, shoves, pushes, bumps, trips or otherwise molests, harasses or threatens an official, teammate, opponent, scorekeeper, league/facility staff, or team follower shall be suspended for at least one (1) year from the date of the incident.**
- 6.5. A player, coach or manager found conducting unsportsmanlike behavior before, during or after the game could result in suspension.
- 6.6. Any misconduct or inappropriate behavior on Howard County property could result in suspension.
- 6.7. Suspensions carry over into the next season.
- 6.8. Any unsportsman-like conduct may result in further disciplinary action against that player or team.
- 6.9. The Howard County employee's manual requires the Department to take action against anyone who harasses any Department of Recreation and Parks staff.
- 6.10. Substance abuse by any persons during the game shall be subject to ejection by officials and/or further disciplinary action(s) taken by the League Commissioner.
- 6.11. Any player, coach or manager suspended from play in another program or jurisdiction shall also be suspended from participation in any program operated by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks.
- 6.12. Refer to the "Standard Rules for Adult Sports" for further disciplinary actions.

7. **SCORE REPORTING & STANDINGS**

- 7.1. It is both teams' responsibility to check the final score online within two days of the game date. Please email the League Commissioner to report any concerns with a game score.
- 7.2. Official standings will be kept on file at the Department. General standings can be viewed at www.hcrpsports.org/adultbasketballleagues. The purpose of score reporting is to ensure proper divisional play and to determine playoffs seeding. **The website will display un-official standings.** Official standings are kept on file at the league office.
- 7.3. Standings will be calculated as follows:

- 7.3.1. Scoring Point system: 2pts for a Win, 1pt for a Tie, 0 pts for a Loss
- 7.3.2. Win percentage: (Total recorded wins + (.5 x number of ties) / Total Games)
- 7.3.3. Forfeits: A win will be assessed to the non-forfeiting team. A score of 15-0 will be entered.
- 7.4. Tie breakers will be:
 - 7.4.1. Head to Head (always goes back to head to head if tied in any scenario)
 - 7.4.2. Point Differential teams within the tie
 - 7.4.3. Point Differential of overall record
- 8. **REFEREES**
 - 8.1. Referees are using their best judgement. They are not required to explain judgement calls but may explain some calls if approached by a player or team manager in a respectful manner.
 - 8.2. Referees are on the court to be the only unbiased arbiters of the game. Referees are not concerned with who wins or loses, but only fairness and safety. Players commit fouls and violations; officials view those infractions, judge the action, and then apply the rules of the game to what they had viewed. The rules then determine the penalty.
 - 8.3. Officials have been instructed to call technical fouls for profanity, unsporting acts and excessive complaints or verbal abuse.
 - 8.4. Referees have the power to remove any player(s) or spectator(s) from the game or the facility if they are in violation of the League Rules, Adult Sports League Standard Rules, Facility Rules or County Policy.
- 9. **REFEREE PAYMENT**
 - 9.1. At or prior to the start of the game, each team manager is responsible for the \$45 (cash) referee fee per game (on-site). The referee fee **MUST** be paid prior to the start of the game otherwise it is considered a forfeit and the game will be canceled.
 - 9.2. Once the game has started, the referee fees are non-refundable regardless of how many minutes have been played.
 - 9.3. In the event only one referee is on the court, then each team manager is responsible for the \$33 (cash) referee fee per game (on-site).
 - 9.4. The Department covers the referee payment during the playoff tournament.
- 10. **FORFEITS**
 - 10.1. Games rescheduled by the Department must be played as rescheduled or forfeited.
 - 10.2. A forfeit is considered a game. Forfeited games will not be rescheduled. A 15-0 win will be given to the team that did not forfeit.
 - 10.2.1. Teams that forfeit are responsible for all officials' fees for the forfeited game. Forfeiting teams will not receive a refund. The fee will be based on the per game fee the game referees are paid. Two forfeits in a given season may result in being ineligible for playoffs and/or being dropped from the league without the possibility of a refund. **Forfeit Penalty is \$90 per game forfeited.**
 - 10.2.2. **Forfeiting teams must call 410-313-7275 to pay the \$90 forfeit fee by Friday at Noon** (Office hours Monday-Friday 8AM-4:30PM) **before their next scheduled game.** If you fail to do so you will be removed from the league without refund and will not be eligible for the playoffs. A forfeit invoice will then be mailed to the team manager for payment. If payment is not remitted, further action will be taken.
 - 10.3. Forfeit with notice – if a team knows that it will not have enough players for a future game, the team manager shall contact the League Commissioner at least 36 hours prior to the said game to be forfeited. In doing so, the game will still result in a 15-0 forfeit loss, but your team will not be charged the \$90 forfeit fee as the League Commissioner will have time to notify the opposing team and referees.
- 11. **MISCELLANEOUS**
 - 11.1. **Awards will be given to the post-season tournament champion.**
 - 11.2. Unless otherwise denoted by the League Commissioner, all teams are eligible for the playoff tournament. Teams are seeded according to team win/loss records for the single-elimination playoff tournament.
 - 11.3. A player who is bleeding or who has blood on his/her uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. A player shall not continue competition unless the bleeding is controlled, and the wound covered.
 - 11.4. When rescheduling a make-up game, the League Commissioner will make every effort to first schedule games extending beyond the last game on the same playing day. If that is not possible, then the League Commissioner **reserves the right to reschedule games on any day in order to complete league play.**
 - 11.5. In case of inclement weather on the day of the game, teams and referees should call the Inclement Weather line of the facility in which their game is scheduled. Telephone numbers are listed on the league schedule.

ADULT SPORTS LEAGUES STANDARD RULES

Player Eligibility

Rosters are to be submitted on the official online roster form through SportsEngine by the league deadline. Players listed without electronic signature and age are ineligible.

Managers of adult teams submitting rosters have the freedom to include any eligible 18 or older male or female adult that they have determined has the skills, knowledge and abilities to play at the level of their assigned division. Some sports leagues have age exceptions. Please check the league specific rules for details.

Any individual who has been subject to disciplinary action(s) by the Department may be placed on the Suspension List maintained by the Department of Recreation and Parks. The list shall include the name of the individual suspended and the release date. The League Commissioner will notify team managers if any of their rostered players are on the Suspension List. Any individual on this list will be ineligible to play.

Any team using an ineligible player shall automatically forfeit each game in which the player participated. If a team uses a suspended player or a player under an assumed name, that team shall automatically be dropped from the league without refund and/or be subject to disciplinary actions as deemed necessary by the Department. Each game played with that player and all scheduled games not played shall be forfeited to the opponents.

Protests as to the use of an ineligible player must be made within 48 hours of game time and no protest fee is required. The protest must be submitted in writing to the Department by the team manager.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The Department has the authority to impose sanctions on a team, team members or spectators for inappropriate and/or unsportsmanlike behavior and/or non-compliance with Department policies/guidelines, code of conduct, league rules and standard adult sports leagues rules.

When deemed necessary, the Department will ascertain the pertinent facts and take suitable disciplinary action regarding incidents of unsportsmanlike behavior or violations of Department policies/guidelines, code of conduct, league rules or standard adult sports leagues rules.

Game officials and Department staff shall penalize players, coaches or spectators for unsportsmanlike conduct and/or non-compliance with Department policies/guidelines, code of conduct, league rules or standard adult sports leagues rules.

Game officials and Department staff may suspend play or forfeit a game when, in their judgment, conditions justify such actions. Flagrant or repeated misconduct may result in permanent suspension. Team suspensions can be imposed.

In the event that an incident may require more serious disciplinary action, a Disciplinary Committee of persons will be appointed by the Adult Leagues Manager to determine the length of suspension. Serious disciplinary actions include, but not limited to physical altercations, verbal threats, intimidating behavior towards the other team, fellow team member, officials, or Department staff, etc. Extended suspensions or disciplinary sanctions should be determined within five (5) business days.

A team member who is ejected from a game by an official shall be suspended from any participation for at least 1 game (not including the game from which they were ejected). Any further ejections during the current season shall be dealt with more severely by the League Commissioner.

Anyone who strikes, shoves, pushes, bumps or otherwise physically or verbally threatens an official, a member of their team, any other team, Department staff, or spectators shall automatically be suspended from all Department-sponsored activities for at least 1 year from the date of the incident.

A team member found conducting unsportsmanlike behavior before, during or after the game could result in suspension or other disciplinary sanctions (listed below).

Any misconduct or inappropriate behavior on Howard County property could result in suspension or other disciplinary sanctions (listed below).

Suspensions carry over into the next season.

The use of vulgar or profane language may result in the ejection of that team member from the game.

The team manager is responsible for the conduct of their team and spectators.

A team member and/or spectator may be removed from the immediate field/court area when deemed necessary by the game official or Department staff. Failure to leave the area when requested may result in immediate forfeiture of the game.

The Howard County Employee Manual requires the Department to take action against anyone who harasses any Department of Recreation and Parks staff.

Substance abuse by a team member during the game shall be subject to ejection by game officials and/or disciplinary action to be taken by the League Commissioner.

Any team member suspended from play from another program shall also be suspended from participation in any program operated by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks.

Team or team member probation may be used as a disciplinary sanction if multiple violations have occurred during the league season or if reoccurring violations happen from previous seasons.

Team members who receive disciplinary action from the Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks may request a review of the decision for appealable disciplinary sanctions (listed below). All requests for reviews must be made within 48 hours of the decision. Any such request should be made in writing to the League Commissioner. Individual player protest can only be received through the team manager. All team or individual disciplinary actions are communicated to the team manager. It is the team manager's responsibility to notify their team/player of disciplinary action taken by the Department.

MISCELLANEOUS

Substances such as tobacco, marijuana, and ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PROHIBITED IN THE PARKS & FACILITIES. Spectators under the influence of these substances are also not permitted in parks and facilities. Action will be taken against any individual or team in violation of this policy.

No music is allowed during game play. Officials and players need to be able to hear the game calls.

No smoking or the use of Tobacco products is allowed on the playing field or in the facility.