

Worcester Diocese

Catholic Athletic High School Boys Basketball League

Welcome coaches and teams to the beginning of the Diocesan High School Boys Basketball Program! This program has a wonderful history and tradition, and I know that the history and tradition will continue. The quality and success of this league is directly related to the many hours of service given by dedicated coaches, athletes, referees, gym directors and parents, and we thank all of you for your involvement. This league is an extension of the Office for Youth Ministry.

BASIC RULES OF ELIGIBILITY & GUIDELINES FOR SEASONAL PLAY

1. Participant is a parishioner of the sponsoring parish or church or is a student enrolled at the sponsoring Catholic school. **Please note that a team sponsored by a Catholic school is NOT eligible to participate in the New England Regional Tournament.**
2. Participants must be attending school and have not surpassed the grade requirements for the division they are playing in.
3. A Catholic High School in the diocese may sponsor a team in the diocesan league. However, the players on the team may not be members of the varsity team at that high school. This is in accordance with Rule 1. that states "Participant is a parishioner of the sponsoring parish or church or is a student enrolled at the sponsoring Catholic school."
4. Catholics from other parishes are allowed to play on another parish's team provided their own parish does not have a team. They need to have a release/consent form from their parent(s), and the pastor of the team's parish must give written permission by signing off on the roster making it clear that the teen is not from parish. Letters **must be received** by the NE Worcester office **before** participation in the season. **Multi-parish teams are not allowed to play in the Region 1 tournament, so keep this in mind as you are forming your team.**
5. In the spirit of ecumenism, up **to 2 non-Catholics** are allowed on any one given parish team to play if they have release/consent form from their parent(s) and written permission from the pastor of the team's parish. **Special Note** – The basic intent of non-Catholics participating in any activity is to prevent separation of a group of young people who are frequently together even though one or two of them may not share the same faith. **These players must live within the parish's geographic boundaries if the team is to be eligible for the Region 1 tournament.**
6. **Every Player who is suited at the game must enter the game for at least 2 minutes.** If all players are not played, the game will be forfeited without replay. This rule can be challenged only at game time and up to 5 minutes after the game in question has been played.
7. **Each team must have a First Aid Kit and have it available at each game.** The gym in which the game is played is not responsible for injuries incurred on their property. A game will not start until said First Aid Kit is present.

8. In order to respect the gymnasiums and locker rooms being used throughout the season, all of the gyms are required to have someone (coach or other CORI checked adult) present in the locker room at all times that a player is there. **This is required for all teams.** If damage is done, it will be the responsibility of the individual team, not the diocese or the NEWorcester office. Disciplinary action will be taken. Your cooperation in this matter is essential and expected.
9. If a player or coach is assessed a **technical foul for misconduct** on or off the basketball court, they are ejected from the game as well as the next scheduled game. If a player or a coach is ejected from the game for **fighting** by an official, site coordinator, or director of athletics on or off the basketball court, they will be disqualified for the remainder of the season. **The sponsoring parish is legally responsible for any actions of its participants, players, cheerleaders, chaperones, parents and coaches at all times.**
10. If a team has acquired 2 suspensions or a player/coach during the season, the team will be ineligible for the play-offs regardless of their win/loss record.
11. All players must play in 50% plus 1 of total games (barring injury) to be eligible to play in the *play-offs*. A doctor's note will be required to return in the event of an injury. The statistics for this are kept by the NEWorcester Basketball Coordinator and available only when a protest is filed questioning eligibility.
12. Varsity/premier basketball players are not permitted to play in the league. If it is brought to the athletic coordinator's attention that there is a varsity/premier player playing on the parish team the following actions will be taken – the player will be dropped, and/or all games which he played will be forfeited, and/or the team will be barred from tournaments, and/or teams will be disqualified for the remainder of the season.
13. Division A versus B is determined by coach. If you have a group of players who stand out above the rest, they should be considered for the A division. **For B division winners - if your team won division B the previous year by 90% of the games and over 65% of the players are returning, your team must move up to the A division.**

RULES FOR PROTEST

1. The league coordinator, site coordinator (if different from league coordinator), and Youth Ministry director will consider a protest only when it pertains to a variance from rules of classification and eligibility or misapplication of rules governing play. A protest will not be allowed for judgment calls.
2. Written protests must be turned in to the league coordinator within 48 hours of game protested. Proof must be given before the next scheduled game.
3. The opposing coach should be warned in advance, if possible, of your plans to protest. This might eliminate the reason for the protest.
4. The officials, site coordinators, athletic coordinator, and opposing coaches are to be notified of any protest on the day of the game protested.
5. Decisions will be made by a majority vote of the league coordinator, site coordinator present, and Youth Ministry director.

ROSTERS & UNIFORMS

1. Completed rosters **must** be on file with the Youth Ministry office **before** the **first game of the season**. A team will not be allowed to participate in league play until the completed roster is received in the office. Players may be kept from playing if they do not submit a completed liability and release form. Same goes for the coaches.
2. Players may be added to the roster by written notice to George Valery (basketball coordinator) **up until January 15, 2023**. If release/consent forms are needed to meet eligibility, they must accompany the written request.
3. There is a limit of up to 20 players on a team roster.
4. **The parish priest or youth minister and the coach must sign the roster**. These signatures must be obtained whenever names are added to the roster in order to vouch for the eligibility of every member of the team.
5. All teams must have uniforms appropriate to indoor basketball (i.e. gym shorts and **numerical jerseys** must be of the same standard color). Jerseys **MUST** be legally numbered, front and back and should bear the name of the parish represented. Players **CANNOT** change numbers during the season. Whichever number is next to the player's name when the final rosters are due is their number for the remainder of the season. You, as a coach, have a team that represents the Christian values of your parish/church and the Worcester Diocese. No "hang downs", "cut-offs", or "jams" are allowed. Gym shorts can be used as long as they are all the same color. **Shirts must be tucked in while on the court**.
6. Players must be in grades 9-12 but not exceed 18 years of age at the start of the season.

MORE IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. **The people who signed the roster (the priest, youth minister, coach) are fully and unconditionally responsible for the entrance fee and/or the full payment for participation in the league or tournament, whichever the case may be. Teams ability to play may be jeopardized if payments or arrangements are not made on time.**
2. **The \$1,400 fee can be paid in 2 installments of \$700. We must receive the first installment of \$700 at the time of registration. The final balance of \$700 is due by the end of January.**
3. The Site Coordinator is in charge of the gym site and represents the Youth Ministry office. If the league coordinator is not present, they are ultimately in charge. Please respect their decisions.
4. Coaches should report to the Site Coordinator fifteen (15) minutes before game time to write the line up in the score book, ask for special instructions for the game, and to be informed of any league business if they have not submitted a scoring page via email. A game will be considered a forfeit if a team is more than 10 minutes late for a scheduled start. At the conclusion of the game the coach or his designee will sign the scorebook validating and acknowledging that what is in the scorebook is true and complete. Each game will have a distinct designation. All standings will be published by the Tuesday following the respective weekends. If a game needs to be cancelled due to weather or some other issue, we will make every effort to post it on our Facebook page and have the site coordinator text your cell.

5. Referees make the final decision as to whether a player can continue playing the game if a concussion is suspected. If a referee determines that a player appears to have suffered a concussion, the player must provide a doctor's note stating the player in question is safe to return to play.
6. Play will be regulated by the latest edition of the **National Federation of State High School Associates Basketball Rule Book**. Also, please note the following:
 - a. Games will be 16-minute halves consisting of 6 minute run and 10 minute stop, but if this effects the timing of the games, it will go back to 8 minute run, 8 minute stop. Two 60-second timeouts per half.
 - b. A game will be considered a forfeit in the case of: unsportsmanlike conduct of team, use of any ineligible player, failure to begin a game within 10 minutes of scheduled ^[SEP]time, failure to complete an uninterrupted game at the request of the officials.
 - c. **Coaches are role models and responsible for their conduct and language as well as ^[SEP]the conduct and language of their players and assistant coaches. The Diocese of Worcester will not tolerate profane language or unsportsmanlike conduct. Coaches and/or directors of parish programs or teams are responsible for their own, and their team's proper conduct and any improper conduct may be cause for at least one year's suspension of the offender. Please make sure to offer a team prayer before the start of the game. It can be simple and short.**
 - d. **For all violations including improper conduct on the part of coaches or players: if a player or coach is ejected from a game, that player or coach will sit out the next scheduled game (depending on how serious the offense is, other actions may be taken at the discretion of the athletics coordinator). If a player or coach is ejected from a second game, he/she will no longer be allowed to participate in NEWorchester scheduled games. The coach may be placed on probation and/or the coach may be dropped from the league and/or games may be forfeited, and/or teams barred from Diocesan sponsored tournaments and teams may be disqualified for the remainder of the season.**
7. In compliance with the Diocese of Worcester requirements, all head coaches must be 21+ and all assistant coaches must be 18+. The 18-20 old coach cannot coach w/o the 21+ coach being present. All coaches must be CORI checked through their parish, have attended the Safe Environment Training Program, and read and complied with, then signed the Code of Ministerial Conduct before working with the players. CORI/Code of Ministerial Conduct can be found on the home page of NEWorchester.org. Safe Environment training is hosted by either your parish representative or by contacting the Office for Healing and Prevention at the Worcester Diocese at cpeloquin@worcesterdiocese.org. **The pastor must sign that all the coaches meet all the requirements.**

Coaches are encouraged to participate in other youth ministry education opportunities and the courses offered by the diocesan Collaborative for Education and Ministry as a means of renewing their personal growth and call to ministry.

Coaches are responsible for making sure every player on his/her team is aware of these rules. Teams violating the rules will be subject to consequences.