



HALIFAX HURRICANES MINOR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION



POLICY

Date: August 15, 2024 – for 2024/2025 Registration

To: All Hurricanes Members

From: Halifax Hurricanes Minor Basketball Association

Re: General Club Policies

Assumption of Risk and Waiver:

I understand and acknowledge that the participation in sport, and specifically basketball with the Halifax Hurricanes Minor Basketball Association (the “Club”), results in increased risk of injury, death or harm to myself and the minors for whom I am responsible. I further acknowledge the risk of infection and illness arising from participating in group events in a time of pandemic illness such as COVID-19. I, on behalf of myself and all minors for whom I am legally responsible, voluntarily and unconditionally assume these risks and hereby absolutely, unconditionally and without limitation release 1) the facilities in which the Club operates; and 2) the Club including all its members, volunteers, employees, contractors, officers and directors, from all claims related to any illness, death, harm, loss or damages arising directly or indirectly from my participation in Club events including transportation to or from such events.

COVID-19:

The Club has developed a Back to Play Plan (the “Plan”) setting out the policies and rules that will govern participation in Club events during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Plan is posted on the Club’s website. I agree to abide by and comply with the Plan. I understand and agree that the Plan may be changed in the Club’s discretion as the pandemic evolves and as best practices for running Club events evolve. I acknowledge and agree that failure to abide by the Plan, as it may be changed from time to time, may result in suspension or ejection from the Club without refund.

By attending a Club event or permitting a player for whom you are responsible to attend a Club event, including games, practices or any other gathering organized by the Club, a coach or manager, I confirm that I and the player for which I am responsible are stating that I or we are compliant with then current public health advice which may include stating that:

- I do not have any symptoms associated with COVID-19
- I have not tested positive for COVID-19 and not been cleared by public health as recovered
- I am not awaiting test results for COVID-19 undertaken as a result of an exposure that requires me to self-isolate or due to presence of COVID-19 symptoms
- I have not had a close contact with any person who has currently tested positive for COVID-19, who is awaiting COVID-19 test results due to presence of symptoms
- I am not aware of having attended a potential exposure site
- I have made myself aware of all public health restrictions related to COVID-19, including travel and isolation restrictions, and am complying with all such restrictions.
- I consent to my attendance at Club events being shared with Club personnel, board members, Club COVID Committee members and public health officials for the purposes of contact tracing.

I understand that while the foregoing requirements may not be presently required, the Club's policies with respect to COVID must remain in place and be respected in order to allow the Club and its members to react appropriately and quickly should COVID circumstances and policies change from time to time.

Privacy Policy and Anti-Spam Message:

The Club will never share, sell, or rent individual personal information with anyone without your advance permission. Information submitted to the Club is available to Club management, Club coaches, Basketball Nova Scotia, and the Halifax Metro Basketball Association for purposes of operating the Club and associated league. If required by the Province, the Club may be required to collect information with respect to participant attendance at Club events and participant symptoms for contact tracing purposes. This information will only be shared with the Nova Scotia Health Authority as directed by such authority in relation to the investigation or notification of positive or suspected COVID-19 cases. By registering with the Club, I consent to the collection and sharing described above.

It is important for you to stay in touch with the Club and Basketball Nova Scotia. We send you up-to-date information and details about the programs we are offering. Don't miss out on our updates!

New Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL), requires that you provide your consent in order for Halifax Hurricanes and Basketball Nova Scotia to send you emails with important updates and information. Email will be the only form of communication between the Club and parents/players. By registering you confirm that you wish to receive such emails from the Club.

Consent to Video Recording

The Club shall comply with all video recording policies of Basketball Nova Scotia and any league or tournament in which our players participate. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Club shall be able to impose more stringent restrictions or requirements where the Board of the Club determines that such restrictions or requirements are justified having considered the best interests of all Club participants involved.

Players, coaches, and managers who are registered with the highest division team for each age group within the Club consent to games being video recorded and such recordings being shared publicly.

Players, coaches, and managers who are registered with a team other than the highest division team for each age group within the Club must consent, in writing, to video recording in advance of such recording. 100% consent from players, coaches and managers must be obtained before the Hurricanes team or its opponent, or any parent associated with either team, are permitted to video record the game and share such recording publicly.

Player Placement

All players shall be assessed in accordance with the Club's current player placement policy.

Players will not be re-assessed or moved to a different team unless there is a manifest error in the player's initial placement. Manifest errors are errors that are more than a difference of opinion and can include errors such as a mis-naming or mis-numbering of a player during assessments, a clerical error made when listing teams, or circumstances where the Board, having sought the advice of the Administrative and Technical Director, determines that a reasonable assessment process could not have resulted in such a placement.

Refund Policy:

Refund Policy:

Withdrawal of players causes significant disruption to the player assessment and team placement process. The Club wishes to discourage such disruption in order to be fair to players and families remaining with the Club. Based on the same principles of fairness, the Club also wishes to discourage "club hopping" whereby players tryout for numerous clubs hoping to acquire the highest division placement possible.

Refunds shall only be available in very limited circumstances. In instances where a refund is in dispute the Board shall give preference to not allowing a refund.

Refunds should always be subject to a refund fee set by the Board in its absolute discretion. Refund fees may be used to recoup costs that must be incurred in advance of registration (eg. facilities, uniforms, equipment, staff, insurance, etc) and may also be used as a means of discouraging withdrawal given the increasing instances of "club hopping" and its negative impact on remaining players and Club staff.

A player who withdraws prior to participating in the second player assessment may request a refund limited to 75% of the registration fee.

Unless otherwise stated in this policy, refunds will not be given after completion of the second assessment.

Refunds may be considered for exceptional medical or family reasons. Request must be made in writing to the Administrative and Technical Director and will be considered by the Board of Directors. The Board has full discretion in making any decisions, including the discretion to apply any refund fee the Club deems appropriate given the timing and circumstances.

Basketball Nova Scotia and the Metro Basketball Association have certain eligibility rules related to high school basketball:

Basketball Nova Scotia:

- a. Players making a varsity team at a Division 1 or Division 2 high school are no longer eligible to play in Provincial championships.
- b. Players making a Division 3 or lower varsity team or a junior varsity team remain eligible to play in Provincial championships.

Metro Basketball Association:

- a. Players making a varsity team at a Division 1 high school are no longer eligible to play in league competition.
- b. Players making a Division 2 or lower varsity team or a junior varsity team remain eligible to play in league competition.

Pursuant to the foregoing, Division 1 and Division 2 varsity players do not have the option to enjoy the entirety of a Club season (ie. league play and Provincials). Accordingly, a full refund will be provided upon request less a \$25 refund fee.

Pursuant to the foregoing, Division 3 or lower varsity players and junior varsity players are able to enjoy the entirety of a Club season and still participate in high school basketball. These players are encouraged to continue to play with the Hurricanes, but will be provided a refund upon request subject to a \$75 refund fee.

Metro Basketball Association rosters are locked after the second weekend of league play (note: this is at the Metro Basketball Association's discretion and is subject to change without notice). No refunds will be issued for players who have not made a written request to the Club to be removed from a roster prior to the rosters being locked. The player is fully and solely responsible for monitoring roster locking deadlines.

Coach and Volunteer Code of Conduct

This section only applies to those who coach or volunteer with a team. As a coach or other volunteer in the Club, I understand the importance of the role I play in the lives of the players, and will ensure that my conduct sets the proper example for other coaches, volunteers, team members, and spectators. I accept the great responsibility this places on me and I accept the following code of conduct:

I will promote growth and development in a positive and supportive manner. I will nurture good sportsmanship and fair play by teaching and personally demonstrating my commitment to these virtues. I will remember that I am a youth basketball coach/volunteer, and that the game is for children.

I will not verbally, physically, or psychologically abuse any player, referee, coach, parent, spectator, official, or executive member, even in jest.

I will not use alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products during any game or practice. I will not use profanity at any youth, parent, coach, referee, or official in practices or games.

I will be supportive of the Club, its players, coaches and executive members, and agree to fulfill my coaching/volunteer assignment with a high standard of behavior that will reflect well on the Club and upon me as an individual. I agree to support the Club in its aims and objectives.

I will teach and demonstrate respect for the laws of the game. I will insist on the highest respect for officials by players, parents, and fans. I will refrain from questioning officials' decisions, especially in a disrespectful or abusive manner. I understand that dissent and negative commentary is contrary to the laws of the game and that criticism of officials could destroy the game.

I will obtain and keep up to date all background checks and coaching credentials required by the Club and Basketball Nova Scotia.

I will follow and be openly supportive of the Club's policies including the Back to Play Plan, and reserve my constructive criticism or suggestions for change to such policies for submission to the Board of Directors of the Club directly and in a professional and respectful manner.

I will follow facility rules and regulations, respecting at all times the property of others.

I understand and I am responsible for the behavior of my team's other coaches/volunteers, players, parents, and fans at all games and practices. I will demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of a game. Be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.

I understand that if I violate this Code of Conduct, I may receive a warning from the Club, suspension, or be dismissed of all club related and coaching privileges.

Player's Code Of Conduct:

I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.

I will attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coach if I cannot. I will be on time for practice and games.

I will do my best to listen and learn from my coaches.

I will treat my coaches, other players, officials and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.

I will do my very best in school.

I will remember that sports and are an opportunity to learn and have fun.

I will learn the rules of the game.

I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, player, participant, league official or any other attendee.

I will not engage in any behavior which would endanger the health, safety, or well being of a coach, parent, player, participant, league official or any other attendee.

I will not engage in the use of profanity while attending or participating in a youth sports event.

I will not engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any coach, parent, player, participant, league official or any other attendee.

I will not initiate a fight or scuffle with any coach, parent, player, participant, league official, or any other attendee.

I will follow and be openly supportive of the Club's policies including the Back to Play Plan, and reserve my constructive criticism or suggestions for change to such policies for submission to the Board of Directors of the Club directly and in a professional and respectful manner.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the above code of conduct, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or the league or organization
- Written warning
- Practice and/or game(s) suspension
- Player season suspension

Parent Code of Conduct:

I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.

I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.

I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.

I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.

I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.

I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.

I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

I will support the coach in any way I can. I will not harass, taunt or yell anything to the coach during practices or games. If I need to talk to the coach, I will do it privately at an agreed upon time/place, or through email.

I will be supportive of the Club, its players, coaches and executive members, and conduct myself with a high standard of behavior that will reflect well on the Club and upon me as an individual.

I will follow and be openly supportive of the Club's policies including the Back to Play Plan, and reserve my constructive criticism or suggestions for change to such policies for submission to the Board of Directors of the Club directly and in a professional and respectful manner.

I also agree, that if I fail to abide by the parent/spectator code of conduct, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- warning by the Coach and/or Club
- asked not to attend games and/or practices
- player suspension

Club Inclusivity Policy:

The Club is an organization that supports youth participation in basketball regardless of gender or gender identity.

Players may participate and be evaluated in the assessment for placement on a team that corresponds with either their sex assigned at birth or their gender identity. Players may only participate in the assessments for and play on a team of one gender during a given season. For further clarity, during one season, players assessed in the male division are only eligible to play on a male team; players assessed in the female division are only eligible to play on a female team.

All players will be assessed pursuant to the Halifax Hurricanes Player Assessment Policy.

This approach is consistent with the U Sports Policy 80.80.5 Transgender Student-Athletes, last revised September 2018.

Fair and Safe Play Policy:

The Club and its members will follow the Fair and Safe Play policies and procedures outlined by the Nova Scotia Sport and Recreation Commission including:

1. Respect at all times for participants, coaches, officials, team-mates, spectators, opponents, administrators and volunteers.
2. Sportsmanship prior to, during and following the activity, demonstrating modesty in victory and composure in defeat.
3. Knowledge of all rules, whether written or unwritten, and following the spirit of all rules.

4. Access for all to participate regardless of age, gender, race or level of skill.
5. Participation in a manner that demonstrates more than just the desire to win. Having fun, making friends, improving skills and performing your personal best must be just as important when participating.
6. Failure to abide by these policies by a player, parent or coach may result in suspension and/or dismissal from a team.
7. Players will get regular shifts each game with the goal of equal playing time subject to the following guidance:
 - a. Failure to attend practices will negatively affect team concepts. Coaches may reasonably limit a player's time if they have missed practices.
 - b. Coaches shall have reasonable discretion to reduce playing time for discipline reasons provided that such discipline is issued in an even handed manner with the intent of the improvement of the player and the team.
 - c. Injuries are understood to be acceptable reasons to modify playing time in order to fill the position and attributes of the injured player.
 - d. "Token" playing time in the dying minutes of a half is not meaningful. Coaches should enter all players by mid 2nd Quarter.
 - e. "Exhibition" games are an extension of practice and primarily developmental in nature, playing time should therefore be as equal as possible.
 - f. Tournaments that require overnight travel/hotel stays represent a significant financial and time commitment for parents. Playing time should respect that investment, and be as equal as possible. Limited exception may be justified for League or Provincial championships where highest placement possible is an understood team goal.
 - g. All coaches must comply with playing time rules established by any league or tournament in which a team participates.

Playing in age group

All Hurricanes players will play in their age group. The only exceptions to this policy shall be that:

1. A player who was a member of the Nova Scotia Provincial Team in the preceding year may make application to the Board to try out for the Division 1 team one age group above. If the player does not make the Division 1 team of the higher age group, the player shall return to their proper age group and may at the Board's discretion either be placed on the Division 1 team or be required to try out for the Division 1 team; or

2. A player may make application to the Board to try out for a team one age group above (except for a Division 1 team) if the player is entering a school grade in which the age group above is typically of the same cohort and it is in the best interests of the athlete's development.

All decisions of the Board are to be made in the sole discretion of the Board. In making its decision the Board may elect to consider the individual player, input from current and former coaches of the player, the teams involved, the Club as a whole, and any other considerations deemed useful or appropriate by the Board.

Players are not allowed to play down an age group, regardless of their grade, as per MBANS rules.

Compliance with Policies

Any Club member who is not compliant with the By-Laws of the Club or these policies may be subject to suspension or removal from the Club. All suspensions or removals require a two thirds majority vote by the Board unless otherwise stated in the By-Laws. Where these policies and the By-Laws conflict, the By-Laws shall prevail.

Revision of Policies

The Board of Directors of the Club reserves the discretion to revise the foregoing policies at any time provided that any such revisions will be promptly posted to the Club's website.