



# Guiding Principles, Codes of Conduct & Disciplinary Procedures

(Updated October 1, 2024)

## Association Overview

Metroball Youth Basketball Association (MYBA) is an association dedicated to all student athletes attending the Carroll, Frederick and Washington County, MD area. MYBA provides a safe and competitive basketball program for athletes in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through High School.

## ***Mission Statement***

Metroball Youth Basketball is dedicated to the development of well-rounded youth through positive sports competition. We strive to develop fundamental skills through active participation of our players and to promote good sportsmanship from our players, coaches, and parents.

MYBA believes that our mission is to provide these organized sports with as many athletes as possible, that are as well prepared as possible for that next level.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### 1. Purpose

These principles are written to ensure a balanced blend of sportsmanship, recreation, skill development, and competitive activity in keeping with the MYBA Mission Statement and MYBA Bylaws.

### 2. Principles

- A. All players, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators will be treated fairly and with respect.
- B. Retention of athletes is a key measure of success.
- C. Parents play an extremely important role in the development of young athletes.

- D. All activities and actions sanctioned by MYBA will be conducted in an open and transparent manner.
- E. MYBA will openly accept criticism and complaints and will effectively and fairly resolve these issues consistent with our Mission Statement, Guiding Principals and Bylaws.
- F. MYBA has a goal of continuous improvement. As deviations from our mission are noted, we will look for the underlying problem and make the necessary adjustments to ensure that we are living up to the standards and goals of our Mission Statement.

## Code of Conduct

### **Purpose**

Metroball Youth Basketball values sportsmanship, fair play, skill development, and mutual respect among all players, coaches, officials, and spectators. This Code of Conduct has been established and adopted to ensure the bylaws and guiding principles of MYBA are understood and met by all individuals associated with this organization.

This Code of Conduct and MYBA bylaws applies to all basketball activities associated with MYBA. These activities include, but are not limited to, signup sessions, try-outs, practices, MYBA sponsored games, and any activities, attended under the MYBA banner, run by other organizations.

The Bylaws, Rules of Play and Code of Conduct for coaches, players, parents, and spectators will be thoroughly discussed at the pre-season coaches meeting. In addition, these Bylaws, Guiding Principles, Code of Conduct, and Disciplinary Procedures will be available on the MYBA website for review.

### **The following codes of conduct will be strictly enforced.**

#### **1. Players Code of Conduct**

Each player will ensure that their conduct is that of a respectful athlete in our community and won't limit their ability. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, the player is expected to:

- a. Know all game rules and bylaws and abide by them.
- b. Respect the game officials and refrain from addressing them or commenting on their decisions during the play of the game.
- c. Maintain control of their emotions, avoiding the use of abusive language or profanity, humiliating remarks, gestures of ill temper, and physical assault upon another player at any time.
- d. Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team and demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of game. Be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.

- e. Respect all game location staff, as well as MYBA board members.
- f. Follow all building rules and regulations, respecting at all times the property of others.
- g. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy, and manners of each individual player.
- h. Attend every practice and game that is reasonably possible and notify the coach in advance if the player is unable to attend.

### **3. Parents and Spectators Code of Conduct**

Each parent and spectator will ensure that their conduct is that of a responsible adult or youth who are positively encouraging all participants to the limit of their ability. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, each parent and spectator is expected to:

- a. Respect the bylaws and rules of the game.
- b. Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions or from addressing them in a loud, disrespectful, or abusive manner.
- c. Cheer for their team in a positive, supportive manner.
- d. Place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- e. Maintain control of their emotions, avoid the use of abusive language, profanity, and gestures of ill temper, and refrain at all times from making hostile or negative remarks about the opposing team.
- f. Respect all building location staff, as well as MYBA Board members.
- g. Follow all building rules and regulations, respecting at all times the property of others.
- h. Leave school grounds in a timely fashion after the conclusion of a game.
- i. Demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of a game, win or lose. Do not interact in a negative fashion with fans, players or coaches of the opposing team or game officials.
- j. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy, and citizenship of its fans.

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### **5. Offensive Actions**

Any individual, team or organization violating the Bylaws, Guiding Principals, Code of Conduct set forth by MYBA shall be subject to penalties and sanctions as set forth in the Disciplinary Procedures below. In addition to conforming to the requirements of the Code of Conduct above, the following actions are specifically prohibited.

("Offensive Actions"):

- a. Refusing to abide by an official's decision.

- b. Verbally abusing or assaulting any player, coach, official, parent, spectator, or facility staff.
- c. Physically assaulting, abusing, or threatening any player, coach, official, parent, spectator, or facility staff.
- d. Stalking, tailing, or attempting to intimidate any player, coach, official, parent, spectator, or facility staff.
- e. Engaging in any other type of violent behavior, such as throwing equipment or other objects.
- f. Engaging in any lewd or sexual behavior, physically abusing a player, or engaging in any inappropriate physical contact with a player.
- g. Unless specifically allowed by the rules of the sport, pushing, shoving, or striking any player.
- h. Using drugs or alcohol while coaching, attending, or participating in any MYBA sponsored game or other MYBA event.

## **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

### **1. Reporting Improper Conduct**

Metroball Youth Basketball provides an incident report on its website an/or social media platforms to allow coaches, players, parents, spectators, and officials to report to the Disciplinary Action Committee any issues they observe before, during, or after a game. The link to report Code of Conduct violations and Offensive Actions can be found on the MYBA website or social media platform information page.

#### **a. Reporting By Coaches**

- i. It is the responsibility of every coach to address improper conduct observed by the coach or brought to the coach's attention in a timely and respectful manner.
- ii. In the event any coach feels that the Disciplinary Action Committee should be involved in addressing any improper conduct, the coach is encouraged to contact the Disciplinary Committee through the MYBA website and complete the grievance form.
- iii. Coaches must report any Offensive Actions to the Disciplinary Action Committee, including, without limitation:
  - 1) Any report or allegation of inappropriate physical contact, violence, or threatened violence against any player, coach, official, parent, spectator, or facility staff.
  - 2) Any observed or reported use of drugs or alcohol by any player, coach, official, parent, or spectator during any MYBA event.
  - 3) Any situation where a player, coach, parent, or spectator is ejected from a game or removed from the premises.
- iv. Coaches are encouraged to keep the Disciplinary Action Committee informed of any improper conduct and the steps taken by the coach to address the misconduct, even if the coach is not required to report the misconduct to the Disciplinary Action Committee.

v. Coaches shall promptly respond to any request by the Disciplinary Action Committee for information relating to any incident or violation of the Code of Conduct.

b. Reporting by Parents and Spectators

i. Parents and spectators are encouraged to report any improper conduct to the coach and/or the Disciplinary Action Committee.

ii. If a parent or spectator reports misconduct to the coach and feels that the misconduct is not appropriately addressed, the parent or spectator is encouraged to contact the Disciplinary Committee through the MYBA website & complete the grievance form.

**2. Procedures for Addressing Improper Conduct**

a. Coaches and Officials

i. Coaches and officials shall promptly address any misconduct that is observed or brought to the attention of the coach or official during a MYBA event.

ii. Coaches and officials have the absolute authority, in their sole discretion, to issue verbal warnings and/or eject any player, parent, or spectator within their organization from any game if the player, parent, or spectator violates the Code of Conduct or engages in any Offensive Action.

iii. Officials have the absolute authority to issue verbal warnings and/or eject any coach from any game if they violate the Code of Conduct or engages in any Offensive Action.

b. MYBA Disciplinary Action Committee

i. The MYBA Disciplinary Action Committee will conduct a timely and reasonable investigation into any misconduct reported to the Disciplinary Action Committee. The scope of any investigation will be determined by the Disciplinary Action Committee in its sole discretion, provided, however, if deemed necessary, that the Committee will provide any person accused of misconduct a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

ii. After a reasonable investigation, the Disciplinary Action Committee will determine the appropriate penalty for any violation of this Code of Conduct and any Offensive Action.

1) Penalties will be based on the nature and severity of the violation.

2) The Disciplinary Action Committee will strive to treat all similar offenses in a similar manner, while taking into account the individual facts and circumstances of each violation.

3) The Disciplinary Action Committee will not discriminate in any manner in determining whether to impose a penalty or in determining which penalty to impose.

iii. The Disciplinary Committee will keep reasonable and appropriate records of each reported violation and shall document each penalty and the reasons for imposing the penalty.

**All decisions of the Disciplinary Action Committee are final and cannot be appealed.**

## **1. Penalties**

The Disciplinary Action Committee shall determine the appropriate penalty for any violation of the Code of Conduct and any Offensive Actions. Penalties may include any one or more of the following:

- a. Verbal Warning
- b. Written Warning – (1<sup>st</sup> warning: \$50 fine; 2<sup>nd</sup> warning: \$100 fine; Final warning: \$200 fine) – all fines will be placed on the organization.
- c. Suspension:
  - i. One game suspension
  - ii. Multiple game suspension, or
  - iii. Indefinite suspension
- d. Expulsion from MYBA league

## **2. Additional Considerations**

- A. If a coach or parent is expelled from the league, any child associated with that person is also expelled from the league.
- B. There are no refunds as a result of any person or organization being removed from the league.
- D. If law enforcement authorities are called to a game location:
  1. Game will officially conclude. Whatever the final score is at the time the authorities arrive, the leading team will be awarded the “win,” regardless of what team committed the offense for the authorities to be called.
  2. This action will result in automatic 2<sup>nd</sup> warning status with a \$100 fine to the determined organization.
  3. Organization will need to be pay fine within (5) days of the written warning or be awarded a “forfeit” for any games scheduled. If no games are scheduled at the time of the fine, the team an/or organization will not be scheduled until fine is paid.