



**Metroball Youth Basketball Association
Organization Documents and Bylaws
Effective October 1, 2024**

Article I: Purpose:

The Metroball Youth Basketball Association (referred to herein as the MYBA and/or the Association) is organized to provide the youth of Frederick, Carroll and Washington Counties, Maryland (and surrounding areas), the opportunity to competitively play the game of basketball in a supervised, competitive, and instructional environment promoting an elevated level of sportsmanship and fair play. The Association's constant goals are to provide a safe and fun basketball experience concurrent with a quality and fair level of basketball play. These bylaws provide the structure for the league and combined with the MYBA Guiding Principals & Rules of Play, dictate how the MYBA shall operate. Organizations taking part in MYBA seasons agree to abide by these bylaws, guiding principals, and rules of play.

Article II: Organization Participation

Section I: Organization Categories

The MYBA operates youth league basketball games among its participation organizations. MYBA organizational participants are any youth basketball organizations and/or private schools from throughout Frederick, Carroll and Washington Counties, Maryland (and surrounding areas). As a condition of participation, organizations agree to abide by these bylaws, guiding principals and the MYBA Rules of Play (adopted or revised each season by executive board meeting vote). Youth basketball organizations must re-apply for league participation to MYBA in writing to the Association President, no later than first of September to be eligible for league play in December. New organizations must express interest in writing by August 1st for MYBA board review and receive a majority approval from current board members.

MYBA Organizations statuses:

1. **Returning organizations** – must be in “Good Standing” meaning the organization has followed bylaws, guiding principals, codes of conduct and have no outstanding balances and meet league deadlines.
2. **Probational Organization** - Probationary organization may participate in league play and attend league meetings, however, may or may not be asked to return for another season an/or their intention is only to be part of MYBA for the sole purpose of one season.

Upon completion of one probationary season, the organization can ask to be moved to “Returning Organization in Good Standing” on the first of September of the following year unless a majority vote by the MYBA board recommends a second probationary season. After a second probationary season, members must either be moved to “Returning Organization in Good Standing” or “Organization Terminated” by majority vote of current MYBA board.

3. **Organization Terminated** – organizations that have had MYBA participation revoked. Only a majority vote of the executive board can revoke a MYBA organization.

MYBA participation is a privilege that should be taken seriously by all participants within their respective organizations. Organizations are expected to adhere to all financial, conduct and administrative responsibilities as set forth in these Bylaws, Guiding Principals, and the MYBA Rules of Play. Failure to meet expectations or obligations will result in probation and/or termination of participation within the league.

Section II: Meetings

The Association shall conduct a coordinator’s meeting prior to the start of each season for the purpose of relaying all updated news (as applicable), reviewing the MYBA Bylaws, Guiding Principals and Rules of Play and organizing activities for the upcoming season. The Association will do their best to conduct these monthly, but a guaranteed start and end of each season will be held for the purposes of reviewing the past season, closing out financial obligations of the past season and discussing any issues related to the upcoming season. Other meetings may be called from time to time by the Association President (or designee) as required by the Association. Notice of the place, date, and time of an Association meeting shall be given in writing to each Member not less than three days prior to the meeting by electronic medium. Meetings are open to the coordinator’s an/or organizational representatives only. Association meetings shall be chaired by the MYBA President or designee. Meeting will be held primarily via Zoom that will be recorded and distributed per request. However, meetings can be conducted either in person or via conferece call as well.

Article III: Executive Board & MYBA Board

The Association Executive Board (hereafter referred to as “officers”) shall be selected from member organizations and shall include an Administrator, Vice President, and a President. The MYBA Board shall include a Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Referees, Vice President, and President. The MYBA board members shall each serve a 2-year term beginning with the General Meeting prior to each season. The Executive Board shall serve a 3-year term beginning with the General Meeting prior to each season. No consecutive board terms are limited. Elections for the MYBA Board & Executive Board shall be held annually when terms commitments are ending at the General Meeting prior to the upcoming season. Any person is eligible for nomination to the MYBA Board or Executive Board as long as he/she is affiliated with an organization that is an “Organization in Good Standing”. Election of the officers shall be by majority vote of the “Returning Organizations in Good Standing”. The President can call a meeting of the MYBA Board or Executive Board at any time deemed necessary.

Section I: Duties of the Officers:

- A. Recording Secretary/Administrator** – shall be responsible for recording board meeting minutes and coordinator meeting minutes and for organizing communication between the Association and the Organizations.
- B. Treasurer** – shall be responsible for maintaining and accounting for the funds of the Association, determining financial assessments for the approval of the Organizations and for reporting to the organizations the financial condition of the Association.
- C. Vice President** – shall assist the President in all duties delegated and act as President if the President is unavailable. The Vice President is Chair of the Disciplinary Action Committee.
- D. President** – shall be responsible for the overall direction and management of the Association subject to these Bylaws, Guiding Principals, and the MYBA Rules of Play. The President shall call Association meetings, set meeting agendas, and preside over meetings unless delegated to the Vice President. The President is also responsible for overseeing the game schedule. In consultation with the other Association officers, the President shall coordinate decisions with the Executive Board.
- E. Director of Referees** – overall management of official’s schedules, contract verification, background checks, registration, official’s evaluations, training, filling of scheduling gaps, reporting, incident investigations and disciplinary actions revolving officials.

Section 2: Board Member Removal Process

Board member removal requests need to be submitted to the MYBA Board President in writing. If the Board President is the entity subject to the removal request, the written request must be sent to the MYBA Vice-President.

Grounds for Removal:

1. **Failure to Attend Meetings:** Missing 3 or more board meetings can be grounds for removal.
2. **Failure to Fulfill Duties:** Not performing required duties or responsibilities as a board member, such as lack of participation or engagement.
3. **Conflict of Interest:** Engaging in activities that create a conflict with the organization's mission statement, or interests.
4. **Misconduct:** Any behavior that is harmful to the organization, including ethical violations or illegal activities.
5. **Loss of Eligibility:** Failing to meet eligibility criteria as outlined in the bylaws, such as membership requirements.

Process for Removal:

1. **Gather Documentation:** Collect any evidence or documentation related to the grounds for removal. This might include attendance records, correspondence, or records of misconduct.
2. **Notify the Board:** Inform other board members of the intent to discuss the removal.
3. **Hold a Meeting:** Convene a board meeting to discuss the proposed removal. Ensure that this meeting is properly noticed, and that entire board is present.
4. **Discussion and Deliberation:** Provide the board member in question an opportunity to respond to the allegations. Allow for discussion among board members.
5. **Vote:** Following discussion, a vote should be taken. Majority vote required to pass.
6. **Document the Decision:** Record the outcome of the vote in the meeting minutes, including the reasons for removal and any discussions that took place.
7. **Communicate the Decision:** Notify the board member and league organizations of the decision in writing, providing a brief explanation and ensuring it's delivered respectfully.
8. **Update Records:** Ensure that all organizational records reflect the removal and any related changes to the board.

Article IV: Organization/Coordinator Responsibilities

Section I: General Organization Responsibilities

Organizations shall appoint or elect a responsible individual to represent their interests. That person is to be known as the “Area Coordinator” or “Athletic Director” for their organization. Organizations shall ensure teams are generally representative of their neighborhood and/or school district. Any player from any area is free to play on any team so long as the goal of league parity is not diminished. “Recruiting” players from another area with the intent of increasing the competitiveness of a team or organization at the expense of another is prohibited and can be protested to the disciplinary action committee. Organizations agree to accept players and form their teams without consideration of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, familial status, or disability.

Area Coordinators (or their designee) shall:

- A. Attend MYBA meetings
- B. Organize player registrations within their organization
- C. Organize their respective teams and rosters, assign coaches and assistant coaches, and submit information to the Association adhering to timelines determined by the MYBA Board.
- D. Provide appropriate training and resources for coaches
- E. Provide for the uniform and equipment needs of their players that adhere to Association Bylaws, Guiding Principals, MYBA Rules of Play, and the National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) rules as applicable
- F. Provide gym facilities for practices and home games for regular season and tournament games. Organizations are responsible for providing gym space for at least half of the games scheduled for the teams it enters into the league.

For example, an organization entering 2 teams in MYBA would be responsible for providing gym space for a minimum of 4 games – 2 teams X 4 home games in an 8-game season. Each organization providing gym facilities shall secure appropriate insurance acceptable to the school authorities at their own expense.

- G. Adhere to financial and administrative requirements as dictated by the Association
- H. Manage player, coach and parent conduct that adheres to Association Bylaws, Rules of Play and sportsmanship through the use and enforcement of the documented Guiding Principals-Code of Conduct.

Section II: Player and Team Eligibility

Organizations shall be responsible for ensuring all players meet eligibility requirements and are properly rostered on a team. Rosters are due by deadlines set prior to each season. Rosters cannot be altered after that date without written approval from the MYBA Board.

The following are the age restrictions for each age group:

3rd/4th grade players: shall be in 3rd or 4th grade for the league year, or home school equivalent

5th/6th grade players: shall be in 5th or 6th grade for the league year, or home school equivalent

7th/8th grade players: shall be in 7th or 8th grade for the league year, or home school equivalent

9th/10th grade players: shall be in 9th or 10th grade for the league year, or home school equivalent

11th/12th grade players (Boy's): shall be in 11th or 12th grade for the league year, or home school equivalent

High school (Girl's only): shall be in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade for the league year, or home school equivalent

Organizations are responsible for verifying and providing proof of players' eligibility to the Association upon request. Player headshots and/or birth certificates are required to be uploaded into the registration system. Headshot waiver requests can be submitted to the MYBA Board in writing. If an ineligible player is found to have played in a game, that game and any other where the ineligible player played, shall be deemed a forfeit.

Players may only be rostered on 1 MYBA team within their age group per season. **Players may NOT play on multiple MYBA teams within the same age group, or within those age groups in different organizations.**

Players may **NOT** fill in for a team outside of their organization. A maximum of 5 players can be brought up to "play up" to fill in on a higher-grade band team. A player may not "play down" for any reason.

Players must play within teams in their assigned gender. Teams may only play in one grade/gender band in a season; teams may **NOT** be entered into multiple grade/gender bands at the same time within any season.

Players may be eligible to play in MYBA if they are a rostered member of another competitively selected team, however, this is at the discretion of the member organization. Organizations are to notify the MYBA Board in writing if they have 2 or more identified players rostered with

competitively selected teams as found below. Competitively selected teams include, but are not limited to:

- A. Mid Maryland boys or girls' teams**
- B. Public High School or Middle School teams**
- C. Private High School or Middle School teams**
- D. AAU**

All players must be in attendance and in good standing at a public, private or home school grade 1st through 12th. Players who are suspended or restricted from attending school in their county shall not be eligible to play in MYBA.

AAU teams and tournament participation

MYBA strives to provide a competitive experience for all players in our communities, regardless of skill level. However, MYBA is not set up to provide AAU teams a convenient league to play in during the winter months. Area Coordinators should strive to form rosters based on players residing within their respective communities. The executive board shall have final say over the placement and eligibility of teams and players. Teams may play in tournaments outside of MYBA if they so choose, but schedule changes will not be made to accommodate tournament participation.

Article V: Association Responsibilities

The Association shall be responsible for executing league actions as defined in these Bylaws, Guiding Principals and the MYBA Playing rules and any contractual agreements of the Association. The Association shall also be responsible for the general supervision of player, parent, and coach conduct, the creation and management of game schedules, the coordination with referee organizations, and the determination of member financial assessments and resolution of organizational disputes.

Section I: Financial Assessments

The Association shall determine league fees for the following season at the end of season meeting for the prior year. Association dues include, but are not limited to:

- a. Administrative fees associated with maintaining an online presence
- b. Software packages or services for the creation and management of the league game schedule
- c. Liability or other insurance costs
- d. Referee fees
- e. Trophy procurement for end of season tournaments
- f. Miscellaneous administrative costs incurred and approved as a result of league activities such as supplies, bank fees, postage, etc.

The Association will conduct a season-end financial reconciliation.

Section II. League Structure and Schedule

The MYBA strives to provide a competitive, fun, and instructional youth basketball experience for youth in Frederick, Carroll, Washington counties and the surrounding communities. It is the intent of the MYBA to provide competitive playing opportunities for as many communities youth as possible. The following are the age and gender bands for MYBA league play:

Boy's: 3rd/4th, 5th/6th, 7th/8th, 9th/10th, and 11th/12th grade.

Girl's: 3rd/4th, 5th/6th, 7th/8th, Highschool (9th-12th)

Within each grade/gender band, teams will be grouped into conferences based on geographic region. Each team submitted shall play teams within their region regardless of team skill level.

During play-off's teams will be seeded and divided into the following brackets:

1. Division I – the most competitive division with the most skilled and experienced players
2. Division II – moderately competitive and skilled, or mixed skill players

3. Division III – least competitive or least skilled and experienced players

The MYBA schedulers and MYBA president shall schedule teams within each conference. The intent of the play-off schedule is to match teams of like ability against each other as much as practical in the same grade/gender band. In rare circumstances, teams may also be moved up to a higher grade/gender band to maintain competitive balance.

The MYBA regular season league schedule shall consist of 8 games for each team, played on Friday's, Saturday's and Sundays between early December and mid-February. The exact dates shall be determined at the first meeting of each new season. Teams shall have only one game per week unless an odd number of teams in a conference require a team or teams to have a double-header weekend, or a makeup game is scheduled.

MYBA shall organize and conduct an end of season, single-elimination play-off tournament consisting of all teams in good standing from the regular season. The MYBA schedulers and MYBA president shall organize the play-off brackets based on regular season record, strength of schedule and a subjective assessment of the competitive level of each team. No minimum bracket size is dictated but suggested that a bracket with fewer than 8 teams only be created in unique and necessary circumstances. Teams maybe moved around to create the most competitive tournament brackets regardless of the placement of a team during the regular season. However, under no circumstances shall a team be moved in violation of eligibility requirements of Article IV, Section II of this document.

Section III: Weather Cancellations and Game Rescheduling

Game cancellations due to weather shall be determined by the Scheduling Team and MYBA President and publicized to Coordinators as soon as the determination is made. The MYBA weather cancellation policy follows County Snow Emergency Plans and specific closure policies for the facilities that host league games.

Games that cannot be played due to weather may be made up by the league, depending on gym and team availability. Any Organization wishing to coordinate a rescheduled game with another Organization should inform the Scheduling Team and MYBA President so that the game may be put on the schedule and referees assigned.

Section IV: Schedule Conflicts

Each Coordinator shall submit the organization's team(s), and any scheduling conflicts in response to deadlines set each year by the MYBA Board. Each team is required to have a Head Coach and Assistant Coach. The Scheduling Team and MYBA President is willing to work around academic and religious conflicts, when those requests are submitted prior to season start. The Scheduling Team and MYBA President shall also attempt to schedule around coach conflicts for those volunteers who are coaching multiple MYBA teams. At no time shall MYBA attempt to schedule around another sport or basketball league schedule, personal work or family schedule conflicts for a particular coach or team.

Other types of scheduling requests may be considered by the Scheduling Team and MYBA President, but is not guaranteed. At anytime, per request within 72 hours of game time, a game time adjustment (MUST BE NOTIFIED BY COORDINATOR ONLY) can be made to accommodate a team short players due to injury or illness before deemed a forfeit.

Section V: Game Officials

The Association shall provide 2 certified, game-day officials for each league game. The cost of providing those officials or entering into a contract with an official's organization shall be discussed at the first meeting of the season and incorporated into the annual league fees.

Officials are required to bring Designated Team Captains and Coaches together before start of each game; to discuss rules and expectations, verify rosters and volunteers are secured for scorebook and game clock.

Section VI: Social Media

The Metroball Youth Basketball Association (MYBA) strives to create a positive and inclusive organization that is dedicated to helping young athletes reach their full potential. In furtherance of this goal, MYBA aspires to engage members of the community in positive, honest, transparent, and knowledgeable dialogue about MYBA through social media. MYBA views social media as an important platform for communicating with the community, which includes distributing important league information, sharing success stories, and receiving constructive feedback. Social media can also be a forum for discussing MYBA's challenges and opportunities for improvement in a positive and constructive way. We recognize the importance of our members in leading and setting the tone for social media interactions in a positive manner; one that advances MYBA's mission and goals. MYBA believes sportsmanship, fun and fair play should extend to our virtual presence as well, and therefore we have developed this policy to define the expectations for the social media interactions among our members. Reminder to review the guiding principals and codes of conduct that should carry not only at game time but in all avenues within MYBA including social media content and communication.