

Oct 2024 (version 2)

Hyndburn and District Basketball League (HDBL)

Rules of Play 2024-25 season

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1. Construction of the League

The League will use the current FIBA Rules of Play unless stated otherwise in the HDBL League Rules of Play.

1.1. League Structure

The HDBL Committee shall determine the structure of the League based upon entries; there will be no right of appeal to this structure.

Each team shall play every other team both home and away, unless in exceptional circumstances as approved by the League Divisional secretary or Committee.

1.2. Points awarded per game

Two points will be awarded for a win and one point for a loss and the points for a forfeit (or a game not played during a season) will be 0.

1.3. Winners & final positionings

The team with the largest number of points on completion of the competition will be determined the League winners.

If two or more teams are tied, then the determining factors will be the least number of games forfeited followed by the current FIBA Rules of Play.

1.4. Trophies awarded at the end of each season

These trophies remain the property of the League. Trophies must be returned on request by the League and any damage repair or replacement costs will be met by the team with custody of the trophy.

2. Cup & Playoff Competition

2.1. Playoff Competition

The HDBL committee may organise a play-off competition, which will be held at the end of each season. The HDBL will determine the date and venue for the finals.

2.2 Cup Competition

Due to the success of the Play-off competition in 2023/24, it is unlikely that a Cup competition will take place due to lack of time and resource during the season.

3. League Registrations and Eligibility

3.1. Team and Player Registration

All Teams must be registered with the League and pay their League Registration fee of £75 at least 7 days before they play their first game of the season. Failure to do so may result in a team being unable to play any fixtures.

Whilst a Player Registration fee is not applicable for the 2024/25 season the League reserves the right to charge this fee in future seasons if required.

3.2. Player Registration

3.2.1 All players must be registered with the national body (which is currently Basketball England) 3 days before the start of the season (and then 7 days during the season) in order to play. Failure to do so may result in a player being unable to play any fixtures.

3.2.2 The licence numbers shall be provided to the HDBL committee and only players with a valid licence number will be eligible to play/coach. Players must be registered with HDBL a minimum of 7 days before they play their first fixture (3 days prior to the start of the season).

3.2.3 If it is discovered that a team has fielded a player/coach without a complete Basketball England membership at the time they played in the league, or whom has not been registered with the league 7 days prior to playing (3 days prior to the start of the season), then that team may be fined and/or be deducted points commensurate with the number of matches they fielded that player in.

3.3. Coach Registration

All Coaches must be registered with the national body (which is currently Basketball England) before they coach their first game of the season. Failure to do so may result in the Coach being unable to manage any games.

3.4. Player & Coach Eligibility

Only players over 16 years of age can play in the League.

Any players under the age of 18 years of age must have a disclaimer / agreement form signed by their parents and their respective team. Failure to do so may invalidate any HDBL insurance and the player will not be permitted to play unless this has been completed.

A player is restricted to play for the club / team they have informed the League they are playing for and no other in the HDBL until the player has been transferred to the new team on the HDBL membership portal.

3.5. Forms and Fees

All league membership application forms for the next season must be received 3 days before the season starts and/or when requested by the HDBL committee.

Any associated fees must be sent to the League Bank account by BACS/Bank Transfer:

Hyndburn and District Basketball League

NATWEST

01-00-04

10094563

No Cash or cheques are acceptable.

3.6. National League Players

There is no limit on registration of National League players for each team but such players must be registered for the team before the middle of the season to be eligible to play in the latter stages of the competition.

3.7. Non-European Players who have held a Foreign National League Licence.

All non-European players who have held a foreign national player's licence are not eligible for League registration without being members of Basketball England.

3.8. Player Eligibility for the Cup and Play-Off Competition

3.8.1. Only players who have entered court will be considered to have played and will be counted for Cup and Play-off eligibility.

3.8.2. Players are ineligible to play for any other team in the Cup if they have played in the Cup for one team in the same season already. These players are not allowed to be 'loaned' back just for Cup games.

3.8.3. Should any match be postponed for any reason, any players deemed ineligible, will remain ineligible for the re-arranged fixture.

3.9. Player Eligibility for the Playoffs

3.9.1. To play in the end of season playoffs a player must have played 9 games.

3.9.2. Only players who have entered court will be considered to have played.

3.9.3. Players are ineligible to play for any other team in the Play-offs if they have already played in the play-offs for one team.

3.9.4. Should any match be postponed for any reason, any players deemed ineligible will remain ineligible for the re-arranged fixture.

3.10. Player and Coach Transfers

Players and coaches wishing to transfer from one club to another must complete a 'transfer request' and submit it by email to the Committee for approval. Players and coaches must await formal approval before participating in any game. Any games, which are participated, by an unapproved player or coach may be forfeited.

A player or coach is restricted to play or coach for the club / team they have informed the League they are playing for and no other in the HDBL until the player or coach has been transferred to a new team by confirmation of the committee.

4. Match Organisation

4.1. Scheduling the game

The fixtures will be provided by the Fixtures Secretary before the start of the league and at appropriate points during the season (refer to Section 10).

The venue will be determined by the HDBL Committee, and the officials will be appointed by the Officiating secretary.

Officiating equipment and score sheets will be provided by the HDBL Committee.

Team sheets detailing the players who are playing in the match– their BE registration number and their numbers (preferably in ascending order) shall be provided to the table official a minimum of 10 minutes before the start of a game. This should also include the Coach Name and the Captain and any starting 5.

Match Fees will be paid no less than 72 hours before the fixture.

4.2. Team & player uniforms

4.2.1. Match uniform

The home team must have 2 different colour kits available and in the event of a clash the home team shall change otherwise risk forfeiture of the game. The home team for the purposes of the HDBL is the first named team on the fixture.

4.2.2. Undergarments

HDBL rules are consistent with FIBA subject to the following conditions.

Compression or religious undergarments and headgear can be worn by players if the clothing tightly 'hugs' the body and is not loose enough to cause safety issues to the player or other participants in the game – this will be determined by the floor officials.

4.3. Tip off times

Tip off times shall be nominated by the League or dictated by overrun of games. A minimum of 10 minutes warm up time will be granted to both teams.

4.4. Spectators

4.4.1 Spectators will be permitted to watch HDBL matches – subject to any COVID or other restrictions which may be put into place by the HDBL at any time.

4.4.2 Spectators will only be permitted to sit on the opposite side of the court to the team bench.

4.4.3 No spectators will be allowed to sit on or in the vicinity of the team bench at any time. Only registered players/coaches/team officials (with Basketball England Affiliation) will be permitted to sit on the team benches.

4.5 Completion of Fixtures

All fixtures must be completed by the date set by the League. Any disputes will be resolved by the HDBL committee. No team can appeal the committee decision.

4.6. Postponements or Alterations to Fixtures

Postponements and fixture alterations will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances.

Postponements must be requested as soon as practicable before the scheduled date of the fixture and must have exceptional circumstances. This request must be made to the HDBL committee, and their decision will have no appeal. Requests to postpone or alter fixtures within 7 days of the fixture will not be accepted unless there are exceptional circumstances to be determined by the committee. The committee will determine if a postponed game shall be replayed and will advise of the date on which it should be replayed.

Any game postponed without the prior agreement of the Committee will be considered as unauthorised and subject to forfeit.

The fee for forfeiture of a match is twice the match fee, payable before the next game a team is eligible to play.

4.7 Postponement due to official availability.

Teams will not pay.

Games will be added to the end of the regular season.

The night of the original fixture may change at the discretion of the fixtures Secretary but as much notice will be provided to both teams.

5. Post-Match Organisation

5.1. Score sheets

The appointed Table official is responsible for sending a copy of the white score sheet to the social media secretary/results officer. All score sheets must be submitted within 48 hours of the fixture.

6. Match Officials

6.1 Officials

The league does struggle for officials to cover all games each week and would welcome league members volunteering to undertake these roles either as trainees with a view to qualification or as qualified officials.

6.2. Floor Officials

The League shall set the policy for the appointment of officials. Qualified neutral officials will be appointed to all fixtures by the League. Where it is deemed necessary, extra officials and/or observers may be appointed to fixtures.

6.3. Table Officials

Qualified neutral officials will be appointed to all fixtures by the League. Where it is deemed necessary, extra officials and/or observers may be appointed to fixtures.

HDBL will support officials in gaining qualifications. These requests are to be made to the Committee.

6.4 Officials fee

Floor Officials = rates to be agreed between parties

Table officials = £25 per game

Locking up Mount Carmel = £10 per night

6.5. Payment of Match Officials

All match officials will be paid by the league from the match fees provided by teams. Time frame for payment of officials:

Bank transfer – 48 hours

Cash – first week of following month

All officials need notify the treasurer via Whatsapp with duties per date of match completion.

7. Forfeits

7.1. Forfeit Reasons

7.1.1. Any game postponed shall be considered a forfeit unless the HDBL committee deems

the circumstances exceptional/permissible.

7.1.2. Other circumstances that will constitute a forfeit include: -

- Playing an ineligible player,
- A team walks off the court,
- Players participating under a false name,
- Inappropriate behaviour on court (deemed so by the HDBL committee)

7.2. Procedure to claim a Forfeit game

Any team involved in a game that is forfeited may claim the game if they believe they were not responsible for the forfeit. The team claiming the forfeit must send an email to the HDBL email address identifying the issue and requesting to claim the game.

Any claim must be made in writing by e-mail within 7 days of the date of the forfeited fixture.

7.3. Consequences of Forfeiting a Game

7.3.1. Any team that forfeits by non-attendance or by non-sanctioned postponement shall pay a fee equal to twice the match fee which covers all officials' expenses and court hire.

Such fee shall be paid before the team's next scheduled fixture.

The team shall be considered for removal from the League if the money is not paid prior to their next fixture.

7.3.2. The score of a forfeited game will be 20-0 and 1 or 2 points will be considered for the team who were not responsible for the forfeit, but the responsible team will receive 0 points for the forfeit.

7.3.3. Any team that forfeits 5 games or more in one season shall be considered for disqualification from the League. The Committee shall determine this.

7.3.4. Should any team forfeit 3 or more games during a season they shall not be eligible to participate in any playoff competition at the end of that season.

7.4. Appeals against Forfeits

Any appeal against a forfeit must be made to the HDBL committee by email within 72 hours of the forfeit. In the event of an appeal this will be carried out by the committee.

8. Player Discipline

8.1. The Role of Disciplinary Officer will be performed by a sub-committee made up of two committee members– which will have the power to impose any sanctions consistent with an offence.

All disciplinary matters and referee reports are to be sent to the HDBL committee email address.

No member of the Committee deciding on the disciplinary issue may have any connection with the team or individual that it relates to.

8.2. Discipline Processes

In all instances reports by officials are to be sent to the committee within 72 hours of the incident by e-mail. A disciplinary report will be provided to the club along with any disciplinary measures awarded where there has been a determination over and above the standard penalties laid out below.

8.3. Disqualification of a Player or Coach

- An immediate disqualification is where an offence is committed, and the player is immediately ejected from the sports hall
- A game disqualification is where a player or coach has received two unsportsmanlike fouls, two technical fouls (or one of each)

8.3.1. Immediate disqualifications will carry an automatic two-match ban, which cannot be appealed, and the player or coach shall go to and remain in, his/her team's dressing room for the duration of the game or, if he/she so wishes, shall leave the building as noted in FIBA rules section 38-8 (updated February 2018). The two-match ban will comprise of that teams next two fixtures.

8.3.2 Any player or coach receiving two unsportsmanlike fouls (or one of each unsportsmanlike or technical foul) or a coach receiving three bench technical fouls, shall go to and remain in his/her team's dressing room for the duration of the game or, if he/she so wishes, shall leave the building as noted in FIBA rules section 38-8 (updated February 2018).

8.3.3 Any player or coach receiving two technical fouls, shall receive a one match ban, which cannot be appealed and shall go to and remain in his/her team's dressing room for the duration of the game or, if he/she so wishes, shall leave the building as noted in FIBA rules section 38-8 (updated February 2018).

8.3.4 All Technical Fouls will attract a fine of £20, which cannot be appealed. This fine is payable by the player, coach or team before the team's next game. The team will not be able to play the next game unless the fine is paid. If there are two technical fouls received by the same player in one game - they shall receive the actions in 8.3.3 and shall pay a £40 fine, payable by the player or team before the team's next game.

8.3.4. Any additional ban awarded by the HDBL committee may be appealed to the full Committee. This must be done within 7 days of notification of the ban.

8.3.5. At least two appointed officials must report on a disqualification to the HDBL committee within 72 hours of the fixture. Where the disqualification is for violent conduct or verbal abuse a more detailed report is required to allow appropriate action to be taken. Table officials will also be expected to complete a report when asked by one of the floor officials or the disciplinary committee.

8.3.6. Where fines are levied by the disciplinary committee - these must be paid within 14 days of notice being received by the team concerned. Failure to comply will result in a 50% increase in the fine per 14 days until payment is received. If the fine was imposed on a club and is not paid after 14 days the club may be considered for suspension from playing in the League.

8.3.7 Any player who has served a 1 match ban for Technical Fouls for a third time will take no further part in the season and cannot attend games in any capacity.

8.3.8 Any player who receives two disqualifying fouls in a season will take no further and cannot attend games in any capacity.

8.3.9 Any player serving a ban will not be permitted access to any of the league venues during the ban period.

8.4. Discipline Appeals Procedure

Any team wishing to appeal a decision by the disciplinary Officer will have to pay a levy of £25 along with the appeal letter / email. The HDBL will re-consider the matter. If the appeal is successful the £25 will be refunded, if the appeal is unsuccessful the fee shall be forfeited.

The appeals panel will inform the outcome of their decision within 21 days and this decision is final and no other appeal can be made.

9. Off court conduct

9.1 Any inappropriate and/or unacceptable conduct by players and/or officials towards HDBL committee members or other players/officials will be dealt with by a 2 point deduction from the league total (at the time of the offence). Any subsequent offence from the team/player/official will result in disqualification from the league. The HDBL committee are solely responsible for any disciplinary action of this nature.

10. Fixtures

The Fixtures Secretary will publish the fixtures on the Hyndburn League website (<https://www.hyndburnbasketballleague.co.uk>). It is the team's responsibility to monitor the website on a frequent basis to ensure players arrive at the correct sports hall at the correct time. Forfeits will be charged if teams do not monitor the league website for fixtures.

11. General

11.1. Issues and events not covered in the League Rules of Play.

Where possible all events and issues will adhere to the HDBL League Rules and FIBA rules, however, where specific and extraordinary issues arise the HDBL committee have the right to determine the outcome of the extraordinary issue outside these rules.