

# METROPOLITAN AREA ADVENTIST



# BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

**BYLAWS**

**Aug 2018**

## **FEE AND FINES SECTION**

### **I. TEAM FEES**

<b>Pee Wee</b>	\$250
<b>Pony</b>	\$600
<b>Junior Varsity</b>	\$625
<b>Varsity</b>	\$650
<b>Adult</b>	\$850
<b>Cheerleaders</b>	\$100

- A. Each participating team is assessed a fee to cover its proportionate share of expenses incurred to organize season and playoff basketball games. Herein referred to as Team Fees. These expenses include, but are not limited to: game officials, gyms, equipment, trophies for the best season record, etc., and administrative costs.
- B. The Team Fee must be paid in full at the coaches' Organizational meeting which will be held approximately six weeks before the start of the new season. Failure of a team to make a timely remittance of the team and/or League Fee may result in the assessment of a late fee and will jeopardize the participation of the basketball team in the current season.
- C. **All Team fees are due September 1<sup>st</sup>. Please mail all fees to Seabrook SDA Church 8900 Good Luck Rd, Lanham MD 20706.** All basketball teams must pay the League Fee directly to the Head Commissioner or Treasurer. Payment for fines and Team Fees must be paid by check or money order. Make payable to: MAABA (Metro Area Adventist Basketball Association). When mailing in the team fee, it will be considered timely if mailed early enough to be received before the due date. The Treasurer or Head Commissioner will verify the receipt of the team's Team fee as requested.
- D. **Any** team that fails to submit an acceptable team roster and pictures one week prior to the start of the season will not be eligible to participate in the league for the current season and will forfeit fifty percent (50%) of the league and team fees. **(2016 Revision)**
- E. **In the event** a church **cannot** field their team with **eligible** players, they have until September 30<sup>th</sup> to receive **an 80% refund of their Team fees**. If they **cannot** field their teams with players **once** the season **has begun** they will receive **a 40% refund** of their **Team fees**. **(2016 Revision)**

### **II. FINES**

- A. A \$100.00 fine is assessed to the Team/Church for failure to provide representation at the mandatory coaches meeting(s). This fine must be paid before the team is allowed to participate in the MAABA.
- B. A \$100 fine is assessed for forfeiting a game or notifying MAABA of an intended forfeit after Tuesday of the same week. This fine will be payable to MAABA in a check or money order within 30 days of the forfeited game. The forfeiting team may appeal the fine and a decision will be made at discretion of the Head Commissioner. **(2016 Revision)**

- C. All fines assessed to a team for violation of the MAABA Bylaws must be paid prior to the admission of the church or independent team to any subsequent basketball season. The changing of the team name or composition of the team does not dismiss this financial responsibility. In some cases, this responsibility will rest solely with the coach of the team. In the latter case, the individual will be barred from participating in the MAABA in every capacity until the fine(s) are paid or dismissed for good reason.

## **COACHES SECTION:**

### **COACHES ELIGIBILITY FOR ADULT DIVISION:**

A Coach of a MAABA team must be a baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) denomination.

Church memberships must be ascertainable by the Commissioner via written correspondence with the respective church pastor, clerk, and/or conference office, as appropriate.

### **I. COACHES ELIGIBILITY FOR PEE WEE, PONY, JUNIOR VARSITY, AND VARSITY:**

The team coaches in Varsity, Junior Varsity (JV), Pony and Pee Wee Divisions must be a member of and/or regularly attend the church that sponsors the team.

Youth Divisions Statement of Participation The Varsity, JV, Pony and Pee Wee team coaches are strongly encouraged to institute standards for the youth participants on the team that must be met to continue active participation in the league games. Such requirements should promote spiritual and mental development. Spiritual development is obtained through Sabbath School and AYS attendance and participation in other church programs such as the youth Choirs, Youth Day Programs, the academic institutions, measurable by the periodic grades made by the youth participant. In this regard, an overall average rating or "C" grade-point average in school should be the minimum acceptable performance for the Varsity, JV, Pony and Pee Wee participant. Athletic and sport activities should be considered only a part of the total youth program within the church.

### **II. COACHES MEETINGS:**

All items voted on are binding for at least the current season. Once an item has been voted on, it will only be re-addressed in a meeting if the Commissioner agrees that circumstances have changed significantly and a re-vote could alter the original vote to the benefit of the league.

There are three (3) mandatory meetings (Beginning of Season, Mid-Season and End of Season) held each year. A representative from all churches and Independent Teams must attend all three meetings or each church and Independent Team will be assessed a \$100.00 fine.

## **PLAYERS SECTION:**

### **I. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY –MENS & LADIES**

A player participating in MAABA is limited to participating on one league team each season.

First year men/ladies (names not appearing on the List of Eligible Players) must have the necessary approval letter signed by the MAABA Commissioner and Pastor prior to playing in any games.

### **II. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – PEE WEE, PONY, JUNIOR VARSITY, AND VARSITY:**

#### **A. Age requirements are as follows:**

1. The Varsity participant must be no older than eighteen (18) by October 30<sup>th</sup> of the current basketball season.
2. The JV participant must be no older than fifteen (15) by October 30<sup>th</sup> of the current basketball season.
3. The Pony participant must be no older than twelve (12) by October 30<sup>th</sup> of the current basketball season.
4. The Pee Wee participant must be no older than nine (9) by October 30<sup>th</sup> of the current basketball season.
5. All girls are allowed one (1) additional year of eligibility within their division.

### **III. NON-ADVENTIST PLAYER ELIGIBILITY (ADULT):**

Each men's & ladies team is allowed three (3) non-Adventist participants (players or assistance coaches). A non-Adventist participant is any person who is not a member of the SDA church

The team's non-Adventist participants must be in the team picture and on the official team roster form. The official roster must identify each non-Adventist participant.

A non-Adventist participant cannot be added to the roster after the roster has been submitted to the Commissioner.

The non-Adventists participant must be in the team group picture. An individual photo is not acceptable.

The following circumstances will result in forfeiture for each game a team is in violation:

1. Four (4) or more non-Adventist participants recorded in the game book.
2. Four (4) or more non-Adventist participants on team roster.
3. Adding a non-Adventist to the roster or game scorebook after the official roster form has been submitted to the Commissioner.

## **TEAM SECTIONS**

### **II. TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

All church sponsored basketball teams will be admitted to the league when such team meets all the requirements of the Bylaws herein.

All teams must receive church board approval to participate in MAABA. (Aug 2018 addition)

Non-church sponsored teams (hereafter referred to as Independent Teams) must petition the Metro Area Adventist Basketball Association church teams for admission to the league. A majority vote of the church team representatives is required for league approval.

### **III. INDEPENDENT TEAMS:**

An Independent Team is defined as a basketball team which is a non-church sponsored team. Once an Independent Team is admitted, it must comply with all the provisions in the MAABA bylaws.

Once an Independent Team is admitted to the league, it will remain a full pledged participant during consecutive seasons as long as the team roster does not change significantly (i.e., changes consisting of no more than a change in the non-Adventist participants and two other changes).

An Independent Team must submit to the Commissioner and Team Representatives the name and the team coach and a list of the player names, church affiliation and respective Church Pastor. Prospective teams with less than ten (10) players are not eligible to be included in the league. The Independent Team representative must bring to the meeting twenty (20) copies of the prospective team roster.

The team roster must specify each participant as a non-Adventist or an Adventist and state the church, city, and state where the participant's membership is held.

### **IV. TEAM ROSTERS, PICTURES & UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS:**

Rosters for the Varsity, Junior Varsity, Pony and Pee Wee teams, along with a team picture and the age verification form must be submitted to the Commissioner on the Official Roster (see Attachment B). All coaches must bring to each game a copy of the roster, team picture, and copy of the age verification form.

Each Adult team must submit a team roster and 6 team pictures to the commissioner on the Official Roster Form (See Attachment B). The adult team picture must include all coaches and players, be on 4X6 prints, and be clear enough to identify all players.

The team *roster* must have at least ten (10) players and no more than fifteen (15) players. Junior Varsity, Pony and Pee Wee teams may carry up to twenty (20) players).

Rosters and pictures are due to the Head Commissioner one week prior to the start of the season. Change (additions or deletions) to team *rosters* must be on the official MAABA Notification of Change in Roster form. No change can be made to the *rosters* after the fourth week of the season.

A team may 'Declare Hardship' if the roster falls below 8 players before the 5<sup>th</sup> game of the season. Hardship cases will be reviewed by the MAABA Board of Directors.

All team players must wear the same/color/s uniforms.

All jerseys must have numbers on them, no taped numbers, and player with taped numbers will not be allowed to play. No two players can wear the same numbers.

A copy of each team roster and adult picture will be signed and dated by the Commissioner, placed in each commissioner's notebook. The Commissioner will maintain an individual picture of each Varsity, Junior Varsity, Pony and Pee Wee player and a copy of their birth certificate.

The MAABA is responsible for providing at each game: score books, scorekeeper, timekeepers, basketballs, and league rules/bylaws. Coaches are responsible for providing at each game a team roster of each Varsity, Junior Varsity, Pony, and Pee Wee teams and a copy of their Age Validation Form.

#### **IX. CHEERLEADERS & STEP TEAMS:**

Church team cheerleader squads shall consist of not more than twelve (12) individuals including coach/team leader. A cheerleader is defined as a uniformed individual who leads the team fans in organized cheers during the team's games.

The team coach and/or AYS Leaders must monitor cheers and outfits to ensure that both are in accordance with Adventist principles.

The cheerleaders roster form letter (see Attachment G) must be submitted to the Head Commissioner one week prior to first game of the season.

All cheerleaders and sponsors must wear team colors and/or uniform to be admitted free into games.

### **GAMES SECTION:**

**Game Start Provisions:** Clock starts when Commissioners/referee and scorekeepers are ready at the designated start time. If neither team has arrived, clock will still run but no team will be awarded any points. When one team has the minimum players to start the game, that team will be awarded a point /minute until the other team has at least four players to play the game. After 15 minutes if the other team does not have four players the game will be forfeited and awarded to the team eligible to play. **Unless otherwise stated, all divisions will use High School Federation rules to all players and coaches.**

A team may start and finish with four players.

Overtime will be three (3) minutes.

Half-time will be no more than five (5) minutes, and will be governed by the Commissioner.

#### **I. PEE WEE:**

- A. Time - **All Pee Wee Games will be 15-minute running halves.**  
Half time will be 2 minutes. Each team will get two (2) 30 Seconds timeout per half.  
There is no Overtime in Pee Wee unless it's a playoff game.
- B. Referees - Each team will provide a referee for each game. The commissioner on duty will review the Pee Wee Rules with the referees before each game. Teams are encouraged to have a pool of referees on call so that the same set of referees are officiating the Pee Wee Games. The Commissioner on duty will have final say on any interpretation of the rules and any inconsistencies with the referees.
- C. NEW RULES - Traveling will be called after 5 steps during Pee Wee Games,  
Double Dribbling is allowed  
Backcourt will be called  
And 5 Seconds in the Paint will be called  
Any excessive fouls such as tackling or hits to the head will result in immediate substitution.
- D. Team has 15 seconds to get the ball past half court (Referee should visually demonstrate the count).
- E. No full-court press or defensive pressure before 1/2 court is allowed in Pee Wee. **The above rule will not apply with less than 15 seconds left in the game and a less than 10 point differential.**
- F. All player fouls will count as team fouls and when a team gets 7 team fouls in the half the other team gets 1 point for every foul committed throughout the half, and the team that was fouled will maintain possession of the ball.
- G. Flagrant Fouls - the referees on duty will make a Judgment Call to determine if a player committed a flagrant foul or anything which indicates excessive contact or unsportsmanlike conduct. When a player is called for a Flagrant foul, the team gets a warning, the other team gets possession. (team will get 2 points if team that committed the foul has exceeded the 7 team fouls) The second flagrant foul will result in an automatic two points for the other team and possession of the ball. If the second flagrant foul is by the same player that player will be ejected from that game. Any team committing 3 Flagrant Fouls in a game will have their game forfeited to the other team
- H. Offensive Charges or illegal screens will not be called unless the referee determines that it was a flagrant foul.
- I. Extreme unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and will follow our zero tolerance policy of the league, so fighting or cursing will result in immediate ejection of the game and review by commissioners as to the player status for future participation.
- J. Every player suited and on the bench must participate in the game unless the Coach approaches the commissioner prior to the start of the game and indentify to the commissioner the player that will not play in that game. It is recommended that if you will not play a player do not have the player on your bench.

## **II. PONY:**

Coin toss will determine start of the Pony.

Pony Division will play 16 minute halves.

Player is removed from the game on the player's fifth (5) personal foul.

Four (4) time-outs will be allotted per game.

Mercy Rule: The winning team may not press (full court or half court) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the game if leading by a minimum of 20 points and the clock will continue to run regardless of being under 2 minutes. Once the point differential is within 20 points the above provisions no longer apply but will be reinstated any point which the 20 point differential is met. The 1<sup>st</sup> violation of the mercy rules constitutes a warning. Any subsequent violations will result in two free throws for the losing team. **(2016 Revision).**

**CLOCK STOPS - The game clock will only stop on all time-outs, and the last two minutes of the game in Prince George's County & Montgomery County.**

### **III. JUNIOR VARSITY & VARSITY**

Coin toss will determine initial possession of the JV and a jump ball will determine the varsity.

JV Division will play 17 minute halves. Varsity Division will play 18 minute halves.

Player is removed from the game on the player's fifth (5) personal foul.

Four (4) time-outs will be allotted per game.

**CLOCK STOPS - The game clock will only stop on all time-outs, and the last two minutes of the game in Prince George's County & Montgomery County.**

### **IV. ADULT:**

Player is removed from the game on the player's sixth (6) personal foul.

Five (5) time-outs will be allotted per game.

Dunking is allowed only during the game. Dunking is not allowed during warm-ups, before, in between, or after games.

**CLOCK STOPS - The game clock will only stop on all time-outs, and the last two minutes of the game in Prince George's County & Montgomery County.**

#### **Dunking Liability**

If dunking during a game damages rims, MAABA will take full responsibility for the repairs or the replacement of the damage equipment.

If rims are damaged by dunking during warm-ups, before, after or in between games the individual will be held responsibility for the repair or the replacement of the damage equipment. If the individual is unable to pay for the repairs, the coach and team will be held responsible. If the coach and team do not accept responsibility for repairs the team will forfeit three games and the player will be suspended from the league.

### **XII. SEASON GAMES:**

The MAABA season will commence during the month of October of each year and should end no later than the second week in April of the next year. Each basketball regular season will consist of no more than nine (9) games per season for the Men, Varsity, Junior Varsity and Pony teams, and no less than eight (8) games for Pee Wee teams. **Please note that this is subject to change by the commissioners.**

### **XIII. DIVISION PLAYOFF GAMES:**

MAABA teams may be divided into two (2) intra-Divisions, designated the Northern and Southern, when possible to aid in the tie-breaker decision or as the current commissioner and staff see

feasible.

Players must play in at least 3 regular season games to eligible to play in the playoffs. (Any extenuating circumstances will be on a case by case basis)

The top 8 teams per division will qualify for playoff with the exception of the Pee Wee Division.

**Please note that this is subject to change by the commissioners.**

**Eight (8) playoff teams**

*(1<sup>st</sup> Round)*

Team A (1st place) vs. Team H (8th place)  
Team B (2nd place) vs. Team G (7th place)  
Team C (3rd place) vs. Team F (6th place)  
Team D (4th place) vs. Team E (5th place)

*(2<sup>nd</sup> Round)*

Winner of (A vs. H) vs. Winner of (D vs. E)  
Winner of (B vs. G) vs. Winner of (C vs. F)

*(3<sup>rd</sup> Round)*

Winner of (A vs. H) vs. (D vs. E) vs. Winner of (B vs. G) vs. (C vs. F)

**Tie Braking Procedures:** Tied team season records will be broken based on the following criteria in the following order:

1. Head to head games: 1<sup>st</sup> – won/lost record of the tied teams against each other and 2<sup>nd</sup> if each tied team won a game against each other, then the largest point spread between the tied team.
2. Intra-Divisional records (equal number of games)
3. Best record of common opponents
4. Point Totals
5. Coin Toss

**XIX. TROPHIES AND AWARDS (if monies allows):**

A team trophy will be awarded to each playoff Division Championship winner. The Pony, JV and Varsity playoff Championship winner will also receive individual trophies (at least 15 for Varsity, and 20 for Pony, JV & Pee Wee). The cost of individual trophies for the Men's playoff Division Championship winners maybe set aside for the MAABA scholarship fund.

A team trophy will be awarded to each runner-up playoff Division winners.

## **DISCIPLINE SECTION**

All coaches **must be in control of themselves, the team and the bench** at all times. The coach has the power to temporarily suspend players from the team roster for a maximum of two games per infraction. Suspensions may run consecutively or concurrently as determined by the coach.

The Basketball Commissioner individually or jointly with the Athletic Director and/or the sponsoring church AYS Leader and/or AYS Council will suspend any coach or player for the following:

Conduct unbecoming to a Christian. This includes, but is not limited to, invoking a fight, or disturbance before, during, or after a game, taunting and using profanity at any time.

Insubordination. This includes, but is not limited to, disrespecting league, conference, or church officials in word or action.

The MAABA has adopted the following rules:

Any player or coach who strikes another player during or after a game will be automatically ejected from the league.

If a player or coach is suspended from the league, the suspension is for one year from the date of infraction.

Any player/s or coach ejected from a game must leave the building for the evening within five (5) minutes or the team will forfeit the game (if the team lost, the next game will be forfeited). If a coach or player returns to the building that evening after ejection, the team will forfeit the game even if the team won the game.

**NO CURSING IS ALLOWED AT ANYTIME.** If a player or coach curses he/she will be assessed a technical foul if heard by the referee/commissioner and suspended for three games by the commissioner. Second offense - suspended for 1 year.

### **NEW**

**Coach: 3 game suspension/ejection – second offense 1 full calendar year**

**Player: 1 game suspension/ejection – second offense 3 games- third offense 1 full calendar year**

All coaches are responsible for their player's behavior while on the school property. If a coach is not able to control players, display strong Christian leadership, and maintain a Christian environment at the game, the commissioner will provide assistance.

A coach having two or more players disciplined for un-sportsmanlike conduct will receive counseling by the Basketball Commissioner and/or his/her designee(s) with an emphasis on the coach's responsibility to control his/her team. If marked improvement is not reached, the coach may be barred from the league for the remainder of the season.

## **XIV. NOTIFICATION OF VIOLATION:**

Notification of a violation must be made in writing and forwarded to the Head Commissioner for hearing before the Board. If mailed, it must be postmarked within three (3) working days after the date of the incident. If hand delivered, the written notification can be made within five (5) working days of the date of the violation.

The following persons may lodge a notice of violation against a team: Head Commissioner, Assistant Basketball Commissioners, League Coaches, Officials, Church Pastors, and AYS Leaders.

The Letter designation the violation must contain the name of the violating team, the exact violation, a brief description of the incident, and the signature and title of the person lodging the complaint. The name of a reliable witness should also be included along with the witness's address and telephone number (see Attachment E). A reliable witness would be any person named in Section B above. The person lodging the complaint cannot also be the witness.

Failure to comply with the requirements of Section C above will negate the notice of violation as submitted and, therefore, no action is necessary by the Basketball Commissioner. This does not prevent the resubmission of the Notification of Violation within the time restraints of Section A above.

Notification of Violation may be lodged at any time against a team by the Head Commissioner or Assistant Commissioners without being witnessed by a third party.

**XV. PROTEST:**

A protest to a game may be registered by a coach by submitting a Letter of Protest (see Attachment F) containing the opponent's name, date, and details of the protest, to the Head Commissioner for hearing by the Board, accompanied with a \$15 money order payable to the MAABA.

The letter **must** be postmarked by the third working day following the protested game. If hand delivered, the Head Commissioner within five working days following the protested game must receive the letter.

Arbitration will be within one week after the alleged violating team has been notified and given an opportunity to respond.

Five dollars (\$5.00) will be returned to the petitioner if the decision of the board is in favor of the petitioner.

Protest against referee calls or errors and requests for the commissioners to review video tapes are strongly discouraged. Bad calls or errors on the part of the referees are part of the game and generally viewed as a non-protest issue by the commissioners. Viewing of video tapes for reasons other than identification of players are generally not considered by the commissioners due to the potential of identifying other issues or violation during the game.

**XVI. REGISTERING A REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION:**

The **Commissioners** will recognize and investigate all written inquiries or requests submitted to the league.

All submissions made under this section must contain the following information:

1. Complete information on the situation or circumstances precipitating the letter of inquiry;
2. At least half of the uninvolved Team Coaches' or Representatives' signatures; and
3. Recommended action from the Basketball Commissioner to resolve the situation. (Optional).

**XX. LIABILITY AND HAZARDOUS INSURANCE COVERAGE:**

All players should have insurance to cover injury, harm or acute illness that may arise during the course of participation in any basketball-related activities including travel to and from games.

All players must sign a [General Release Agreement Form](#) (see Attachments H-1 for men & ladies or H-2 for Pee Wee, Pony, JV & Varsity) prior to the start of each season, which releases the church, MAABA, Allegheny East Conference, Chesapeake Conference, Potomac, Columbia Union, General Conference, Montgomery County Public School and ICB Board, MNCPP and Prince George's County schools, and all affiliated organizations of all liability and responsibility whatsoever due to harm, accident, injury or acute illness that may arise while participating in any basketball game.

A parent or guardian is required to sign the General Release form for all Pony, Junior Varsity, and Varsity participants. Varsity participants that are 18 years of age are not required to have a parent or guardians signature on their General Release form.

## **OFFICERS RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **XXII. Responsibilities of Head Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners, and Treasurer**

Head Commissioner: Conduct the week-to-week operations of the league. Duties includes: serve as chairperson of coaches meetings; obtaining rented gyms and basketball officials; developing and issuing the season schedule; communicating with the coaches, players, basketball officials and county officials on game status due to school closure or weather conditions, as soon as possible; maintain and issuing mid-season and end of season team standing/records of won and lost games; and meeting with county or basketball officials to address concerns and identify areas for improvements.

Assistant Commissioners: Effectively maintain a steady flow of operation of the gymnasium under his/her care, being sure to utilize and implement the rules and regulations set forth in the MAABA Bylaws; calling in results of Saturday night games to the Head Commissioner or the designated person within 24 hours; reporting any issues or problems to the Head Commissioner within 24 hours; maintaining equipment in good condition and report equipment problems to the treasurer or Head Commissioner; and arrive at the gym 15 minutes before opening and remain until everyone has departed (MOTTO - First to arrive and last to leave).

Treasurer: conduct the week-to-week financial operations of the league such as collect team fees and make payment for gym rental, basketball officials and other equipment as necessary to ensure the league operates effectively and efficiently; assist the Head Commissioner in conducting meetings; and maintain the financial status of the league

All MAABA officers should be God fearing Christian men and women who possess a desire to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. All MAABA officers must be good and upstanding members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church accept those who allowed by MAABA bylaws.

The term of office for all MAABA officers shall be 1 year from the time of the first meeting and election. The Head Commissioner for the current season shall oversee the beginning of the first meeting, and shall conduct the election of the “leader of the voting body” to oversee the election of the new or returning MAABA officers. At the completion of the vote the “leader of the voting body” shall oversee the election of the Head Commissioner.

Candidates wanting to serve as MAABA Head Commissioner shall be given 6 minutes to present themselves to the voting body and answer questions from the floor. The “leader of the voting body” shall keep track of the time of each candidate. At the completion of the vote of the Head Commissioner, the newly elected Head Commissioner shall lead the meeting to complete the process of voting the Asst. Commissioners, Treasurer, Board of Directors, etc.