



Lakeshore Honors League Basketball

Policies and Procedures

2020

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I. Mission/Vision

The Lakeshore Honors League Basketball program exists to invest in our community's high school boys who cannot play on traditional high schools teams, expecting returns of stronger character, knowledge of life skills, increased self-esteem, and increased sense of community belonging.

II. Target Population

The Lakeshore Honors League Basketball program is designed to provide athletic opportunities to youth who are not able to participate on traditional high school teams for reasons of ineligibility, lack of resources (i.e. personal, transportation, financial), lack of opportunity, etc. Players should not be playing on any other sanctioned team at their home school or elsewhere.

III. Recruitment

Failure to adhere to the following regulations is punishable by, by not limited to, player disqualification, team disqualification, and game forfeiture.

A. Ministry/Agency Based Teams

60% of the youth on the team should be connected to the ministry/agency/organization in some way. For example: consistent attendance at a drop-in facility, part of community based programs with organization volunteers, fits defining criteria, etc. The remaining 40% of the youth may be youth who hear about the team through friends or other means. These youth must be approved by the coach to play, must be in approved geographical area as defined by the league, must not be playing on any other team (public school, private school, other LHL team, etc.).

Players on community teams must be from the community that the team represents (i.e. Southeast Ottawa County) and 60% of the youth must be referred by a school or agency that verifies the youth fall into the target population for the league.

B. School Teams

Players on school teams must attend the school the team represents or must be from the community that the school is in and not have other alternative teams to play on (i.e. a youth from Allendale with approval from the school and coach may play on the Allendale New Options team because no other option is available.

C. All Teams

The following are regulations that all teams must abide by, in addition to those previously defined in the Ministry/Agency, Community, and School Team Sections:

Team Coaches are responsible to submit a preliminary roster prior to their first game. A final team roster must be submitted by **Friday January 31, 2020**. Adding players to the team beyond the final roster date must be cleared by a vote of the advisory team.

Team rosters will have a maximum of 15 players. Rosters must include first and last name, jersey number, school, grade, and age.

Coaches must collect liability and health forms on all players using the forms provided by the league or forms the organization already uses. These forms will be turned into the league at the player's first game, and then returned to the team to keep on file. These forms should be kept accessible at all practices and games.

Players must not be playing on any other sanctioned team at their school, in the LHL, or elsewhere.

Coaches are requested to inform the league if eligible players have been turned away from the team because of the team being full. If a youth wants to play we have a desire to find a team for him to play with.

Coaches are expected to communicate with the league regarding the placement of players who may be eligible for more than one team and are expected to consider the school teams as having priority over agency/community based teams. Failure to disclose could result in, but is not limited to, player disqualification, team disqualification, and game forfeiture.

IV. Player Eligibility

A. Educational Status

Players must be in school or doing something to obtain a diploma or GED.

If attending school, players must be passing 50% or more of their classes as determined by the coach, team administrator, and league coordinator, to be eligible to play LHL games.

Players must be consistently attending school or GED classes – they need to show up more often than just game days. **Players must attend school on games days.**

Players must turn in a weekly verification from school teachers, counseling staff, principal, parent, or internet printout to determine eligibility.

Coaches must report the names and jersey numbers of ineligible players each week by Wednesday at 12pm to the league coordinator. The grades collected on Wednesday will allow the player to participate for the following week.

If a youth has been expelled or suspended from any school, it is up to the discretion of the league coordinator and/or advisory team to determine if the youth will be allowed to play in the league. This decision will be made based on why the youth was suspended, when and for how long, as well as if the youth is now attending a different school or GED program.

B. Age/Grade

Youth should be between the ages of 14 and 18. 18 year olds must still be attending a high school and not have had child abuse or criminal sex offenses. **Notification of 18 year old youth on the roster should be sent to the league coordinator, who will then complete a background check.**

Age should be considered of greater importance than grade, however the primary target for this league is high school students.

C. Gender

The LHL Basketball program is currently designed for male participants. In this context, male and female is determined by the gender listed on the participant's birth certificate.

D. Other

A student who has the ability and resources to play on a school team but did not make the team, may play and will count towards the 40% of other players.

Individual teams are allowed/encouraged to establish further eligibility requirements as long as they do not conflict with those set forth by the league and ensure fair play to all teams. Individual teams' recruitment and eligibility plans and requirements should be submitted to the league advisory team for approval.

If there is a question of the eligibility of a player, the advisory team has the authority to grant or take away eligibility.

V. Player Ineligibility

When a player becomes ineligible to play, he may still attend practices and sit on the sidelines during games, but may not play in games.

If the ineligibility continues to a point where the player cannot regain eligibility, it is up to the coach's discretion whether the player may continue to attend practices.

If a player is not eligible for one team due to being expelled or suspended from school during the season, the player is not eligible to play for any other team. Coaches are expected to communicate with one another and the league coordinator prior to allowing a player to switch teams.

VI. Coaches Standards

Attend league sponsored coaches meeting or individual meeting with the league coordinator.

Be an example of sportsmanship, work ethic, responsibility, and respect at all times to the youth.

Background checks are required for all coaches. Schools or organizations may conduct their own check and keep it on file. If a school or organization is unable to conduct their own check, the league will conduct the checks upon request.

Complete and submit all forms required by the league including, but not limited to, preliminary rosters, final rosters, concussion awareness training completions, and medical waivers.

Individual teams may have additional standards for coaches based on their individual mission/visions.

VII. Concussion Policy

As of June 30, 2013 the state of Michigan passed legislation requiring that all coaches, volunteers, and other adults involved with youth athletic activity complete a concussion awareness online training program. The LHL supports full compliance with this legislation. The league coordinator will provide information and access to necessary materials for completing the concussion training.

Coaches and team staff are responsible for completing the online training. Signatures verifying completion will be on the preliminary roster.

Coaches are required to give the league provided concussion awareness materials to the players and ensure that each player signs the preliminary roster in acknowledgement of receiving the materials.

VIII. Injury Policy

It is strongly recommended that players turn in a completed physical form prior to the season to ensure the youth is in adequate health to participate in athletic activity.

First aid kits must be kept on site and each coach should have a first aid kit in their possession. Kits are available from the league upon request. These kits must be returned at the end of the season.

Coaches should act in the best interest of the player's health, regardless if they player feels they can still play.

Coaches, league staff, and site staff should work together to contact parents and take any other steps necessary in a medical situation or emergency.

IX. Medications & Medical Condition Policy

Full disclosure of all medications is required – players are expected to inform coaches of all prescription medications. If taking a prescription pain medicine including, but not limited to Tylenol 3, Vicodin, medical marijuana, etc. the player may not play until he has a doctor's note indicating it is safe for him to play.

Full disclosure of medical conditions is required. A coach and a team administrator must give approval for an athlete to play in the LHL.

Coaches and league staff are not allowed to administer any medication to players.

With parent permission, players may use over-the-counter medications for the intended use of the medication as well as prescription medications that are not narcotics, as prescribed by a physician.

X. Substance Use Policy

Players are not to use and/or possess any mood altering chemicals – legal or illegal. This includes but is not limited to salvia, inhalants, k2/spice, and prescription narcotics.

Players are not to use and/or possess performance enhancing drugs. According to the MHSAA and the NCAA, this includes the following classes of drugs: stimulants, anabolic agents, diuretics and other masking agents, street drugs, peptide hormones and analogues, anti-estrogens, and Beta-2 agonists.

Players found to be in violation of the substance use policies may be subject to any number of games suspension the league and advisory team deems appropriate for the violation.

XI. Practice Policy

Team are responsible for finding their own practice space, however the league will assist as it is able. If needing league assistance, inform the league as soon as possible.

Teams are allowed a maximum of 10 practice hours per week, not including transportation time or specific time set aside for team/character building.

Teams are allowed to start official practices on or after **Jan 1, 2020**. Open gyms may be held before then.

XII. Team Responsibilities

Locate a facility suitable for use as a practice and game gym.

If necessary, provide transportation of team members to practices and games.

Abide by league policies and procedures.

Make sure all practice and game sites are cared for and left in better condition than when activities began.

Appropriately take up any and all grievances with the league advisory team in writing.

Ensure that the players on the team are being cared for appropriately, which includes identify injuries, needs, and most likely providing snacks or water for the team to ensure proper nourishment.

The home team for every game is responsible to provide a scoreboard operator and official scorekeeper.

Teams are responsible for turning in all paperwork to the league, including player eligibility each week.

Pay the team buy-in fee of **\$175 by December 1, prior to the season**.

Participate in fundraisers hosted by the league.

Each team must submit two rosters to the league. Once at the beginning of the season as a preliminary roster and once mid-way through the season as a final roster. The preliminary roster will be due before the team's first game and the final roster will be due on **Friday January 31, 2020**.

XIII. Game Officials

Officials will be coordinated and provided by the league. At least one official, ideally two, will be at every game. All officials are licensed by the MHSAA.

To submit grievances regarding a rule misinterpretation, coaches should complete the Referee Grievance Form available from the league, and submit it to the Referee Coordinator via the league coordinator.

No Contact Policy: No player or coach may physically touch an official, with the exception of a handshake. Any player or coach who physically assaults an official will be immediately ejected from the game and may also receive a suspension from future games. The amount of games shall be determined by the league and advisory team based on the severity of the assault.

XIV. Uniforms/Dress Code

Teams will have reversible jerseys and the league will work with the teams to coordinate uniform colors so they are not all the same.

Uniforms should abide by MHSAA rules, i.e. jerseys tucked in at all times, undershirts need to match, etc. Undershirts should be black, white, or the team color.

No jewelry will be worn during games.

Any additional arm bands, "colors", or accessories that are not medicinal in nature are not allowed.

Uniforms must be returned at the end of the season. If uniforms are not returned, the league has the right to request monetary compensation equal to, but not above, replacement costs.

End of Season Equipment Returns:

Please make it clear to your players that they are expected to return jerseys in good shape. Failure to return jerseys will result in the team being charged a **\$20** replacement fee per jersey. Failure to return shorts will result in the team being charged a **\$15** replacement fee per pair of shorts. Each game ball is expected to be returned at the end of the season with the shorts and jerseys. Failure to return the game ball will result in a **\$30** fee.

XV. Non-League Games

Teams are allowed and encouraged to schedule additional games that are non-league. These will be scheduled by the individual teams and should not interfere with league games. It is advised to postpone scheduling non-league games until after the league schedule is released.

XVI. Grievances with the League

All grievances must be taken to the league in writing. Grievances should include the date, a brief but complete description of the grievance, and the solution or action you are seeking. They can be submitted to Nate Dewitt at nate@harderwyk.com or mailed to Harderwyk Ministries Attn: Lakeshore Honors League Holland Mi 49424

XVII. Advisory Team

The role of the advisory team is to set and enforce standards for the league and its teams, coaches, players, and officials, as well as advocate for the league. The team is made up of representatives for parties in the LHL such as team administrators, officials, schools, and the league itself.

XVIII. Fundraising

Harderwyk Ministries will act as a fiduciary for league funds. All funds raised for the league will go directly to the league. Individual teams are expected to participate in league fundraisers and are required to invest in the league at the beginning of every season with a buy-in fee (\$175).

XIX. Tournament

The LHL basketball season will conclude with a single-elimination tournament. Each team in the league will participate in at least one tournament game. Players eligible to play in the tournament must have been an eligible player on the team for at least half of the season. If a player was approved to join a team at the end of the season, it would be decided by the advisory team at the time of approval if he was eligible for tournament play.

XX. Spirit of the League Award

At the end of the season coaches, officials, and league staff will be polled to determine the Spirit of the League winner. This is the LHL's sportsmanship award. The winner of this award is the team that demonstrated strong work ethic, excellent teamwork, humility, and honor in good sportsmanship when winning and losing.

XXI. Cheerleaders

If a team desires to have cheerleaders at the game, please check with the opposing team as many of the gyms in the LHL are small and are not practical for cheerleaders. In the larger gyms we play in, cheerleaders must be dressed appropriately and must cheer positively for their own team, not against the opposing team.

XXII. League Property

Uniforms, game basketball, first aid kits, and scoreboards should be kept in good condition and returned to the LHL at the end of the season. Team may be held financially responsible for league property that is not returned or is ruined.

XXIII. Fans

Fans are encouraged to attend games, but are expected to cheer positively and appropriately. Any unruly, violent, or otherwise inappropriate behavior may result in being asked to leave and/or suspension of fans.

XXIV. Adding New Teams to the League

Anyone interested in adding a new team to the LHL should contact the league coordinator Nate Dewitt nate@harderwyk.com. League staff will gather information on the interested team and submit the request to the advisory team who will make the final decision regarding the team's admittance to the LHL.